



Minutes
City Council - Special Session (Council Retreat)
Monday, November 17, 2025 - 6:00 PM

The City Council convened in special session for the Council Retreat in the Bloomington Public Library, Community Room 1 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Dan Brady called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Member Michael Straza

The following staff and facilitators were present: (1) Jeff Jurgens, City Manager; (2) Billy Tyus, Sr. Deputy City Manager; (3) Sue McLaughlin, Deputy City Manager; (4) Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk; (5) Kelly Pfeifer, Development Services Department Director; (6) Cordaryl Patrick, Community Impact & Enhancement Department Director; (7) Jamal Simington, Chief of Police; (8) Mose Rickey, Public Works Department Director; (9) Brett Lueschen, Assistant Water Department Director; (10) Jim Karch, Engineering Department Director; (11) Scott Rathbun, Finance Department Director; (12) Corey Matheny, Chief of Fire; (13) Eric Veal, Parks & Recreation Department Director; and (14) Christina Schultz, Heartland Community College Business and Industry Solutions Department Director and Event Facilitator.

Public Comment

Lydia Ewonus emailed public comment. No in-person public comment was received.

Retreat Activities

Christina Schultz, Heartland Community College Business and Industry Solutions Department Director and Event Facilitator, introduced herself as the Moderator, welcomed Council and staff, and briefly discussed the plan for the evening.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens explained that the goal of the meeting was to work towards determining a new Strategic Plan.

Moderator Schultz facilitated the discussion of Council's initial thoughts on the City's priorities, which resulted in a focus on housing, infrastructure, economic vitality, and public safety.

City Manager Jurgens read the priorities from the 2023 Council Retreat strategic planning session, noting multiple items had made progress.

Moderator Schultz discussed the options of doing a few priorities on many strategies vs. many priorities on a few strategies.

Council and staff broke out into groups to define each priority and discuss core principles for each.

City Manager Jurgens added that, regardless of the priority category, fiscal discipline, quality of life, and community engagement using statistics and metrics would be incorporated into each priority category.

The groups presented the following:

Infrastructure (Water added) included complete an inventory of the current maintenance backlog, including deferred maintenance, to define the service level to set the backlog need, and then have staff recommend a minimum service level; determine a dollar amount for each project; have Council determine the minimum service level; and create a priority list.

Housing was defined as community revitalization, which included targeting resources, removing blighted homes, preserving existing housing (both single-family and rentals), rehabilitating properties, proactive code enforcement (including foreclosures and vacant properties), increasing affordability and sense of safety, and exploring shared sales tax options and educational opportunities.

Public Safety included continuing to strive for low crime; Police Department prevention solutions; expert health treatment by Fire and Police Departments; preparedness (readiness for all types of events/circumstances); trust in service quality, response time, fairness (regardless of status); and balanced access to resources, towline equipment, training, facilities, staffing and work-life balance. It was suggested that we look beyond Police and Fire to all aspects of community safety, such as increasing streetlights, engagement with neighborhood associations to assist with neighborly connections, and additional proactive approaches.

Economic Vitality/Development was defined as job growth, industrial growth, commercial growth, and residential growth. All of which could be encouraged by marketing and recruitment of data centers, sports complexes, and small business incubators, as well as by reinventing small and large spaces for them. Additional focus on business retention, safe zoning changes for parking requirements; create/increase a business district, childcare incentive investment, and adapting to retail changes. It was said that we should benchmark other cities to learn from them and share ideas and/or bring investments into the community, both regionally and nationally.

Moderator Schultz reminded Council that there should be a balance between the City's responsibility and residents' accountability.

City Manager Jurgens requested feedback on whether to continue with the current Strategic Plan or initiate a new one. In response, Council asked for time to thoroughly review the existing Strategic Plan and compare it with the proposed Priorities. They expressed a desire to hold a follow-up discussion before proceeding to the next step in the planning process, which would involve hiring a consultant. Additionally, Council Members showed interest in exploring methods for gathering community input.

Moderator Schultz emphasized the importance of developing healthy habits for regularly reviewing the Strategic Plan. She then outlined potential next steps including identifying both tangible and intangible success indicators for each Priority.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Dan Brady, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

