



**City of Bloomington  
Committee of the Whole  
Regular Session Meeting  
May 18, 2026**



## Components of the City Council Agenda

### Recognition and Proclamation

This portion of the meeting recognizes individuals, groups, or institutions publicly, as well as those receiving a proclamation, or declaring a day or event.

### Public Hearing

Items that require receiving public testimony will be placed on the agenda and noticed as a Public Hearing. Individuals have an opportunity to provide public testimony on those items that impact the community and/or residence.

### Public Comment

Each Committee of the Whole meeting shall have a public comment period not to exceed 30 minutes. Every speaker is allotted up to 3 minutes to speak. Individuals wishing to email public comment or speak remotely must email comments and/or register online at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person must register up to 5 minutes before the start of the meeting. Speakers will be selected at random.

Public comment is a time to provide feedback. Committee of the Whole does not respond to public comment. Speakers who engage in threatening or disorderly behavior will have their time ceased.

### Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee of the Whole Member, City Manager, or Corporation Counsel so requests; in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the Regular Agenda.

The City's Boards and Commissions hold Public Hearings prior to some Committee of the Whole agenda items appearing on the Committee of the Whole's Meeting Agenda. Persons who wish to address the Committee of the Whole should provide new information that is pertinent to the issue before them.

### Regular Agenda

All items that provide the Committee of the Whole an opportunity to receive a presentation, ask questions of City Staff, seek additional information, or deliberate prior to making a decision will be placed on the Regular Agenda.

### Mayor and Council

**Mayor** - Dan Brady

#### City Council Members

- Ward 1 - Jenna Kearns
- Ward 2 - Micheal Mosley
- Ward 3 - Sheila Montney
- Ward 4 - John Danenberger
- Ward 5 - Michael Straza
- Ward 6 - Cody Hendricks
- Ward 7 - Mollie Ward
- Ward 8 - Kent Lee
- Ward 9 - Abby Scott

**City Manager** - Jeff Jurgens  
**Sr. Deputy City Manager** - Billy Tyus  
**Deputy City Manager** - Sue McLaughlin

### City Logo Design Rationale

The **CHEVRON** Represents:  
Service, Rank, and Authority  
Growth and Diversity, A Friendly and  
Safe Community A Positive, Upward  
Movement and Commitment to Excellence!

#### Mission, Vision and Value Statement

##### Mission

To Lead, Serve and Uplift the City of  
Bloomington

##### Vision

A Jewel of the Midwest Cities

##### Values

Service-Centered, Results-Driven, Inclusive

#### Strategic Plan Goals

- Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services
- Upgrade City Infrastructure and Facilities Grow the Local Economy
- Strong Neighborhoods
- Great Place - Livable, Sustainable City
- Prosperous Downtown Bloomington



**Committee of the Whole - Regular Session Meeting Agenda  
Government Center Boardroom, 4th Floor, Room #400  
115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL 61701  
Monday, May 18, 2026 - 6:00 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- 3. Remain Standing for a Moment of Silent Prayer and/or Reflection**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Public Comment**

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org) at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. Individuals wishing to speak in-person or remotely may register at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register) at least 5 minutes before the start of the meeting for in-person public comment and at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting for remote public comment.
- 6. Regular Agenda**
  - A. Discussion of Council Considering the Adoption of a Formal Ethics Policy, as requested by the Administration Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Discussion only.) (Presentation by Dan Brady, Mayor, 5 minutes; and City Council Discussion, 10 minutes.)
  - B. Discussion and Direction on Next Steps Related to Data Centers, as requested by the Administration Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Discussion and direction only.) (Presentation by Dan Brady, Mayor, 5 minutes; and City Council Discussion, 20 minutes.)
  - C. Discussion on the Process for Council Amending Items Being Considered During Council Meetings, as requested by the Mayor.** (Recommended Motion: None; Discussion only.) (Presentation by Dan Brady, Mayor, 5 minutes; and City Council Discussion, 20 minutes.)
- 7. City Manager's Discussion**
- 8. Executive Session**
  - A. The Council will enter into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120 Section 2(c)(1) for Personnel to discuss the annual review of City Manager Jeff Jurgens and Section 2(c)(12) to discuss a Claim Settlement. The Council reserves the right to go into Executive Session for other reasons as needed and allowed by law (5 ILCS 120/2).**
- 9. Adjournment**

Individuals with disabilities planning to attend the meeting who require reasonable accommodations to observe and/or participate, or who have questions about the accessibility of the meeting, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 309-434-2468 or [mhurt@cityblm.org](mailto:mhurt@cityblm.org).



