



**City Council
AGENDA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA
1800 W. OLD SHAKOPEE RD.
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431
6:30 PM**

Mayor: Tim Busse

Councilmembers:

Victor Rivas

Chao Moua

Dwayne Lowman

Lona Dallessandro

Jenna Carter

Shawn Nelson

ANNOUNCEMENT

This meeting will be held in person and electronically via Webex. Some members of the City Council, testifiers, and presenters may participate electronically as permitted by Minnesota Statutes. Members of the public may participate in person or electronically. Directions are provided below.

To watch the meeting:

- Attend in person
- Watch online at blm.mn/btv-live or the City's YouTube channel blm.mn/youtube
- Watch BTV (Comcast channels 859 or 14)

To provide testimony on a public hearing item:

- Attend in person and speak at the podium; or
- Speak by phone during a public hearing by dialing **1-415-655-0001**. Enter access code 2634 656 9097# and password 121525 #. Press ***3** to "raise your hand" to indicate a desire to speak; your line will remain muted until it is your turn. When it is your turn to speak, the Council Secretary will call on you by the first six digits of your phone number and will unmute your line. Listen for notification that your line has been unmuted and state your name before speaking.

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council requests that attendees silence cell phones during the meeting. A paper copy of the full City Council packet is available to the public in the ring binder at the entrance of Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 2. INTRODUCTORY**
- 3. CONSENT BUSINESS**

The following items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered at the end of Consent Business or at another stated time on the agenda as determined by the City Council. If you desire to have an item removed from the consent agenda, then please alert the Council Secretary prior to the start of the City Council meeting. The Council Secretary will notify the City Council of a request to remove an item from the consent agenda.

- 3.1 Resolution Approving 2026 Recreation Facility Enterprise Fund Budgets
- 3.2 Resolution Approving 2026 Special Revenue Fund Budgets: Parks & Recreation and Fire Pension
- 3.3 Approve First Amendment – 9E.2 Painting for the Bloomington Ice Garden
- 3.4 Approve Contract – Innovative Office Solutions for Engineering Division Workstations
- 3.5 Nordstrom, Inc., Police Contract Over-Time Agreement
- 3.6 Authorize First Amendment to Agreement with RMF Environmental Contracting, LLC DBA Sheltertech - Creekside Abatement and Site Preparation Services for Community Health and Wellness Center Project
- 3.7 Resolution to Update Council Rules of Procedures
- 3.8 Resolution Approving the 2026 Final HRA Levy

4. HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES

To address the Council on a public hearing item, please approach the podium, clearly state your name, and after you have spoken, please sign the roster so the City can accurately include your comments in the official meeting minutes.

- 4.1 Resolutions - 2026 Property Tax Levy and General Fund Budget
- 4.2 Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment Related to Approval of Contracts for Municipal Buildings
- 4.3 Public Hearing: Administrative Hearing Technical Amendment Ordinance

5. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

- 5.1 Study Item - Fence Standards Update
- 5.2 2026 Legislative Platform Discussion

COUNCIL POLICY AND ISSUE UPDATES

Council will discuss policy updates

6. ADJOURNMENT

ATTACHMENTS

Additional Meetings Attachments

Additional Attachments

View regular meetings live or via archive at blm.mn/meetings. Catch the replay on Comcast cable by tuning to Bloomington TV channels 14(SD) and 859(HD) the Wednesday after a meeting at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday at 12:00 a.m., 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

BloomingtonMN.gov: A yearly meeting schedule, agendas, and the official minutes once approved are available. If you require a reasonable accommodation, please call 952-563-8733 (MN Relay 711) as soon as possible, but no later than 9:00 a.m. one business day before the meeting day.

Our mission is to cultivate an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be.



Request for Council Action

Originator Finance	Item 3.1 Resolution Approving 2026 Recreation Facility Enterprise Fund Budgets
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-____ adopting the 2026 Golf Course, Ice Garden, Center for the Arts, and Aquatic Recreation Facilities Enterprise Fund Budgets.

Item created by: Briana Eicheldinger, Finance
Item presented by: Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer

Description:

The Council is asked to adopt the resolution approving the following Recreation Facility Enterprise Fund budgets for 2026 which were presented and discussed during the October 20, 2025 City Council Meeting as well as posted on the City's budget webpage www.blm.mn/budget.

Enterprise Funds:

6400 GOLF

6450 ICE GARDEN

6500 CENTER FOR THE ARTS

6550 AQUATICS

Attachments:

[2026 Recreation Enterprise Fund Budgets Resolution](#)



2026 PROPOSED BUDGETS RECREATIONAL FACILITY ENTERPRISE FUNDS

The following fund budget requests will be on consent at the December 15, 2025, Council meeting for the Council's approval. These documents will also be posted on the City's budget web page www.blm.mn/budget.

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise funds are used to account for and report activities that are financed and operated in a manner similar to businesses, where the costs of providing goods or services to the public are recovered in part through user fees and charges.

- **Fund 6400 – Golf**
- **Fund 6450 – Bloomington Ice Garden**
- **Fund 6500 – Center for the Arts**
- **Fund 6550 – Aquatics**

Fund 6400, Golf

Dwan Golf Course is an award-winning 18-hole regulation course that hosts a wide range of weekly leagues and groups. It offers multiple tee options, including a shorter fourth tee for juniors, seniors, and novice players. Beginning in 2025, Dwan is able to cover its operating expenses without property tax support. In February 2024, the Bloomington City Council conveyed the Hyland Greens Golf Course property to the Three Rivers Park District, with a conservation easement established to permanently preserve it as public recreation or open space.

**Golf
2026 Budget Request**

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes					0.00%
Internal Revenue from other Departments				-	0.00%
Program Income	2,256,837	2,021,365	2,121,759	100,394	4.97%
Permits and Licenses				-	0.00%
Intergovernmental				-	0.00%
Interest Income	49,449	1,000	1,000	-	0.00%
Other Revenues	(55)	-	-	-	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds				-	0.00%
Total Revenues	2,306,231	2,022,365	2,122,759	100,394	4.96%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	1,238,329	1,225,551	1,285,837	60,286	4.92%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	491,931	849,907	547,511	(302,396)	-35.58%
Internal Charges	252,630	284,400	314,505	30,105	10.59%
Capital Outlay	59,781	90,000	147,357	57,357	63.73%
Transfer to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,042,672	\$ 2,449,858	\$ 2,295,210	\$ (154,648)	-6.31%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 2,042,672	\$ 2,449,858	\$ 2,295,210	\$ (154,648)	-6.31%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ 263,559	\$ (427,493)	\$ (172,451)	\$ 255,042	-59.66%

GOLF - FUND 6400								
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	REQUEST BUDGET	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
REVENUE S:								
DWAN GOLF COURSE REVENUES	2,144,867	2,256,782	2,021,365	2,121,759	2,191,777	2,264,106	2,338,821	2,416,002
PROPERTY TAX	161,343	105,565						
INTEREST	35,910	49,449	25,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL REVENUES	2,342,120	2,411,796	2,046,365	2,122,759	2,192,777	2,265,106	2,339,821	2,417,002
EXPENSES:								
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	1,142,764	1,238,329	1,225,551	1,285,837	1,324,412	1,364,144	1,405,068	1,447,220
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	490,171	491,931	531,481	547,511	552,986	558,516	564,101	569,742
INTERNAL CHARGES	236,984	252,630	284,400	314,505	323,940	333,668	343,668	353,978
CAPITAL	127,470	59,781	161,947	147,357	96,991	100,000	97,000	223,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,997,389	2,042,671	2,203,379	2,295,210	2,298,329	2,356,318	2,409,838	2,593,941
NET GAIN (LOSS)	344,731	369,125	(157,014)	(172,451)	(105,552)	(91,213)	(70,016)	(176,938)
	170%	192%	173%	158%	141%	128%	99%	94%
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE TOTAL	1,072,059	1,441,184	1,284,170	1,111,719	1,006,167	914,955	844,938	668,000
WORKING CAPITAL GOAL:	631,781	749,947	740,357	702,991	713,000	717,000	851,000	711,000

Fund 6450, Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG)

The Ice Garden Enterprise Fund accounts for the operations of the Bloomington Ice Garden, or “BIG,” a premier 126,000-square-foot facility that rents over 10,000 hours of ice annually and welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. BIG hosts a wide range of hockey and figure skating events, including local, state, and regional competitions, and features three rinks with a total seating capacity of 2,500, a dry land training area, and spaces used for 20–25 special events annually. Programs include public skating, open hockey, Pro’s Ice, family-friendly activities, facility rentals, concession services, and skating lessons for youth and adults taught by professionally trained instructors. The 2025 budget year was distinctive due to the major Bloomington local sales tax–funded renovation of the facility, which has since been completed, with BIG reopening in fall 2025. The 2026 budget continues to include property tax support for operations; however, based on current revenue projections and post-renovation performance trends, the City anticipates being able to discontinue property tax support for operations in 2027 and beyond.

Bloomington Ice Garden 2026 Budget Request

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes - Operations	\$ 125,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0.00%
Property Taxes - Debt Service	\$ 199,630	\$ 198,432	\$ 197,241	\$ (1,191)	-0.60%
Internal Revenue from other Departments	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Program Income	2,230,713	1,144,500	2,400,000	1,255,500	109.70%
Permits and Licenses	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Interest Income	9,299	1,000	1,000	-	0.00%
Other Revenues	48,067	-	32,000	32,000	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	2,612,710	1,543,932	2,830,241	1,286,309	83.31%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	997,760	902,408	1,212,081	309,673	34.32%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	821,527	592,650	711,250	118,600	20.01%
Internal Charges	214,652	260,780	293,365	32,585	12.50%
Capital Outlay	132,951	11,500	12,000	500	4.35%
Debt Service	195,743	191,926	191,475	(451)	-0.23%
Transfer to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,362,632	\$ 1,959,264	\$ 2,420,171	\$ 460,907	23.52%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 2,362,632	\$ 1,959,264	\$ 2,420,171	\$ 460,907	23.52%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ 250,078	\$ (415,332)	\$ 410,070	\$ 825,402	-198.73%

ICE GARDEN - FUND 6450								
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	BUDGET REQUEST	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
REVENUES:								
PROPERTY TAX FOR DEBT SERVICE	200,835	199,630	198,432	197,241	196,058	194,882	193,712	
PROPERTY TAX FOR OPERATIONS	125,000	125,000	200,000	200,000				2,597,837
ICE RENTALS / SKATING/ CONCESSIONS	2,072,991	2,230,713	1,144,500	2,400,000	2,448,000	2,496,960	2,546,899	
OTHER REVENUE	218	48,067		32,000	32,800	33,600	34,500	35,400
LOCAL GRANTS								
INTEREST	9,332	9,299	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL REVENUES	2,408,376	2,612,709	1,550,932	2,830,241	2,677,858	2,726,442	2,776,111	2,634,237
EXPENSES:								
SALARIES & BENEFITS	944,676	997,760	902,408	1,212,081	1,248,444	1,285,897	1,324,474	1,364,208
MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, & SERVICES	780,289	821,527	592,650	711,250	732,588	754,565	777,202	800,518
INTERNAL CHARGES	196,573	214,652	260,780	293,365	302,166	311,231	320,568	330,185
CAPITAL OUTLAY	231,846	132,951	11,500	12,000	15,000	215,000	15,000	167,000
DEBT SERVICE FOR 2019 ICE GARDEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	191,926	195,743	191,926	191,475	192,068	192,425	187,610	187,590
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,345,310	2,362,633	1,959,264	2,420,171	2,490,265	2,759,118	2,624,854	2,849,501
NET GAIN (LOSS)	63,066	250,076	(408,332)	410,070	187,593	(32,677)	151,258	(215,264)
	106%	168%	70%	161%	204%	191%	222%	167%
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	385,346	635,422	227,080	637,159	824,733	792,076	943,334	728,070
WORKING CAPITAL GOAL	362,494	378,215	324,176	395,555	405,172	415,077	425,279	435,788

Fund 6500, Bloomington Center for the Arts (BCA)

The Bloomington Center for the Arts (BCA) provides high-quality arts and cultural experiences for residents, patrons, and participants. BCA serves a diverse range of constituents and community events, and is home to seven independently operated nonprofit arts organization tenants. It also houses civic engagement programs, hosts large-scale City and community festivals, supports City departmental use as an extension of Civic Plaza, operates community arts education programs, and offers a variety of rentable spaces for City and private functions. The BCA’s art galleries, rehearsal and classroom spaces, and performance venues such as the Schneider and Black Box Theaters support more than 150 events and performances annually, making it a vibrant hub for arts and cultural engagement. An operational study currently underway will help shape future changes to BCA’s operations and budget, with the goal of increasing revenue and reducing tax support.

**Bloomington Center for the Arts
2026 Budget Request**

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	0.00%
Internal Revenue from other Departments				-	0.00%
Program Income	306,122	325,000	330,000	5,000	1.54%
Permits and Licenses				-	0.00%
Intergovernmental				-	0.00%
Interest Income	51,151	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
Other Revenues	550	-	-	-	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	1,357,822	1,835,000	1,840,000	5,000	0.27%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	300,827	547,351	596,983	49,632	9.07%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	468,966	497,024	497,024	-	0.00%
Internal Charges	499,566	548,511	606,799	58,288	10.63%
Capital Outlay	184,804	128,000	150,000	22,000	17.19%
Transfer to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,454,163	\$ 1,720,886	\$ 1,850,806	\$ 129,920	7.55%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 1,454,163	\$ 1,720,886	\$ 1,850,806	\$ 129,920	7.55%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ (96,341)	\$ 114,114	\$ (10,806)	\$ (124,920)	-109.47%

CENTER FOR THE ARTS - FUND 6500								
DESCRIPTION	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	BUDGET REQUEST	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
REVENUES:								
PROPERTY TAX	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
CUSTOMER REVENUE	234,181	306,122	325,000	330,000	339,900	350,097	360,600	371,418
INTEREST	60,328	51,151	18,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
ENDOWMENT TRANSFER								
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES \$ FOR ARTISTRY	250,000							
OTHER REVENUE		550	178,181					
TOTAL REVENUES	1,544,509	1,357,823	2,021,181	1,840,000	1,849,900	1,860,097	1,870,600	1,881,418
EXPENSES:								
SALARIES & BENEFITS	239,171	300,827	547,351	596,983	608,923	621,101	633,523	646,194
MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, & SERVICES	185,586	224,439	278,024	275,024	280,524	286,135	291,858	297,695
FACILITIES INTERNAL CHARGES	403,994	415,872	445,207	467,467	476,816	486,353	496,080	506,001
OTHER INTERNAL CHARGES	79,210	83,694	103,304	139,332	142,119	144,961	147,860	150,817
CAPITAL OUTLAY	143,674	184,804	200,000	150,000	170,000	235,000	350,000	25,000
CULTURAL ARTS GRANTS	154,393	244,528	247,079	222,000	224,220	226,462	228,727	231,014
ADDITIONAL ARTISTRY SUPPORT	250,000							
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,456,028	1,454,163	1,820,965	1,850,806	1,902,602	2,000,012	2,148,048	1,856,721
NET GAIN (LOSS)	88,481	(96,340)	200,216	(10,806)	(52,702)	(139,915)	(277,448)	24,696
	128%	162%	135%	140%	128%	100%	77%	108%
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	1,370,122	1,273,782	1,473,998	1,463,192	1,410,489	1,270,574	993,126	1,017,823
WORKING CAPITAL GOAL	1,070,102	788,233	1,093,688	1,042,821	1,105,677	1,268,790	1,282,166	945,810

Fund 6550, Aquatics

The Aquatics Enterprise Fund includes the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and the Cedarcrest Splash Pad. Bush Lake Beach and its operations were previously part of this fund but transitioned when the City partnered with Three Rivers Park District for operations and maintenance in regional parks. The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center features an eight-lane, 50-meter lap pool with zero-depth entry, which includes three tot slides and water play features. Its diving well offers a one-meter diving board, a climbing wall, and a drop slide, and the facility also includes two looping water slides and a concessions operation. The 2026 budget request reflects little to no change. The Aquatic Center experienced an unfortunate closure in 2025 but is working through an insurance claim and may potentially recapture lost revenue. Full season passes were refunded, and the year ended better than projected because revenue typically decreases later in the season while expenses remain steady. The fund is still holding all capital expenditures per City Council direction. A major facility remodel is anticipated in 2030, likely funded with Charter Bonds.

