



**Minutes  
Committee of the Whole - Regular Session Meeting  
Monday, May 18, 2026 - 6:00 PM**

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom. Mayor Dan Brady called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, ending with a moment of silent prayer/reflection.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Council Member Jenna Kearns  
Council Member Micheal Mosley  
Council Member Sheila Montney  
Council Member John Danenberger  
Council Member Michael Straza  
Council Member Cody Hendricks  
Council Member Mollie Ward  
Council Member Kent Lee  
Council Member Abby Scott  
Mayor Dan Brady

**Public Comment**

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. The following spoke in person: (1) Ruth Burke; (2) Bridget Larkin; (3) Zachary Gittrich; (4) Aaron Harwick; (5) Lindsay Marshall; (6) Kenneth Jones; (7) Nicholas Frillman; (8) Adam Heenan; (9) Michael Perez; (10) Nick Sittinger; (11) James Estep; and (12) Kathy Petty.

**Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Montney, to extend public comment time to allow for two additional speakers.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

In-person comments continued with (13) Peggy Bentley and (14) Chris Gibbons. Barb Stuart was registered to speak, but declined. Kelli Outlaw emailed public comment, as did the following regarding data centers: (1) Randy White; (2) Willemina Esenwein; (3) Joseph Hale; (4) Thomas Hale; (5) Jill Christiansen; (6) Vickie Smith; (7) Lynn Bradtke; (8) Patsy Fortune; (9) Theresa (no last name provided); (10) Andrea Canales; (11) Becky Howell; (12) Laretta Oblinger-Hammond; (13) Teagan Bohlen; (14) Albert Stabler; and (15) Patricia Morin.

**Regular Agenda**

The following Item was presented:

Item 6.A. Discussion of Council Considering the Adoption of a Formal Ethics Policy, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Brady introduced the Item proposed by the Bloomington-Normal ("BN") Ethics

Committee, an external committee not affiliated with the City.

Council Members Scott, Ward, and Mosley voiced their support for the Item.

Council Member Hendricks too voiced strong support, noting his year-long work with Barbara Stewart, BN Ethics Committee founder, and other stakeholders. He highlighted that both Normal and McLean County had adopted it.

Mayor Brady confirmed with Sr. Deputy City Manager ("DCM") Billy Tyus that the Item would appear on the May 26, 2026, Council Meeting.

The following Item was presented:

Item 6.B. Discussion and Direction on Next Steps Related to Data Centers, as requested by the Administration Department.

Mayor Brady introduced the Item, noting that the City had held two public forums recently on the topic, as well as having received significant emailed and in-person public comments.

Council Member Mosley supported the moratorium, urged setting clear parameters, bringing in an outside expert to explain the technical pros and cons, and stressed the need for factual, transparent public information.

Council Member Scott supported the Item along with stronger regulations modeled on other jurisdictions. She acknowledged residents' mistrust of big tech and local government, and expressed hope that the moratorium would rebuild trust through transparency and continued stakeholder engagement.

Council Members Lee and Hendricks also supported the Item. Council Member Lee noted Ward 8 would be directly affected by a proposed site. Both recommended using the moratorium to meet with stakeholders (affected Home Owner Associations, McLean County, and regional partners), as well as studying experiences from other communities, and developing appropriate controls. Council Member Hendricks supported extending the moratorium if more time was needed.

Council Member Ward also supported the Item, emphasizing the importance of nuanced policy that distinguishes among types of data centers, and urged ongoing open dialogue.

Council Member Mosley asked staff to research which types of data centers might fit Bloomington, what infrastructure protections would be required, and how to balance economic development with water and land use. He emphasized that not all data centers were the same and that companies should bring tangible benefits to the community.

Council Member Montney supported the Item and reflected that earlier Council involvement might have avoided some public fear. She expressed concerns after having seen a 1,500-acre hyperscale data center elsewhere, and urged taking time to educate all involved to best determine what, if anything, would be appropriate for Bloomington.

Council Member Straza supported the Item, emphasizing his concerns about long-term water and energy resources and end-of-life impacts. He stressed the need for expert input, strong guardrails, and clear enforcement mechanisms before any development moved forward.

Council Member Danenberger expressed support, thanked commenters for raising water, environmental, and financial concerns. He highlighted speakers who framed the debate around Bloomington's neighborhood character and identity, arguing the data center question could be community-defining and should be treated with a high level of importance.

Council Member Kearns expressed support, saying Council's responsibility was to leave the City better than they found it and emphasized time was needed to set strong, lasting protections around data centers so future Councils and residents would be safeguarded.

Mayor Brady confirmed with DCM Tyus that the Item would appear on the May 26, 2026, Council Meeting. DCM Tyus clarified that staff were focusing on hyperscale facilities and explained that while state law likely prevented an outright ban, the City could impose very strong regulations to protect community interests.

The following Item was presented:

Item 6.C. Discussion on the Process for Council Amending Items Being Considered During Council Meetings, as requested by the Mayor.

Mayor Brady explained that, after consulting Legal, the City Clerk, staff, and Council Members, he proposed a formal process and deadlines for submitting substantive amendments to Council items being considered during meetings. He stressed that defining process and timeframes for submission would ensure wording was prepared in advance rather than dictated during meetings, ensuring clearer, more transparent votes.

Council Member Kearns voiced concern that the proposed amendment rules were too restrictive and instead favored better training on Robert's Rules and shared best practices so Council could handle on-the-fly amendments.

Council Members Montney and Danenberger both expressed support for adding more structure to the amendment process, so staff could prepare clear written language in advance to avoid errors.

Council Member Mosley supported additional structure around amendments, but wanted a defined distinction between substantive and minor changes, so Council could handle decisions more consistently.

Council Members Ward and Scott voiced reservations that limiting amendments on the floor reduced Council-public collaboration and undermined open democratic deliberation.

Council Member Montney reiterated her support, stressing that she valued open discussion, but stressed the importance of staff capturing clearly written language to avoid unintended consequences.

Council Member Hendricks said he saw value in the Item, but questioned whether it needed to be rigidly codified, suggesting instead that Council hold itself to informal deadlines and improve its use of Robert's Rules. Council Member Ward agreed with Council Member Hendricks and suggested colleagues should simply vote it down rather than adopt rigid rules.

Council Member Kearns was concerned that rigid amendment rules could be used for political advantage; she preferred enhanced training on Robert's Rules and agreed upon best practices to allow Council to work through amendments collaboratively during meetings.

Council Member Mosley reaffirmed his support and believed submitting competing proposals by noon would aid collaboration during open Council discussion at meetings.

Mayor Brady concluded that Council generally favored adding more structure to how amendments were handled, stressed the need for clear wording so members and the public fully understood what was being voted on, and said staff would refine the proposal and bring a formal amendment proposal back for Council action.

**City Manager's Discussion**

DCM Tyus reported that Dutch Bros had opened a new store in Bloomington with strong customer turnout and that Urban Equity Properties had begun preliminary work on a major Downtown housing redevelopment with a ribbon-cutting anticipated in early June. He reiterated that, based on staff's research, the City likely could not impose an outright ban on data centers through zoning, but could adopt very stringent regulations to protect community interests.

**Executive Session**

Item 8.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).

**Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to enter into Executive Session per 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.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:25 PM.

**Adjournment**

**Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Danenberger, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting.**

**Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:**

**Ayes:** Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

**Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

**ATTEST**



*Dan Brady*  
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Dan Brady, Mayor

*Amanda Stutsman*  
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Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk