



**City of Bloomington
Committee of the Whole
Regular Session Meeting
January 20, 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
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Recognitions

- A. Proclamation for January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as requested by the Administration Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Recognition Only)

4. Public Comment

Individuals wishing to provide emailed public comment must email comments to 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 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.

5. Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Committee of the Whole from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

- A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2025, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)
- B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2025, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

6. Regular Agenda

- A. Presentation and Discussion on Establishing the 2026 City Council Strategic Priorities and Guiding Principles for the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Administration Department.** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.) (Presentation by Jeff Jurgens, City Manager, 5 minutes; and City Council Discussion, 15 minutes.)

7. City Manager's Discussion

8. Executive Session

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.



For Committee of the Whole: January 20, 2026

Ward Impacted: City Wide

Subject: Proclamation for January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as requested by the Administration Department.

Recommended Motion: None; Recognition Only

Strategic Plan:

Goal 5. Great Place - Livable, Sustainable City

Objective 5a. Well-planned City with necessary services and infrastructure

Background: The included Proclamation is a public statement that brings attention to factors that affect our community.

Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Attachments:

1. Proclamation Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Mayoral Proclamation

***PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2026 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION MONTH, REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT
TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING***

WHEREAS, nearly 25 years after the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking continues to affect an estimated 27.6 million individuals worldwide, with incidents identified across every state and territory in the United States;

WHEREAS, anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, certain groups face heightened vulnerability, including individuals exposed to abuse, violence, poverty, housing instability, or social isolation;

WHEREAS, human trafficking often intersects with other forms of exploitation and violence, sharing many of the same root causes and risk factors, such as limited access to resources and unsafe living conditions;

WHEREAS, building strong, safe and resilient communities requires collective engagement to reduce the conditions that allow exploitation to occur, while promoting protective factors that help shield individuals from trafficking and related harms;


WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington remains committed to ensuring that survivors of human trafficking have access to trauma-informed services that honor their dignity and address their unique needs;

WHEREAS, the City was awarded the designation of being the first city in Illinois to achieve the certification of Partner in Peace with the Center for the Prevention of Abuse;


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Bloomington to be affixed this 20th day of January, 2026.



Dan Brady
Mayor



Leslie Yocum
City Clerk



Consent Agenda
Item No. 5.A.

For Committee of the Whole: January 20, 2026

Ward Impacted: City Wide

Subject: Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2025, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner

Background: The minutes of the meetings provided have been reviewed and certified as correct and complete by the City Clerk. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, minutes must be approved 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting whichever is later. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, minutes are available for public inspection and posted to the City's website within 10 days after approval.

Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Attachments:

1. DRAFT 08-18-2025 COW - Regular Session Minutes



MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Dan Brady called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Table with 3 columns: Attendee Name, Title, Status. Lists attendees from Mayor Dan Brady to Council Member Abby Scott, all marked as Present.

Public Comment

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. Amy Endicott and Dakota Black emailed public comment, and the following spoke in-person: (1) Steve Bute; (2) JW Barnett; (3) David Eades; (4) Jill Whitaker; (5) Mark Adams; (6) Mark Clauss; (7) Tyson Mohr; (8) JR Wilkerson; (9) Bill Bishop; (10) Patty Bishop; and (11) James Gaston.

Council Member Straza made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mosley, to extend the public comment time by 15 minutes.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

The following spoke in-person following the time extension: (12) John Biddle and (13) Ben Kurtenback. Pamela Ringenberg registered to speak, but was not present at the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by Council from the Consent Agenda for discussion are listed and voted on separately.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Straza, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Item 4.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2025, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: That the minutes be approved.)

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation and Discussion of the MMH Scan™ Analysis + Definition of Barriers to Missing Middle Housing, by Opticos Design, Inc., and the Findings and Recommendations of Such, as requested by the Development Services Department.

Mayor Brady introduced the Item and provided a brief history on the Item's timeline.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens explained that the City was experiencing a housing shortage and that staff had begun reviewing Zoning and Subdivision Codes in an effort to encourage and empower more housing options, including "missing middle" housing. He emphasized that the presentation was in an early stage and that staff were looking to provide transparency and encourage public input and Council direction on how to move forward.

Kelly Pfeifer, Development Services Department Director, presented on the City's review of Zoning and Subdivision Codes as part of Priority D included in the Opticos Report, which focused on barriers to building "missing middle" housing. She explained that Opticos was hired to analyze best practices and identify Code obstacles. She clarified that the study was an initial step, not a proposal to change all neighborhoods, and that it focused on specific zoning districts. She also described the types of housing considered and outlined next steps for further review and public input.

Council Member Mosley asked for a straightforward explanation of the difference between R-1C and R-2 zoning districts. Alissa Pemberton, Planning Manager, responded that R-1C was a single-family district that sometimes allowed duplexes, while R-2 was a mixed residence district permitting duplexes by right and some multifamily or townhouse uses with special approval. She explained that R-1C was initially included in the study for completeness, but after review, staff determined it was not appropriate to pursue further for missing middle housing.

Council Member Montney requested additional transparency and asked Mrs. Pemberton to name single-family subdivisions currently zoned R-2. Mrs. Pemberton provided examples, including Prairie Vista, Wittenberg Woods, Old Farm Lakes, Royal Links, Tipton, Harvest Point, and The Grove, noting that these areas generally had smaller lots. She also mentioned that she had not verified which subdivisions contained duplexes, since duplexes were permitted by right in R-2 zones. Council Member Montney expressed concern that the meeting process and setup differed from what Council had previously been asked to vote on. She emphasized that staff should fully understand the character and names of R-2 neighborhoods before recommending changes that could disrupt established communities.

Council Member Kearns clarified that the initial discussion on the missing middle housing topic had been tabled by a Council vote and was later brought back for discussion through the efforts of the Council and Mayor. She expressed support for greater transparency, a strategic approach, and flexibility, and encouraged staff to recommend sensible changes that align with community needs and improved processes.

Council Member Scott acknowledged the pressures caused by the current housing market and emphasized the importance of transparency and community feedback. She believed Council was not rubber-stamping proposals, but instead wanted to research and implement changes thoughtfully and responsibly to address housing needs.

Council Member Ward asked Mrs. Pemberton to clarify what was meant by "buildability of existing housing." Mrs. Pemberton explained that it referred to making it easier to build and sell homes by addressing City Code and financing barriers. Council Member Ward said the explanation was clear and stressed that the missing middle housing discussion was too important to be postponed indefinitely, highlighting its significance to the community.

Council Member Straza emphasized the importance of transparency and building trust in the Council's process. He stressed the need for clear definitions of terms like "walkable centers" and cautioned that any changes should be made carefully to avoid unintended consequences, such as investment groups buying up properties and limiting opportunities for individual homeownership.

Council Member Montney questioned why missing middle housing was being prioritized when previous community surveys and reports did not identify it as a top concern. She expressed skepticism about the selection of consultants and the applicability of national data, urging the Council to focus on issues more directly supported by local input.

Council Member Mosley made a motion, seconded by Council Member Kearns, to extend the Council Discussion time by 10 minutes.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

AYES: Kearns, Mosley, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

Council Member Mosley recommended that, if the missing middle housing approach advanced, it should include clear objectives for affordability and protection against large firms dominating the market. He also asked about zoning procedures to ensure that Council could maintain proper oversight of future developments.

Council Member Kearns was concerned that if the City focused on missing middle housing, it would limit the ability to address other priorities like dilapidated homes. City Manager Jurgens provided assurances that staff could handle multiple priorities simultaneously and that work on abandoned and dilapidated homes would remain a focus.

City Manager Jurgens thanked the Council for their feedback, explained that staff's approach had changed in response to previous input, and emphasized that any future recommendations would be location-specific and not Citywide. He assured Council that staff would not act unilaterally and would seek Council direction before proceeding further.

