



**Minutes
City Council - Regular Session Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

The City Council convened in regular session in the Government Center Boardroom at 6:00 PM. 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 Hearings

Item 5.A. Public Hearing for the City of Bloomington 2025 Tax Levy, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation and Public Hearing only.)

Mayor Brady opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 P.M.

Scott Rathbun, Finance Director, presented the 2025 tax levy as a significant but relatively limited part of residents' overall property tax bills, noting it accounted for about 11% of the total property tax bill in the district and roughly 15% of the City's general fund revenues. He explained that the property tax levy had been held flat the past two years with no adjustments for inflation since 2022, even as cumulative inflation had risen about 39% compared to only 17% since 2011. He detailed how inflation had substantially increased costs for the City in areas such as utilities, employee benefits (especially insurance), technology, pensions, and construction, putting pressure on the operating budget, particularly in the last three to four years. To realign revenues with these rising costs, he proposed a \$3 million increase to the levy, with \$1 million each restricted to police protection, fire protection, and parks, representing a 13.44% overall increase. He also noted that because the increase exceeded 5%, State statute required a Truth-In-Taxation Public Hearing prior to considering adoption of the levy.

Mayor Brady opened the floor for public testimony. No one requested to testify. He then opened the floor to Council.

Mayor Brady and Council Members Montney and Ward discussed procedure with Chris Spanos, Corporation Counsel.

Liz Pierce (Resident), after being sworn, asked whether the figures presented represented a portion of residents' pay or their property values.

Director Rathbun confirmed that the presentation was regarding the property tax levy and

that it was an important part of the City's general fund revenues used to fund services like Police and Fire Pensions and Protection funds, and public parks. He reiterated that the levy had not increased over the last two years while inflation had risen significantly.

Council Member Montney questioned the characterization of the property tax levy as "significant," asking for specific percentages of the levy within the general fund and the overall tax structure. Director Rathbun confirmed the total tax levy made up about 15% of general fund revenues and 19% of total tax revenues. She then pressed on how recent additional City revenues factored into the budget, suggesting they were substantial, and asked whether those funds had essentially matched the proposed levy increase. Director Rathbun confirmed that total Citywide revenues had grown from 2024 to 2025, but emphasized that much of that growth came from areas outside the general fund including a 33% water rate increase that alone had added roughly \$6 million. He explained that the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2026 budget had been balanced only by addressing a \$5-6 million structural gap through deferring \$3.9 million in equipment purchases, skipping a transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund, and cutting about \$2.5 million in operating costs including staff reductions through attrition. Council Member Montney then questioned Pension funding details, asking for the actuarially determined contributions to the Police and Fire Pension funds over the past several years and whether the proposed \$1 million each for Police and Fire would be above those actuarial requirements. Director Rathbun outlined actuarially determined contributions for Pension funds of approx. \$12.3 million in 2024, \$14.7 million in 2025, \$15.7 million in the current year, and \$16.1 million in the next year, noting that even when the required contribution briefly decreased, property and utility tax revenues still fell about \$600,000 short requiring use of other revenues to close the gap. He clarified that the proposed \$1 million each for Police and Fire in this levy was intended for the Police and Fire protection operations, not for the Pension funds, and that the City would continue to cover pension shortfalls from other revenue sources as it had in prior years.

Council Member Mosley asked how holding the tax levy flat for several years had affected services. Director Rathbun described how the City had managed financially while keeping the levy flat. He said that for FY26 they faced major pressures including a sharp increase in public safety pension costs after switching actuaries, and concerns about a possible grocery tax reduction, as well as a large drop in Personal Property Replacement Tax ("PPRT"), from about \$6.4 million to about \$2 million. To balance the budget, staff implemented about \$2.5 million in operating reductions including holding positions open, deferring about \$3.9 million in equipment purchases, and delaying transfers to the Capital Improvement Fund. He noted that they had met with all departments to review historical spending and requests, and used those reviews to identify and execute the needed reductions. Council Member Mosley confirmed with Director Rathbun that the proposed tax levy increase was intended not to add new services, but to maintain the City's existing service levels after several years of holding the levy flat. He emphasized that the increase was meant to help the City better keep up with rising costs so it could continue providing the services it was already responsible for, rather than expanding programs or creating new ones.

Council Member Montney asked how much of the Equalized Assessed Value ("EAV") increase came from true new construction and business growth versus general assessment increases on existing properties, noting broad increases strain homeowners who are not realizing actual gains. Director Rathbun replied that, based on County data, the share attributable to new growth appeared small and that most of the increase came from an across-the-board assessment multiplier. He said prior requests to the Assessor also showed new development to be a relatively minor part of the total EAV growth and agreed it was important to keep tracking and reporting that

distinction.

Mayor Brady closed the Public Hearing at 6:27 P.M.

Public Comment

Mayor Brady read a public comment statement of procedure. Liz Pierce spoke in person. No emailed public comment was received.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled by City 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 7.A. Consideration and Action on Approving Bills and Payroll in the Amount of \$24,851,598.87, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Bills and Payroll be approved.)

Item 7.B. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Radios for the Fire Department, from Motorola Solutions, in the Amount of \$81,457, as requested by the Fire Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 195

ON A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF RADIOS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, FROM MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,457

Item 7.C. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Authorizing a Change Order for the Contract with Union Roofing Company, Inc., for the Lincoln Leisure Center Roof Replacement, in the Amount of \$15,600, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 196

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE CONTRACT WITH UNION ROOFING COMPANY, INC., FOR THE LINCOLN LEISURE CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,600

Item 7.D. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Purchase Order with SHI, Inc., for Five Years for the Evergreen/Flex Support and Maintenance Renewal for the City's Enterprise Storage, in an Amount of \$497,078.30, as requested by the Information Technology Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 197

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PURCHASE ORDER WITH SHI, INC., FOR FIVE YEARS FOR THE EVERGREEN/FLEX SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE RENEWAL FOR THE CITY'S ENTERPRISE STORAGE, IN AN AMOUNT OF \$497,078.30

Item 7.E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., for Engineering Services for the North Main Street Streetscape Project, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$74,400, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 198

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CRAWFORD, MURPHY & TILLY, INC., FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NORTH MAIN STREET STREETScape PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$74,400

Item 7.F. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal for the Use of the City of Bloomington Police Shooting Range Facility, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 199

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE TOWN OF NORMAL FOR THE USE OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON POLICE SHOOTING RANGE FACILITY

Item 7.G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Authorizing (1) Waiving the Technical Bidding Requirements; and (2) Approving an Agreement with InfoSend, Inc., for the Professional Consultant Services for Print, Mail, and Materials for Utility Billing Services in Fiscal Years 2026-2031, as requested by the Finance Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 200

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING (1) WAIVING THE TECHNICAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS; AND (2) APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH INFOSEND, INC., FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR PRINT, MAIL, AND MATERIALS FOR UTILITY BILLING SERVICES IN FISCAL YEARS 2026-2031

Item 7.H. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving a Tyler MUNIS Software as a Service Agreement with Tyler Technologies, for Various MUNIS Modules of the City's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System, Cloud-Hosted Systems and Storage, in the Amount of \$381,608.41, as requested by the Information Technology Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 201

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A TYLER MUNIS SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, FOR VARIOUS MUNIS MODULES OF THE CITY'S ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM, CLOUD-HOSTED SYSTEMS AND STORAGE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$381,608.41

Item 7.I. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving an Agreement with Lochmueller Group, Inc. for the Design of the Airport Road and Cornelius Drive Traffic Signal Improvements Project, in the Amount of \$92,000, as requested by the Engineering Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 202

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH LOCHMUELLER GROUP, INC. FOR THE DESIGN OF THE AIRPORT ROAD AND CORNELIUS DRIVE TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,00

Item 7.J. Consideration and Action on a Resolution Approving the Annual Renewal of the

Agreement with Flock Group, Inc., in the Amount of \$133,300, as requested by the Police Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Resolution be approved.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 207

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK GROUP, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,300

Item 7.K. Consideration and Action on 1) an Ordinance Authorizing the City of Bloomington to Borrow Funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program, in the Amount of \$9,000,000; and 2) a Resolution Authorizing a Representative to Sign Loan Documents for the Public Water Supply Loan Program, for the Census Track 59 LSLR Project, as requested by the Water Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance and Resolution be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 104

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TO BORROW FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 203

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN LOAN DOCUMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM, FOR THE CENSUS TRACK 59 LSLR PROJECT

Item 7.L. Consideration and Action on 1) an Ordinance Authorizing the City of Bloomington to Borrow Funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program, in the Amount of \$6,500,000; and 2) a Resolution Authorizing a Representative to Sign Loan Documents for the Public Water Supply Loan Program, for the Reservoir Management System for Evergreen Lake, as requested by the Water Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance and Resolution be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 098

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TO BORROW FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500,000

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 204

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REPRESENTATIVE TO SIGN LOAN DOCUMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM, FOR THE RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR EVERGREEN LAKE

Item 7.M. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving the Final Plat of Core Empire Subdivision, for the Property Commonly Known as 502 IAA Drive, Including the Vacation and Replacement of Public Utility Easements (PIN: 14-35-378-009), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 099

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF CORE EMPIRE SUBDIVISION, FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 502 IAA DRIVE, INCLUDING THE VACATION AND REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENTS (PIN: 14-35-378-009)

Item 7.N. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving the Final Plat of

Bloomington Township Solar 1, LLC Subdivision (PIN: 20-26-200-006), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 100

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP SOLAR 1, LLC SUBDIVISION (PIN: 20-26-200-006)

Item 7.O. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving the Final Plat of the Kinder Subdivision for the Property Commonly Known as 9961 Kinder Road in Mclean County (Part of PIN: 21-29-100-001), as requested by the Development Services Department. (Recommended Motion: The proposed Ordinance be approved.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 101

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF THE KINDER SUBDIVISION FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 9961 KINDER ROAD IN MCLEAN COUNTY (PART OF PIN: 21-29-100-001)

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 8.A. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and Ending April 30, 2026, in the Amount of \$25,320,384, as requested by the Finance Department.

City Manager Jeff Jurgens reviewed the City's historically low and recently flat property tax rate, outlined prior budget cuts and deferred capital needs, and explained that the proposed 2025 tax levy would modestly increase the rate to generate \$3 million dedicated to the Police, Fire, and Parks Departments while keeping Bloomington competitive with peer communities. He stated that staff recommended approval of the Ordinance.

Council Member Montney opposed the tax levy increase, arguing that Illinoisans already face some of the highest property taxes in the nation and that cumulative local tax and fee hikes (including water, sewer, trash, sales, and grocery taxes) are straining residents and businesses, particularly retirees on fixed incomes. She contended that the City should focus more on long-term fiscal discipline and operational efficiencies, questioned whether service levels truly required a levy hike given strong revenue growth, and maintained that keeping the levy flat would not harm services.

Council Member Hendricks expressed appreciation for the staff's work and supported the levy increase, noting that the City had already held the rate flat for two years, implemented cuts, and sought efficiencies while still needing additional revenue to maintain expected service levels. He emphasized it was a difficult, but necessary decision made with empathy for residents.

Council Member Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Council Member Mosley, to approve the Item as presented.

Council Member Mosley supported the levy increase, stressing the need to place the City on a more stable financial footing after two years of holding the levy flat and making staff and service cuts. He highlighted recent strong service performance (such as snow removal), pointed to growing infrastructure and IT/cybersecurity obligations, and said the modest increase was a sustainable step to maintain core services, though future revenue needs would need reviewed.

Council Member Straza supported the levy increase, arguing that many of today's higher costs, especially for water and other infrastructure, stemmed from decades of deferred maintenance that could no longer be postponed. He emphasized that the City should continue looking for cuts and efficiencies, it must also invest now in aging infrastructure and equipment rather than pushing those costs further into the future.

Council Member Montney clarified that her opposition to the levy increase was not about avoiding needed infrastructure spending, but about how the Council has chosen to allocate growing revenues in recent years. She argued that decisions on spending priorities had contributed to deferred maintenance, and reiterated that she believed current service and infrastructure needs could be met without raising the levy.

Council Member Lee agreed with Council Member Montney's concerns, emphasizing that the City's financial situation was the result of prior Council decisions and urged Council to remember they represent residents, some on fixed incomes who are struggling.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Nayes: Montney, Lee

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 102

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,320,384

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.B. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the City of Bloomington Public Library, McLean County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and Ending April 30, 2026, in the Amount of \$6,960,000, as requested by the Library Department.

Jeanne Hamilton, Library Director, and Katrina Parker, Library Board President, addressed Council. Director Hamilton gave a brief overview of the Library tax levy noting that the Library accounts for about 4% of the total property tax bill and that the proposed rate would actually be lower than before the building bond repayment was added. She explained that property taxes provide roughly 85% of the Library's revenue, that Bloomington's Library tax rate is the lowest among its peer group, and that the Library Board chose to use some capital reserves to reduce the bond repayment portion, resulting in only a 1.94% increase in dollars levied and a 5.51% reduction in the tax rate.

Council Member Montney commended Library Administration for their cost management. She questioned whether the Library's current spending trends indicated a potential \$1.6 million budget underspend and asked for prior-year actuals. Director Hamilton responded that the cited variance appeared overstated for their budget size, noted that significant costs hit later in the year,

and said she would consult the audit to provide precise prior-year figures.

Council Member Hendricks supported the Library tax levy, emphasizing that it results in a tax rate decrease overall. He praised Director Hamilton and staff for their strong financial management, and highlighted that the measure represents a positive step for taxpayers.

Council Member Ward made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Nays: Lee

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 103

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,960,000

The following Item was presented:

Item 8.C. Consideration and Action to Approve Two Resolutions Abating Property Taxes Totaling Approximately \$7,432,774.72, including: (1) a Resolution Abating All or a Portion of the Taxes Heretofore Levied to Pay Debt Service on Certain Obligation Bonds of the City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois; and (2) a Resolution Abating Tax Levy for Rent Payable Under Lease Agreement Between the Public Building Commission, McLean County, and the City of Bloomington, as requested by the Finance Department.

Director Rathbun explained that the tax abatement Ordinances were an annual housekeeping step required by the City’s bond documents, which treat the property tax levy as collateral and then require the Council to formally abate (remove) the levy for portions of the debt that are actually being paid from other dedicated revenues such as water fees and a sales tax for the Arena. He noted that bond counsel reviewed the complex abatement documents annually to ensure compliance and that the total abated amount was higher this year due to the recently issued \$33 million water bond with full debt schedules shown in the City’s budget and audit.

Council Member Montney made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, to approve the Item as presented.

Mayor Brady directed the Clerk to call roll:

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 205

A RESOLUTION ABATING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE TAXES HERETOFORE LEVIED TO PAY DEBT SERVICE ON CERTAIN OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 206

A RESOLUTION ABATING TAX LEVY FOR RENT PAYABLE UNDER LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION, MCLEAN COUNTY, AND THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

City Manager's Discussion

City Manager Jurgens commended Public Works, Police, Fire, and Water staff for their around-the-clock response to the severe snow and cold. He also noted the success of a sold-out show at the BCPA and encouraged residents to take advantage of Downtown holiday events.

Council Member Discussion

Council Member Scott recognized the evening as the second night of Hanukkah.

Council Member Lee asked for information on warming centers. City Manager Jurgens stated that staff were collaborating with the Salvation Army to distribute information to the public.

Council Member Straza thanked staff and public safety personnel for their work during the recent severe weather and urged residents to support local small businesses. He encouraged people to patronize local shops to help them recover from weather-related setbacks.

Council Member Danenberger announced that the "Christmas at the Mansions" event had been rescheduled to December 27th due to a weather-related cancellation and explained that previously purchased tickets would be honored on the new date.

Mayor's Discussion

Mayor Brady echoed thanks to staff and public safety personnel for their service during recent snow events. He then recognized the retirement of long-time employee, Russ Waller. He also mentioned meeting visitors who had traveled from Chicago for Downtown events.

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, Montney, Danenberger, Straza, Hendricks, Ward, Lee, Scott

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Dan Brady, Mayor

ATTEST



Amanda Stutsman, Deputy City Clerk