**Regular Agenda Item No. 6.A.**

**For Committee of the Whole:** May 18, 2026

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Discussion of Council Considering the Adoption of a Formal Ethics Policy, as requested by the Administration Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Discussion only.

**Strategic Priorities:**

**Core Government Function.** This item fulfills a statutory, regulatory, fiduciary, or essential operational responsibility necessary to maintain continuity of municipal services and sound governance.

**Background:** The Council has been asked to consider adoption of a formal ethics policy. A sample Ethics Policy has been attached for consideration and discussion purposes only. It should be noted that the Ethics Committee listed on the attached document is not an official board or commission of the City of Bloomington.

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Attachments:**

1. Proposed Code of Ethics

# A Code of Ethics

Proposed by the  
Ethics Committee of Bloomington/Normal  
for Consideration and Adoption by the  
Bloomington and Normal Municipal Councils

A high ethical standard of conduct by public officials is central to the maintenance of public trust and confidence in government.

The members of the Bloomington city and Normal town councils wish to individually and collectively express their expectation and intent that all council members follow a high standard of ethical behavior in exercising their duties, responsibilities and judgment as council members.

All members of the council shall:

1. Handle civic affairs with a deep sense of responsibility, upholding the spirit as well as the letter of the law and the Constitution.
2. Faithfully perform all duties as council members by studying municipal issues and by attending all sessions of the council and assigned committees, unless prevented from so doing by a compelling reason.
3. Avoid participation in any personal action which would result in a conflict of interest with municipal responsibility.
4. Refrain from obtaining improper personal benefit with regard to public funds, equipment, property, or the services of employees.
5. Respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
6. Refrain from accepting gifts, favors, or promises of future benefit, which could tend to impair independence of judgment or action as a council member.
7. Treat all colleagues, associates, constituents, employees, other public officials with respect.

The Council shall self-regulate adherence to the Code.

*The Ethics Committee recommends that this Code be read aloud, signed as membership changes, and always posted in a prominent public place.*

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**Regular Agenda Item No. 6.B.**

**For Committee of the Whole:** May 18, 2026

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Discussion and Direction on Next Steps Related to Data Centers, as requested by the Administration Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Discussion and direction only.

**Strategic Priorities:**

**Priority Area 1: Infrastructure.** Improving and maintaining the City's infrastructure, including water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, and other physical assets. This priority includes identifying and prioritizing maintenance needs, defining service levels in line with City appropriations, understanding and communicating costs, reducing backlogged maintenance, and ensuring residents can rely on safe, functional infrastructure.

**Background:**

On April 28, 2025, the City adopted foundational zoning standards for data centers through updates to Chapter 44 of the Zoning Code. Before this amendment, data centers were treated simply as warehouses under the Code, with no specific operational, siting, or development standards. They were permitted in the M-1 and M-2 Manufacturing districts, with a Special Use permit required only when adjacent to a residential district boundary.

As opposed to allowing such a use to be classified as "warehousing", the 2025 amendment introduced a formal definition of "Data Center," distinguishing hyperscale, campus-type facilities from smaller modular or enterprise-level operations. Still allowed in M1/M2 with the residential special use requirement, the 2025 amendment primarily established baseline requirements for administrative site plan review; architectural treatment of building frontages; primary entrance design; buffering and screening; circulation and truck access; minimum parking ratios; and low-frequency noise limits along property lines.

The City recently began seeing potential interest in a hyperscale data center on land adjacent to the City. As a result, the City held two public forums on May 6, 2026, to gather resident feedback and understand community priorities. Input from these sessions reflected a desire for more robust standards addressing long-term environmental impacts, noise, visual screening, infrastructure demands, and compatibility with surrounding land uses. A summary report of the findings is attached.

With new industry information and best practices continuing to emerge, City staff concurs with many of the concerns and believes that additional, modernized regulatory tools are needed to ensure that any future hyperscale development can be evaluated comprehensively.

To provide the Planning Commission with the necessary time to review best practices and recommend updated regulations, staff would like to propose a moratorium, anticipated to take

no longer than 6 months (or upon the adoption of new regulations if sooner), on applications for hyperscale data centers with additional public hearings.

Monday's Committee of the Whole meeting will allow the City Council to discuss the concept of a hyperscale data center locating near the community and determine whether to direct staff to prepare a moratorium ordinance for formal consideration at the May 26, 2026, Council meeting.

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:** Two public forums were held at the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts (BCPA) on May 6, 2026.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Attachments:**

1. May 2026 Data Center Public Forum Report



On May 6, 2026, the City held two Data Center Public Forum events to provide information about data centers to the public and to receive public feedback on them. Mayor Dan Brady and City Manager Jeff Jurgens gave brief remarks, asked participants to complete five poll questions with Mentimeter, and allowed time for participants to provide public comments.

## Polling Results

Participants included a mix of long-term residents, local business owners, academics, environmental advocates, and representatives from community organizations. The maximum number of poll question respondents was 161, with 125 residents, 24 non-residents, and 12 participants that did not identify their residency.

As shown in Figure 1, 126 respondents stated that they oppose a hyperscale data center, 22 are undecided, and 13 support it.

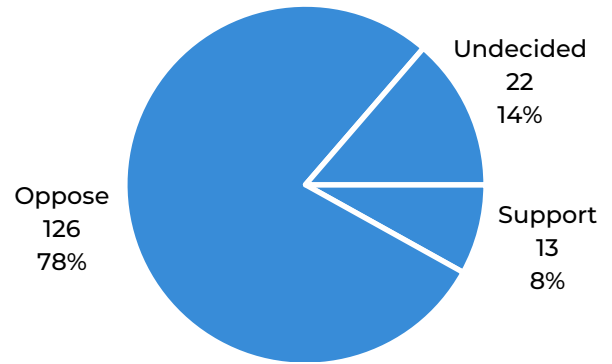


Figure 1: Responses to "Which best represents your position on a hyperscale data center?"

Figure 2 shows that the highest ranked concern about a hyperscale data center was water usage, followed by energy costs and use of farmland. Figure 3 shows that the highest ranked benefit, apart from no benefit, was property tax relief, followed by diversifying the tax base and jobs.

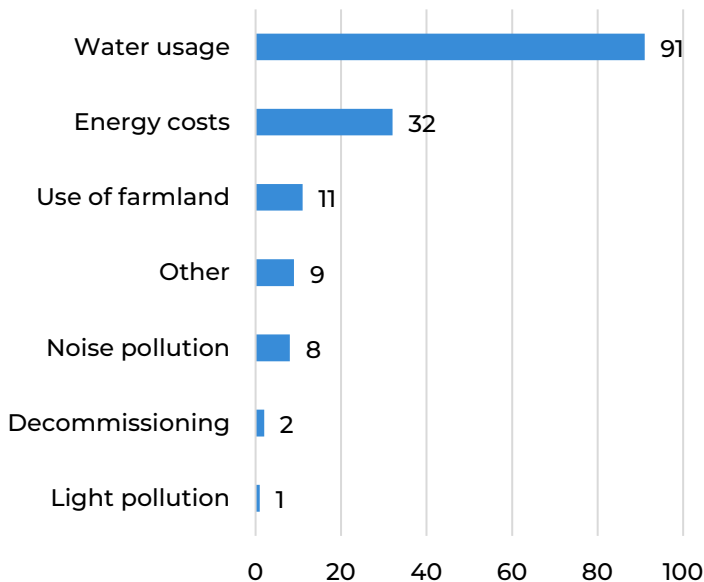


Figure 2: Top-ranked responses to "Rank your top concerns about a hyperscale data center."

