CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

Minutes
City Council - Regular Session Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2025 - 6:00 PM

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 PM on Monday, October 27, 2025.

Roll Call

Present: Council Member Jenna Kearns, Council Member Micheal Mosley, 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

Absent: Council Member Sheila Montney

Recognition/Appointments

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.A. Presentation on the 2025 Beautification Award Winners, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Gina Lavazza and Daniel Freburg, Members of Citizens' Beautification Committee, announced the following winners of the 2025 Citizens' Beatification Awards: (1) Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses and Garden Center (Business); (2) Jim and Aretta Malinowski at 1526 Julie Drive (Residence); (3) Wanda and Hal Gray at 915 S. Mercer (Residence); and (4) Dustin and Stephanie Stone at 603 S. Morris (Residence). All winners received a certificate and an engraved garden stone.

The following Item was presented:

Item 5.B. Proclamation in Recognition and Honor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church's 160th Church Anniversary, as requested by the Administration Department.

Decon Charles Halbert accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Decans of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. He shared about their Church's long history in Bloomington and how it impacted the community.

Public Comment

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. Brandon Gray had emailed public comment, and Chris Mitchell and David Busch spoke in-person.

Consent Agenda

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

Item 7.A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, as requested by the City Clerk Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of $9,610,167.92, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action on Approving Appointments to Boards and Commissions, as requested by the Administration Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Appointments and Reappointments be approved.)

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Ammunition for the Police Department, from Ray O'Herron, in the Amount of $92,248.52, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 176

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FROM RAY O'HERRON, IN THE AMOUNT OF $92,248.52

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Syngenta, BASF, and ENVU (Bayer) Chemicals from Marubeni America Corporation, d/b/a Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC, for Use at City Golf Courses, in an Amount Not to Exceed $225,000, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 177

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF SYNGENTA, BASF, AND ENVU (BAYER) CHEMICALS FROM MARUBENI AMERICA CORPORATION, D/B/A HELENA AGRI ENTERPRISES, LLC, FOR USE AT CITY GOLF COURSES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $225,000

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending the Redevelopment Agreement By and Between the City of Bloomington, Illinois, and HP Bloomington Empire, LLC, as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 080

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS, AND HP BLOOMINGTON EMPIRE, LLC

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action to Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Public Safety Dispatchers, as requested by the Human Resources Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement be approved.)

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

Regular Agenda

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.A. Presentation of the Special Commission for Safe Communities' Final Report, as requested by the Police Department.

Dr. Scott Denton, Former Chairperson of the Special Commission for Safe Communities ("Commission"), explained the scope of work the Commission was tasked to evaluate. He then presented the Commission's Final Report to Council as required by City Code and expanded upon the Commission's eight recommendations: (1) Expand Community Group Collaboration: Establish a permanent task force coordinating existing groups around gun violence prevention research and action; (2) Promote Gun Security: Expand secure storage education, gun lock distribution, safe giveaways and buyback programs, while supporting FOID card revocation enforcement; (3) Gather Youth Perspectives: Conduct comprehensive surveys to understand youth experiences with violence and gather their recommendations; (4) Support Suicide Prevention: Target high-risk populations with information about secure storage, firearm restraining orders, the 988 Crisis Lifeline, and veteran support; (5) Strengthen Domestic Violence Programs: Improve protective order enforcement, survivor outreach, multi-disciplinary working groups, and consistent prosecution; (6) Fund School Programming: Fund violence prevention programs, Social Emotional Learning, third spaces, parent education on tech, and alternatives to punitive approaches; (7) Invest in Mental Health Programs: Expand veteran services and connections with military families, coordinating with mental health committees and programs; and (8) Continue the Special Commission for Safe Communities or a Task Force: Establish permanent oversight through expansion of existing city committees or creation of new structures to implement, monitor, and update these recommendations over time. He wrapped up by explaining local and national data contained within the Report, including patterns realized by the Commission, and then complimented the numerous presenters who had presented to the Commission. He ended by recognizing the Commissioners and thanking them for their work over the past two years.

Mayor Brady thanked Dr. Denton, the Commissioners, the Police Department, and those who had presented, thanking them for their dedication and hard work. He recognized Council Member Ward for being instrumental in establishing the Commission.

Council Member Ward expressed deep gratitude to the Commission for their thorough and dedicated work, explaining that the Commission had been created in response to community concerns about gun violence. She emphasized the Report's comprehensiveness, the volunteer commitment behind it, and the importance of Council giving serious, ongoing attention to the Commission's recommendations. She advocated for making the Commission permanent and encouraged fellow Council Members to identify areas they are passionate about for future action.

Council Member Mosely asked how Council could champion the recommendations. Dr. Denton recommended continuing the Commission or a similar task force to carry on the momentum. They then discussed data around shots fired and fatalities, as well as challenges associated with enforcing revoked FOID (Firearm Owner's Identification) cards.

Council Member Scott thanked the Commission for their impressive and detailed work, highlighting the importance of their research. She shared a personal story about losing her brother to suicide, underscoring the importance of the Commission's focus on prevention. She also expressed enthusiasm for building community partnerships and supporting restorative justice initiatives, and asked about how to best maintain relationships and momentum developed by the

Commission. Dr. Denton noted that many people and organizations had eagerly participated and shared their needs. He stressed that building on the Commission's relationships would be a major step forward in the City's efforts to address community safety and gun violence.

Council Member Hendricks commended the Commissioners for their dedication and consistent participation, noting it was rare for commissions to maintain such high attendance and commitment. He expressed strong support for the Commission's efforts, particularly highlighting the importance of youth involvement and building strong community partnerships. He voiced his support for making the Commission a permanent committee.

Council Member Kearns echoed appreciation to the Commission. She emphasized the importance of continuing the Commission's efforts and suggested better collaboration and coordination among local organizations, similar to previous successes with housing initiatives. She stressed the need for improved data collection, particularly around domestic violence, to better understand and address community challenges.

Council Member Ward noted the strong consensus among Council to continue the Commission and encouraged staff and the Mayor to bring draft language to make it permanent.

Mayor Brady acknowledged Council's consensus to continue the work of the Commission, praised the depth and collaboration of the Commission's efforts, and supported having staff return with a draft at an upcoming meeting. He encouraged Council to keep thinking about ways to move the Commission's work forward and invited further ideas and direction as the process continued.

Finance Director's Report

Finance Director Scott Rathbun delivered a financial summary highlighting that revenues, especially those from online sales tax, were trending positively, and pointed out that some tax categories remained preliminary, requiring monitoring. He explained the structure and importance of the General Fund, and how it supported core services like Public Safety (Police & Fire), Parks, and Administration. He then outlined how expenditures were allocated across departments and discussed the impact of large projects on reserve balances. He ended by emphasizing the City's ongoing commitment to financial transparency through public reporting of budget materials.

City Manager's Discussion

No comments were made.

Council Members' Discussion

No comments were given.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Brady highlighted recent community events and then invited Council and the public to the upcoming Front St. and Center St. building demolition event.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

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

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

City of Bloomington	**Attest**
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Dan Brady, Mayor	Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ESTABLISHED 1850