Council Member Montney recommended removing the R-2 district. City Manager Jurgens stated that staff would do a thorough analysis of the recommendation.

Council Member Straza asked when Council could expect the Report to return for a vote. Mayor Brady stated that the missing middle housing issue would be brought back as soon as it was deemed ready after gathering additional input from Council.

Council Member Ward and Corporation Counsel Chris Spanos discussed parliamentary procedure for postponing to a date certain or indefinitely. They also discussed the Council Member Initiative process for a Council Member to place an Item on the agenda.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation and Discussion on Video Gaming, as requested by City Council.

Mayor Brady stated that he was asked by members of Council to bring forward a discussion on video gaming.

City Manager Jurgens explained that the City's current cap on video gaming licenses was 60 with a waitlist. He outlined several options for Council to consider if interest existed in allowing additional licenses, including raising or eliminating the cap, switching to a terminal-based system, or maintaining the current system. He noted the importance of ongoing audits and the significant revenue video gaming brought to the City. He reported that the City had collected over \$10 million in its 5% share of the tax revenue since licensing video gaming.

Council Member Hendricks asked about the current licensure requirements and process. Leslie Yocum, City Clerk, gave an overview of the process for obtaining and maintaining a video gaming license. She explained the requirements for getting on the Video Gaming Waitlist, and annual renewal, and compliance checks including the 50/50 rule that limits no more than 50% of a business' revenue coming from video gaming. The two then discussed how the 50/50 rule was intended to prevent gaming parlors. They then discussed the history and gradual increase of gaming licenses, as well as the process for transferring licenses between businesses. Council Member Hendricks expressed concerns that the current system could create unfair competition among local businesses, as well as with contracted licenses.

Council Member Montney and City Clerk Yocum discussed the importance of regularly auditing license holders to ensure compliance with City rules. City Clerk Yocum explained that annual reviews and compliance checks were conducted with additional audits performed as needed to maintain the integrity of the licensing process.

Council Member Hendricks noted that the Video Gaming Waitlist had not grown significantly since 2024 and acknowledged concerns about the negative impacts of gaming.

Mayor Brady confirmed with City Clerk Yocum that the last interest in reconsidering video gaming licenses was brought forward in 2024 via a Council Initiative by Council Member Hendricks.

Council Members Mosley and Ward discussed with Mayor Brady when the item would return for a vote.

Council Member Scott expressed concern about the social costs of gaming. She stated that she did not support reducing the number of video gaming licenses, especially given that neighboring municipalities had more, and she opposed the City's favoring certain businesses by limiting licenses. She preferred a fairer approach.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation and Discussion on the Schedule of Meetings, as requested by City Council.

Mayor Dan Brady explained that some members of Council had requested a review of the schedule of meetings for the Committee of the Whole. He noted that a proposal from the Legal Department was available for consideration should Council want to eliminate or change the process in which Committee of the Whole meetings are held.

City Manager Jurgens explained that Council could change or reduce the Committee of the Whole meeting schedule if desired. He suggested targeting the third Monday of the month

for special meetings and mentioned the option of holding work sessions before regular meetings, emphasizing that Council had flexibility in deciding how to proceed.

Council Member Ward opposed reducing or cancelling Committee of the Whole meetings, stating that she was elected to do the City's work and believed more meetings might be needed to handle important business. She emphasized the value of these meetings.

Council Member Mosley clarified a statement he had previously made outside of a formal meeting regarding the schedule for Committee of the Whole meetings and noted that he did not intend to suggest cancelling Committee of the Whole meetings. He supported keeping the meetings for meaningful business and agreed they should only be cancelled if not needed.

Mayor Brady thanked Council for their input and stated that the objective was to make meetings and scheduling of meetings as efficient as possible based on Council's needs and the content to be addressed.

Council Member Kearns emphasized the value of the Committee of the Whole meetings, noting that they allowed for thorough discussion and better preparation before voting on issues. She supported keeping the meetings and suggested being more strategic about how topics move from discussion to voting.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeff Jurgens reported that the City had launched a new online tool for residents to track sidewalk projects in their neighborhoods. He highlighted the City's ongoing investment in infrastructure and noted that sidewalk work was beginning in Ward 6.

Executive Session

Council Member Straza made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lee, to enter into Executive Session per Section 2(c)(11) of 5 ILCS 120 to discuss pending litigation.

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 8:04 P.M.

Adjournment

Council returned to Open Session at 8:52 P.M.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Straza, 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 (viva voce).


The meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Dan Brady, Mayor

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk



Consent Agenda
Item No. 5.B.

For Committee of the Whole: January 20, 2026

Ward Impacted: City Wide

Subject: Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the October 20, 2025, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department.

Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

Objective 1d. City services delivered in the most cost-effective, efficient manner

Background: The minutes of the meetings provided have been reviewed and certified as correct and complete by the City Clerk. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act, minutes must be approved 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting whichever is later. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, minutes are available for public inspection and posted to the City's website within 10 days after approval.

Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Attachments:

1. DRAFT 10-20-2026 COW Minutes



**Minutes
Committee of the Whole - Regular Session Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

The Committee of the Whole convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 PM. Mayor Dan Brady called the meeting to order.

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

Public Comment

Chris Mitchell registered to speak, but was not present at the meeting. No emailed public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

No Items were presented.

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.A. Bloomington Public Library Renovation and Expansion 1st Year Update Presentation, as requested by the Library Department.

Jeanne Hamilton, Bloomington Public Library Director, presented a first-year update on the Bloomington Public Library's ("BPL") renovation and expansion. She reported that BPL officially reopened on August 1, 2024, after 26-months of phased construction during which they remained open with full services. She reported that the project added 21,000+ square feet of new space and 57,000+ square feet of renovated existing space, resulting in new features including an innovation lab, two recording studios, eight study rooms, one conference room, three community rooms, a children's discovery play area, and a drive-up window.

Director Hamilton stated that the total project cost \$26.1 million, funded by approximately \$4 million in reserves, a \$7.1 million State grant, about \$700,000 in fundraised funds, and a \$14.2 million bond, with roughly 45% of the cost coming from savings or fundraising and 54% from the bond. She explained that the project was guided by four priorities - access, collaboration, innovation, and education. In its first year, the renovated library recorded 292,714 visits with a peak day of 1,756 visits on July 28, and a total of 1,329,938 items were checked out, including 15,285 items picked up via the drive-up window. Director Hamilton also noted that BPL received the 2024

Advancing Community Access Award in recognition of its new offerings and improved accessibility for the community. She then read a testimonial from a customer who raved about the staff and facilities.

Council Member Ward celebrated BPL's renovations, noting that she had used the Community Rooms multiple times and her students had used the recording studio for podcasts.

Council Member Kearns echoed support, stating that the priority of access for all was immediately apparent in the building's orientation and design, as well as the range of opportunities and activities available. She emphasized the importance of meeting rooms of all sizes and commented that having these rooms available for free made it very easy for people to collaborate and meet. She shared how she'd completed the training to use the 3D printers and expressed excitement that such technology was now accessible to the community.

Council Member Lee appreciated the STEM opportunities with innovation. He and Director Hamilton discussed how and when 3D filament was supplied.

Council Member Scott and Director Hamilton discussed attendance statistics during COVID, during construction, and post-construction. Council Member Scott echoed appreciation.

Mayor Brady thanked and congratulated Director Hamilton and the BPL staff. They then discussed that the maximum capacity of the Community Rooms was 300 people.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.B. Presentation on the 250th July 4th Celebration for 2026, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens and Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Director, introduced the Item. Director Veal introduced Dave Lamb, his Assistant Director, and James Wayne, Superintendent of Recreation, noting the importance of celebrating America's 250th July 4th Celebration.

Mr. Lamb noted that Parks & Recreation staff had worked closely with the Police, Fire, Public Works, and Administration Departments every year to ensure successful celebrations.

Mr. Wayne provided an overview of existing 4th of July activities at Miller Park, including paddle boat rides, the zoo, mini golf, concessions, a car cruise, and the evening Sky Concert fireworks show jointly produced with the Town of Normal and sponsored by State Farm. He reported that attendance at Miller Park on July 4th had grown from about 6,300 visitors in 2021 to 10,900 in 2025, not including those watching from other locations. In anticipation of America's 250th celebration, the City planned to add custom park banners (displayed from Memorial Day to Labor Day) and an oversized American flag hung from a crane at Miller Park during the week of July 4th. Looking ahead to 2026, he introduced the idea of a 10-15 minute drone sky show using roughly 100 drones on Friday, July 3, 2026, paired with family-friendly activities, photo opportunities, and recognition of American heroes.

Council Member Ward expressed strong support for adding live music, suggesting that inviting community musicians including high school bands, would be meaningful given local talent. She also supported expanding the fireworks show, but was hesitant about the drone show. She shared other ideas like Council reading the Declaration of Independence.

Council Member Montney thanked staff for their work on past July 4th events and then asked about possible coordination with the planned Downtown Streetscape Light Show. Director Veal thanked Council Member Montney for the suggestion and noted his Department was currently

collaborating on the Downtown Project's trees, shrubs, and benches.

Council Member Kearns supported expanding July 4th offerings with more activities and community participation rather than investing heavily in a drone show. She liked Council Member Ward's ideas for interactive, civic-focused elements. She stressed that the enhancements chosen should deepen community engagement.

Council Member Lee voiced support for the additional \$2,000 to extend the traditional fireworks show. He supported the drone show, noting that well-done shows he had seen were impressive and memorable. He suggested making the celebration more of a weekend-long event that included live music, which was always a community favorite.

Mayor Brady and Director Veal discussed how staff needed timely feedback from the Council to move forward with bidding and contracting for the 2026 fireworks and any potential drone show. Director Veal noted that the current fireworks vendor, Gateway, was aware that the City and Town of Normal wished to continue with them, but that a joint bid and subsequent Council approval would be required soon. Director Veal emphasized that securing a drone show would need to happen very quickly, as they are in high demand around the 4th of July.

Mayor Brady suggested moving the drone show Downtown around the historical McLean County Courthouse. Director Veal explained that drone companies required flat open spaces for safety reasons. Mayor Brady encouraged a family-friendly street festival on July 3rd.

Council Member Danenberger and Director Veal compared the differences in sound between traditional fireworks and drone shows and the minimal effect drone shows had on pets.

City Manager Jurgens thanked Council for the suggestions and noted there was a consensus to move forward with a more enhanced 4th of July event in addition to events on July 3rd Downtown. He noted that staff would explore options for Downtown events and bring those findings back to Council.

Council Member Mosley asked staff to evaluate any potential impacts of any Downtown July 3rd event, particularly considering ongoing construction and parking issues. He expressed a strong interest in the drone show and noted that, if done well, it could be something the community would want to repeat annually.

Council Member Kearns suggested collaborating with other organizations in town, such as the David Davis Mansion, the McLean County History Museum, and others.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.C. Presentation on Proposed Amendments to the Citywide Bulk Waste Pickup Program, as requested by the Administration Department.

City Manager Jurgens introduced the presentation on potential changes to Citywide bulk waste pickup. He invited Mose Rickey, Public Works Director, Colleen Winterland, Assistant Director, and Sue McLaughlin, Deputy City Manager, to present. He explained that staff had been reviewing how to do bulk waste service more efficiently and improving the process for residents. He noted that the most recent bulk pickup was considered very successful by staff, but that the team had identified additional ideas to further enhance the program, which they would outline and seek feedback on.

Deputy City Manager Sue McLaughlin explained that the current bulk waste system, which included free biannual curbside pickup in May and October, plus year-round use of the Citizens'

Convenience Center ("CCC") for bulk waste, yard waste, recycling, and appliances. She explained that staff had observed significant abuse and exploitation of the CCC by contractors, landlords, and others bringing large, repeated loads at no cost, as well as problems with unsightly and early curb piles before the biannual pickups. She noted that, despite earlier expectations, the CCC model had not proven more efficient or cost-effective, and it had created equity issues for residents who lacked trucks or the ability to haul items. Manager McLaughlin then outlined a proposed new bulk waste process under which the City would provide biweekly curbside bulk pickup with the first bucket/pile free of charge and additional buckets charged at \$30 for the second, \$60 for the third, and \$90 for the fourth, while retaining the existing \$100 per bucket contractor rate for permitted work. She explained that the CCC would no longer accept bulk waste, but would remain open for yard waste and recycling seasonally. Routine bulk pickup would be suspended during leaf season with special situations handled by request, and the CCC would be closed from January through March to free up staff for snow removal, street sweeping, and other public works duties.

Council Member Ward thanked staff for the recent bulk pickup completed and noted the schedule was much clearer to understand. She and Director Rickey discussed the changes and the marketing to minimize the confusion from the previous year's pickups. Council Member Ward and Asst. Director Winterland discussed how pickup by appointment would work, including how appliance pickups and special bulk situations would be handled under the proposed changes.

Council Member Montney asked staff what portion of the current CCC traffic was attributed to yard waste versus other materials and how many residents typically used the site daily. She questioned whether, as the City refines the process, there might be an opportunity to bypass or reconfigure the CCC regarding yard waste to reduce the need for staffing the site. Staff responded that much of the summer volume was grass clippings, explaining how those were hauled to a contracted site, and said they would further review data and processes as part of planning for the future Public Works' Campus.

Council Member Straza said several residents had already asked about returning to a more regular bulk pickup, and how he believed his Ward would welcome the proposed changes. He supported the new structure, noting it should reduce program abuse and costs.

Council Member Lee expressed interest in the street sweeping portion of the proposal. Staff explained that the City had two sweepers (one day, one night), aimed to sweep every street about 12 times a year, and that freeing up CCC staff could allow a third sweeper.

Mayor Brady asked what formal Council action was required. City Manager Jurgens stated that an ordinance would be brought forward at an upcoming meeting.

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jeff Jurgens reported that public comment remained open on the second draft of McLean County's future Strategic Land Use Map, and directed residents to the project website. He then highlighted the Bloomington Bison's second hockey season opening night at the Arena being successful, mentioning a record crowd and strong community response. He celebrated a roughly 40% increase in concession sales compared to the prior season's opener, which he attributed to new strategies implemented by Anthony Nelson, Arts & Entertainment Director, Billy Tyus, Senior Deputy City Manager, and the Arena team to reduce lines and improve service. He framed this improvement as an example of the City's broader continuous improvement efforts aimed at reducing the Arena subsidy.

Mayor Dan Brady, too, commented on the Bison's opening night success, noting that just

under 5,000 tickets had been pre-sold for the game. He thanked Director Nelson and his team, as well as all staff for their work in improving Arena operations and delivering a strong event.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Council Member Straza made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

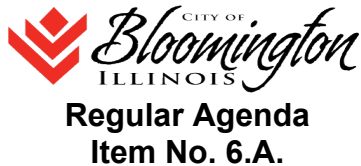
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Dan Brady, Mayor

Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk



For Committee of the Whole: January 20, 2026

Ward Impacted: City Wide

Subject: Presentation and Discussion on Establishing the 2026 City Council Strategic Priorities and Guiding Principles for the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Administration Department.

Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.

Strategic Plan:

Background: On November 17, 2025, the City Council participated in a strategic retreat facilitated by Heartland Community College focused on long-term alignment, shared priorities, and the guiding principles that should shape the City of Bloomington's work. The retreat centered on establishing a clear framework to inform future policy decisions, budget development, and organizational focus.

Following the retreat, staff prepared a draft resolution that translates the Council's discussion into a formal statement of strategic priorities and core principles. The resolution reflects the consensus reached by the Council and identifies four priority areas for sustained focus: infrastructure, housing, public safety, and economic vitality. These priorities are grounded in three core principles intended to guide all City decisions and actions, including: (1) fiscal discipline, emphasizing responsible stewardship and long-term sustainability; (2) quality of life, reflecting the City's commitment to making Bloomington a desirable place to live, work, and visit; and (3) community engagement, underscoring the importance of transparency, collaboration, and shared responsibility with residents and stakeholders.

This item is presented for discussion at the Committee of the Whole to provide Council members an opportunity to review the draft resolution, offer feedback, and discuss how the identified priorities and guiding principles may be used to inform future City work.

Community Groups/Interested Persons Contacted: Council Retreat held on November 17, 2025, was open to the public.

Financial Impact: N/A

Attachments:

1. 2026 Draft Retreat Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - ____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2026 CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington held a strategic retreat on November 17, 2025, to discuss alignment, long-term direction, and shared priorities for the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to clearly articulate its top priorities in order to guide policy decisions, budget development, organizational focus, and collaboration with the City Manager, City staff, residents, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that effective governance requires clarity of purpose, fiscal discipline, attention to quality of life, and meaningful community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council discussed and reached consensus around four primary priority areas to guide its work over the coming years, informed by community needs, operational realities, and desired outcomes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by this reference as if specifically stated in full.

SECTION 2. Core Principles. The City Council affirms the following principles as foundational and applicable to all strategic priorities, decisions, and actions of the City: (i) fiscal discipline, including thoughtful financial analysis, responsible decision making, and long term sustainability; (ii) quality of life, reflected in the City's commitment to making life better for residents, businesses, and visitors; and (iii) community engagement, emphasizing shared responsibility, transparency, and collaboration with residents and stakeholders.

SECTION 3. Strategic Priority Areas. The City Council hereby establishes the following strategic priorities to guide policy direction, budgetary decisions, and organizational focus.

A. Infrastructure. The City Council prioritizes 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.

B. Housing. The City Council prioritizes housing as a component of community revitalization. This includes addressing blight, preserving existing housing, supporting rehabilitation, advancing housing affordability, promoting proactive code enforcement, and improving residents' sense of safety and stability in their homes and neighborhoods. The need for additional housing within the community includes but is not limited to affordable housing, market-rate housing, and housing for seniors.

- C. Public Safety. The City Council prioritizes maintaining Bloomington’s record of low crime and strong public safety services. This includes prevention-focused policing, readiness across public safety departments, ongoing training and staffing support, and building trust through service quality, response times, fairness, and sustainability for public safety employees.
- D. Economic Vitality. The City Council prioritizes economic vitality through job growth, business retention and recruitment, workforce development, and strategic growth that supports both current residents and future opportunity. This includes attention to zoning, childcare access, commercial and residential growth, and maintaining Bloomington as a competitive and desirable community.

SECTION 4. Measurement and Accountability. The City Council desires that progress toward these priorities be monitored through defined success indicators, including both system-wide outcomes and targeted annual measures. The City Manager shall incorporate these priorities into organizational planning, performance measurement, and budget preparation, and shall report progress to the City Council on a regular basis.

SECTION 5. Ongoing Review. The City Council acknowledges that strategic priorities are not static and commits to periodic review, evaluation, and refinement to ensure continued alignment with community needs, fiscal realities, and the City’s mission.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED this ___ day of January 2026.

APPROVED this ___ day of January 2026.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

ATTEST

Dan Brady, Mayor

Leslie Yocum, City Clerk