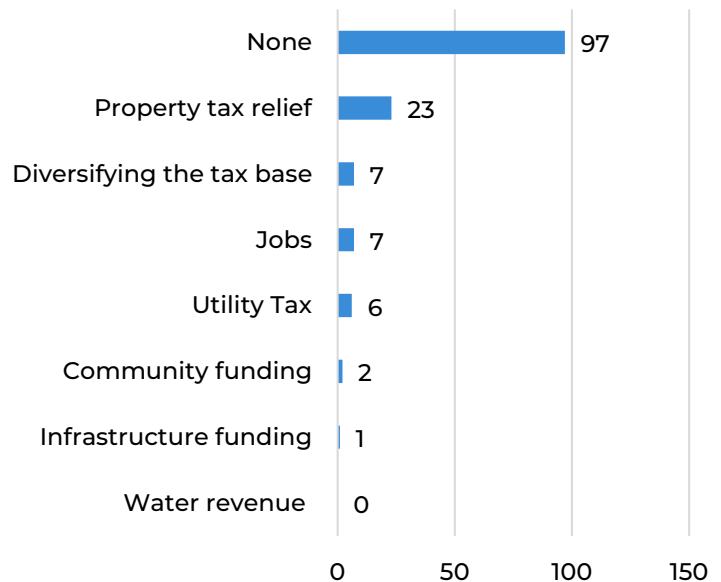


Figure 3: Top-ranked responses to "If a hyperscale data center were to locate in the community, please rank what you believe the top benefits would be."

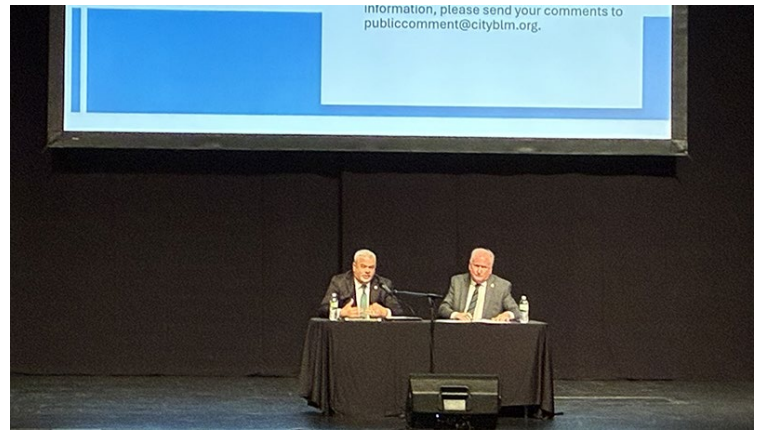


## Public Comments

Out of over 160 participants, 26 people provided comments at the first forum (one in favor of data centers). The second forum had 33 new speakers who provided comments and an additional seven speakers who spoke at the first forum. Speakers raised concerns multiple times on similar topics, indicating widespread consensus on key issues.



Forum participants lining up to provide public comments.



Mayor Dan Brady and City Manager Jeff Jurgens giving remarks.



People participating in public comment as part of the forum.



People participating in public comment as part of the forum.

The primary concerns that participants expressed during the public comment portion of the forums are provided in detail in the [Summary of Public Comments by Topic](#) section. Participants consistently highlighted water scarcity, energy consumption, environmental degradation, health impacts, and social equity as key concerns.

There was strong support for adopting moratoria and pursuing comprehensive regulations to guide data center development responsibly. Many speakers expressed distrust of developer assurances and stressed the need for proactive city and county oversight.

The general sentiment was as follows:

- Overwhelming opposition to large-scale data centers in Bloomington and McLean County, with multiple speakers emphasizing environmental, public health, and community quality-of-life concerns.
- Support for careful planning, a moratorium, and regulatory frameworks that safeguard water, energy, and land resources.
- Calls for long-term vision, including community input, transparency, and multi-jurisdictional coordination before permitting further development.

## Summary of Public Comments by Topic

### Water Usage and Conservation

- High water consumption by data centers cited as a major concern, especially given local water supply issues and the Mahomet Aquifer.
- Fear that closed-loop systems do not fully address environmental or chemical impacts.
- Worries about future shortages, particularly for agriculture, residential use, and ecological sustainability.
- Data provided by residents suggested existing water capacity cannot support large-scale hyperscale facilities.

### Energy and Utility Impact

- High electricity demands for data centers could increase local energy rates and stress the grid.
- Use of diesel generators during power interruptions raises air quality concerns.
- General perception that energy-intensive operations could exacerbate climate and environmental problems.

### Environmental and Land Use

- Loss of prime farmland and wetlands; concerns over light, noise, and heat impacts on local ecosystems.
- Potential for “heat islands” affecting areas up to six miles away.
- Negative impacts on wildlife and agricultural activities, including pollinator disruption and soil degradation.
- Concerns about abandoning large facilities after use, creating “white elephant” structures.

### Community Health and Quality of Life

- Potential for increased asthma, lung disease, and other health issues.
- Noise complaints, both low- and high-frequency, can affect nearby residents.
- Anxiety over proximity to hyperscale facilities and associated industrial activity.
- Visual impacts and light pollution affecting neighborhoods and rural areas.

### Economic and Social Impacts

- Skepticism about job creation: small staff relative to footprint, with benefits viewed as short-term.
- Worries that promised tax benefits do not offset community costs.
- Concerns that data centers contribute to local inequality and could exacerbate socio-economic disparities.
- Fear of rapid changes in land value and development pressures.

### Governance, Transparency, and Moratorium Requests

- Strong calls for moratoria until stricter regulations, public hearings, and clear water and energy plans are in place.
- Citizens emphasized the need for transparency in negotiations and permitting, including preventing confidential agreements.
- Desire for coordination across City, Town, and County to avoid piecemeal decisions.
- Requests to consider examples from other municipalities with stringent ordinances (e.g., City of Aurora).

### AI, Technology, and Ethical Concerns

- Concerns about AI systems and the ethical footprint of hyperscale data centers.
- Fear that AI-driven operations can have negative societal consequences, including job displacement, surveillance, and increased energy/water usage.
- Skepticism that technological benefits outweigh the environmental and community costs.



**Regular Agenda Item No. 6.C.**

**For Committee of the Whole:** May 18, 2026

**Ward Impacted:** City Wide

**Subject:** Discussion on the Process for Council Amending Items Being Considered During Council Meetings, as requested by the Mayor Department.

**Recommended Motion:** None; Discussion only.

**Strategic Priorities:**

**Core Government Function.** This item fulfills a statutory, regulatory, fiduciary, or essential operational responsibility necessary to maintain continuity of municipal services and sound governance.

**Background:** Council will have a discussion regarding processes used when amending items.

**Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Attachments:**

1. Proposed Code Amendment - Motion to Amend

Proposed Amendment

Version 1:

**§ 2-208[Ch. 2, Sec. 18] Rules for conduct of meetings.**

A. The following rules shall govern the Council in its deliberations:

...

(5) Questions of parliamentary law at the meetings of the Council shall be addressed as provided below. . .

(b) Procedural motion. The following enumeration of procedural motions are in order. . .

~~[12] Motion to amend. An amendment to a motion must be pertinent to the subject matter of the motion. An amendment is improper if adoption of the motion with that amendment added would have the same effect as rejection of the original motion. A proposal to substitute completely different wording for a motion or an amendment shall be treated as a motion to amend. A motion maybe amended, and that amendment may be amended, but no further amendments may be made until the last offered amendment is disposed of by a vote.~~

(a) General Rule. A motion to substantively amend an agenda item shall be submitted in advance in accordance with this section. An amendment must be germane to the subject matter of the motion. An amendment is improper if adoption of the motion as amended would have the same effect as rejection of the original motion.

(b) Form of Amendments. A proposal to substitute entirely different wording for a motion or for an amendment shall be treated as a motion to amend.

(c) Advance Submission Requirement. Any proposed substantive amendment to an agenda item requiring Council action shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk no later 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting at which the item is scheduled for consideration.

(d) Late Amendments. If a member proposes a substantive amendment to an agenda item during a meeting, but has not submitted the amendment in advance as required in subsection (c), the following procedure shall apply:

(1) The member seeking the amendment shall move to postpone the matter to the next regular meeting, stating the purpose or nature of the amendment sought.

(2) The motion must be seconded and approved by the majority required to approve the underlying matter.

(3) If the motion passes, any member desiring to amend the item shall submit a written request to the Corporation Counsel within 48 hours outlining the substance of the proposed amendment, and Corporation Counsel will assist in drafting the language of the proposed amendment.

(4) If the motion to postpone does not receive the necessary votes, the Council shall proceed to a vote on the matter as presented in the agenda.

(e) Non-Substantive Amendments. The advance submission requirement does not apply to amendments that are purely numerical, clerical, corrective, or otherwise non-substantive. The presiding officer shall determine whether a proposed amendment is substantive. This determination may be appealed in accordance with these rules.

(g) Notice of Rescheduled Item. For any item rescheduled under this section, the Clerk shall include the proposed amendment(s) in the agenda description and supporting materials for the next regular meeting.