Aquatics Fund 2026 Budget Request

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 335,000	\$ -	0.00%
Internal Revenue from other Departments				-	0.00%
Program Income	319,235	265,000	265,000	-	0.00%
Permits and Licenses				-	0.00%
Intergovernmental	30,000	-	-	-	0.00%
Interest Income	30,861	6,000	6,000	-	0.00%
Other Revenues	(74)	-	-	-	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	715,022	606,000	606,000	-	0.00%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	477,121	444,487	554,181	109,694	24.68%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	48,720	33,100	33,100	-	0.00%
Internal Charges	241,680	268,617	283,424	14,807	5.51%
Capital Outlay	57,317	75,000	50,000	(25,000)	-33.33%
Transfer to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 824,838	\$ 821,204	\$ 920,705	\$ 99,501	12.12%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 824,838	\$ 821,204	\$ 920,705	\$ 99,501	12.12%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ (109,815)	\$ (215,204)	\$ (314,705)	\$ (99,501)	46.24%

AQUATICS - FUND 6550								
AQUATICS - FUND 6550	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	BUDGET REQUEST	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
REVENUES:								
PROPERTY TAXES	465,000	500,000	335,000	335,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	600,000
CUSTOMER REVENUE - POOL	315,497	319,235	120,326	265,000	274,275	282,503	290,978	299,708
CUSTOMER REVENUE - BEACH	71,063	82,602	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	67,137	51,753	85,833	-	-	-	-	-
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTEREST	41,668	30,787	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
TOTAL REVENUES	960,365	984,377	547,159	606,000	780,275	788,503	796,978	905,708
EXPENSES:								
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	468,046	491,963	334,234	554,181	485,806	500,380	515,392	530,853
MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES	53,834	51,737	33,100	33,100	33,762	34,437	35,126	35,829
INTERNAL CHARGES	372,990	379,789	268,617	283,424	291,927	300,685	309,705	318,996
POOL TRANSFER TO FACILITIES								
CAPITAL OUTLAY - POOL	164,951	57,317	12,125	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
CAPITAL OUTLAY - BEACH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,059,821	980,806	648,076	920,705	836,495	860,502	885,223	910,678
TOTAL GAIN (LOSS)	(99,456)	3,571	(100,917)	(314,705)	(56,220)	(71,999)	(88,244)	(4,970)
	270%	315%	355%	169%	140%	106%	64%	61%
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	771,610	775,181	674,264	359,560	303,340	231,341	143,097	138,127
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL GOAL	286,170	246,071	190,109	213,333	216,425	219,168	221,993	224,903

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026
GOLF COURSE, ICE GARDEN, CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
AND AQUATIC RECREATION FACILITIES
ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Bloomington City Council to formally adopt budgets of the general, special revenue, internal service and enterprise funds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt budgets on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles; and

WHEREAS, these budgets are constructed to meet their working capital goals; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department representatives have presented the City Manager’s proposed Golf Course, Ice Garden, Center for the Arts, and Aquatic Recreation Facilities Enterprise Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, that a 2026 budget for the Fund 6400 – Golf Course Enterprise Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,122,759
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,295,210

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a 2026 budget for the Fund 6450 – Ice Garden Enterprise Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,830,241
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,420,171

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a 2026 budget for the Fund 6500 – Center for the Arts Enterprise Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,840,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,850,806

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a 2026 budget for the Fund 6550 – Aquatic Recreation Enterprise Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 606,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 920,705

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor _____

Attest:

Secretary to the Council



Request for Council Action

Originator Finance	Item 3.2 Resolution Approving 2026 Special Revenue Fund Budgets: Parks & Recreation and Fire Pension
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-____ adopting the 2026 Parks & Recreation and Fire Pension Special Revenue Fund Budgets.

Item created by: Briana Eicheldinger, Finance

Item presented by: Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer

Description:

The Council is asked to adopt the resolution approving the following Special Revenue Fund budgets for 2026. These documents are also posted on the City's budget web page www.blm.mn/budget.

Special Revenue Funds:

2150 PARKS & RECREATION
2800 FIRE PENSION

Attachments:

[2026 Special Revenue Budgets Resolution](#)



2026 PROPOSED BUDGETS SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

The following fund budget requests will be on consent at the December 15, 2025, Council meeting for the Council's approval. These documents will also be posted on the City's budget web page www.blm.mn/budget.

Special Revenue Funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes.

- **Fund 2150 – Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund**
- **Fund 2800 – Fire Pension Special Revenue Fund**

Fund 2150, Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund

The Park Grants Special Revenue Fund receives restricted State lottery-in-lieu revenues to support operations and maintenance of the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve. Beginning in 2025, with the Cooperative Agreement with Three Rivers Park District, the fund reflects the transition of these responsibilities to Three Rivers. In recent years, the fund has also expanded to include other Parks and Recreation grants, along with grant revenues and a portion of the property tax levy that support forestry projects and diseased tree removals, which continue to rise due to the peak of the emerald ash borer.

Parks & Recreation - Parks Grants & Projects Special Revenue 2026 Budget Request

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Program Income	\$ 259,309	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,000	\$ -	0.00%
Property Taxes	185,000	185,000	350,000	165,000	89.19%
Intergovernmental	98,094	165,000	95,000	(70,000)	-42.42%
Interest Income	9,516	4,000	4,000	-	0.00%
Other Revenues	24,613	28,000	28,000	-	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	388,163	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	964,695	662,000	757,000	95,000	14.35%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	41,367	-	-	-	0.00%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	1,028,586	650,000	655,000	5,000	0.77%
Internal Charges	45,157	64,725	71,865	7,140	11.03%
Capital Outlay				-	0.00%
Transfer to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,115,110	\$ 714,725	\$ 726,865	\$ 12,140	1.70%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 1,115,110	\$ 714,725	\$ 726,865	\$ 12,140	1.70%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ (150,415)	\$ (52,725)	\$ 30,135	\$ 82,860	-157.16%

PARK & RECREATION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 2150

DESCRIPTION	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 ESTIMATED	2026 BUDGET REQUEST	2027 PROJECTED	2028 PROJECTED	2029 PROJECTED	2030 PROJECTED
REVENUES:								
FORESTRY - PROPERTY TAX LEVY		185,000	185,000	350,000	350,000	325,000	325,000	325,000
FORESTRY - SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS		9,013	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
FORESTRY - GRANTS		39,520	82,160					
FORESTRY - DISEASED TREE REMOVAL BILLINGS		259,309	280,000	280,000	285,600	291,312	297,138	303,081
FORESTRY - TRANSFER FROM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		375,000						
FORESTRY - OTHER REVENUE		15,600	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
LOTTERY IN LIEU OF TAXES REVENUE	79,568	58,574	344,906	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE FUNDS REVENUE		13,163						
OTHER REVENUE	10,878	5,968	16,076					
INTEREST REVENUE	14,253	9,516	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL REVENUES	104,699	970,663	940,142	757,000	762,600	743,312	749,138	755,081
EXPENDITURES:								
FORESTRY		1,056,536	696,865	631,865	612,909	594,522	612,357	630,728
LOTTERY IN LIEU - CITY OF BLOOMINGTON EXPENSES	79,568	58,574						
LOTTERY IN LIEU - THREE RIVERS EXPENSES			295,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
OTHER EXPENSES	11,121	5,968	16,076					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	90,689	1,121,078	1,007,941	726,865	707,909	689,522	707,357	725,728
NET GAIN (LOSS)	14,010	(150,415)	(67,799)	30,135	54,691	53,790	41,781	29,353
	107%	43%	25%	40%	68%	95%	115%	130%
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	268,733	118,318	50,519	80,654	135,345	189,135	230,916	260,269
WORKING CAPITAL GOAL	250,000	275,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000

Fund 2800, Fire Pension Fund

The Fire Pension Fund is a Special Revenue Fund that receives State Aid and property tax levy revenue to pay the annual Fire Pension obligation. Until 2023, Bloomington had a fully paid on call Fire Department, and the City is now transitioning to a combination paid on call and full-time model. Paid-on-call firefighters who complete 20 years of service and reach age 50 are eligible for a pension from the Bloomington Fire Department Relief Association. Each year, an independent actuary calculates the liability due two years ahead, and the annual obligation is influenced by investment returns, police wage rates, and firefighter demographics. If the accrued liability funding ratio falls below 120 percent, State statute requires a City contribution in addition to State Fire Aid. Based on the 1/1/2025 Actuarial Report, the City has no contribution requirement in 2026 beyond passing through 100 percent of the State Fire Aid. This fund will also be used to pay upfront project costs for the upcoming fire station remodels, and those costs will be repaid when the bond proceeds are received.

Fire Pension 2026 Budget Request

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,050,000	\$ -	0.00%
Fire State Aid	884,039	821,149	1,000,000	178,851	21.78%
Interest Income	280,836	62,466	100,000	37,534	60.09%
Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	2,214,874	1,933,615	2,150,000	216,385	11.19%
Expenditures					
Pension Obligation	2,163,247	821,149	1,000,000	178,851	21.78%
Transfer to Other Funds	292,023	1,550,000	3,130,000	1,580,000	101.94%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,455,270	\$ 2,371,149	\$ 4,130,000	\$ 1,758,851	74.18%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 2,455,270	\$ 2,371,149	\$ 4,130,000	\$ 1,758,851	74.18%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ (240,396)	\$ (437,534)	\$ (1,980,000)	\$ (1,542,466)	352.54%

FIRE PENSION - FUND 2800

DE DESCRIPTION	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ESTIMATED	BUDGET REQUEST	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED	PROJECTED
REVENUE S								
Property Tax	1,000,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000
Interest Income	260,313	280,836	200,000	100,000	55,034	70,634	38,642	55,231
State Aid	804,969	884,039	1,010,430	1,000,000	1,010,000	1,020,100	1,030,301	1,040,604
Operating Transfers In								
Transfer in (Repay Loan)					2,215,000		2,340,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	2,065,282	2,214,875	2,260,430	2,150,000	4,330,034	2,140,734	4,458,943	2,145,835
EXPENDITURE S								
Fire Pension Obligation	804,969	2,163,247	1,010,430	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Professional Services	8,543	0						
Transfer for Fire Station Land Acquisition		292,023						
Transfer for Debt Service								
Transfer to General Fund to offset SAFER Grant impact			250,000	915,000	770,000	1,000,000	800,000	100,000
Transfer (Loan) for Fire Station				2,215,000		2,340,000		4,530,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE S	813,512	2,455,270	1,260,430	4,130,000	2,770,000	5,340,000	2,800,000	6,630,000
NET GAIN (LOSS)	1,251,770	(240,395)	1,000,000	(1,980,000)	1,560,034	(3,199,266)	1,658,943	(4,484,165)
	380%	401%	493%	381%	489%	269%	388%	67%
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE	6,723,809	6,483,413	7,483,413	5,503,413	7,063,447	3,864,181	5,523,124	1,038,959
WORKING CAPITAL GOAL	1,768,188	1,617,402	1,516,701	1,446,216	1,443,631	1,435,881	1,422,846	1,561,866

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 -

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2026
PARKS & RECREATION AND FIRE PENSION
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGETS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota (“the City”); and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Bloomington City Council to formally adopt budgets of the general, special revenue, internal service and enterprise funds; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington City Council desires to adopt budgets on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles; and

WHEREAS, these City budgets are constructed to meet their working capital goals; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Finance Department presented the City Manager’s proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets for the following funds: Parks & Recreation and Fire Pension for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 to the City Council for its consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, that based on the foregoing, that a 2026 budget for Fund 2150 – Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 757,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 726,865

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a 2026 budget for Fund 2800 – Fire Pension Special Revenue Fund is hereby approved as follows:

TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,150,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,130,000

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor _____

Attest:

Secretary to the Council



Request for Council Action

Originator Maintenance	Item 3.3 Approve First Amendment – 9E.2 Painting for the Bloomington Ice Garden
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to authorize a First Amendment to the agreement with Finnish Painting, LLC for the Bloomington Ice Garden Modernization Project and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into the related agreements.

Item created by: Kalea Fischer, Maintenance

Item presented by: Tim Behrendt, Maintenance Superintendent

Description:

On January 27, 2025, the City Council approved bid awards for Bloomington Ice Garden Bid Pack #2.

BC#9E.2 – Painting

Council is requested to authorize a First Amendment with Finnish Painting, LLC for 9E.2 painting for the Bloomington Ice Garden modernization project. The amendment will increase the contract amount by \$120,640.00 for a new contract not-to-exceed amount of \$466,405.00. This amendment includes changes to materials needed, additional paint prep, painting after other contracts, and additional areas to be painted.

These changes are over their individual 10% contingency but within the overall project contingency amount.

Funding is through account 4450-57030-MNDD1.



Request for Council Action

Originator Maintenance	Item 3.4 Approve Contract – Innovative Office Solutions for Engineering Division Workstations
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to approve a contract with Innovative Office Solutions for Public Works Engineering Division workstations in the amount of \$265,107.35, and to authorize Mayor and City Manager to enter into the related agreements.

Item created by: Kalea Fischer, Maintenance

Item presented by: Tim Behrendt, Maintenance Superintendent

Description:

City Council is requested to approve contract with Innovative Office Solutions for Public Works Engineering Division workstations utilizing Cooperative Purchasing Connection contract 24.6-IOS. This project is listed on the CIP for 2025 as project #CF-23-011. Work includes tear down and disposal of existing workstation cubicles, and the installation of new workstation cubicles in the Engineering Department of Public Works.

Staff recommend approval of contract with Innovative Office Solutions in the amount of \$265,107.35. Funding is provided through account 765702 52020.



Request for Council Action

Originator Police Department	Item 3.5 Nordstrom, Inc., Police Contract Over-Time Agreement
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to approve a Police Contract Over-Time Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Nordstrom, Inc.

Item created by: Emily Herman, Police Department

Item presented by: Booker T. Hodges, Chief of Police

Description:

The City has the primary responsibility to provide law enforcement services within the City limits through its police department. Nordstrom, Inc., is requesting on-site Police Contract Over-Time Services over and above the level of police services available with regular on-duty staffing. The agreement is for year 2026, with options for renewal. Invoicing will be at the labor rates and job title with knowledge that labor rates may change due to bargaining agreements.

Officer duties may include, but not limited to, traffic control (road closure and re-opening), crowd control, emergency management, and any such other police functions as are reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide for public safety in accordance with the BPD Manual and Minnesota Police Officer Standards and Training.



Request for Council Action

Originator Parks and Recreation	Item 3.6 Authorize First Amendment to Agreement with RMF Environmental Contracting, LLC DBA Sheltertech - Creekside Abatement and Site Preparation Services for Community Health and Wellness Center Project
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a First Amendment to the Agreement with RMF Environmental Contracting, LLC DBA Sheltertech - Creekside Abatement and Site Preparation Services for Community Health and Wellness Center Project to add \$62,006.00 in funds for a total amount not to exceed \$219,006.00.

Item created by: Linda Batterson, Parks and Recreation

Item presented by: Dakota Kenyon, Community Health and Wellness Center Manager

Description:

City Council is requested to increase the contract sum by \$62,006.00 for a new total amount of \$219,006.00 for Creekside Abatement and Site Preparation Services for the delivery of the Community Health and Wellness Center Project.

The contract amendment is attributable to on-site conditions discovered at the onset of the abatement work that were not identified in the original Hazardous Materials Report dated January 17, 2025, prepared by Braun Intertec. Although the contract amount is increasing, the initial agreement was below the budgeted allocation for abatement services. Therefore, the revised contract amount remains within the project budget.



Request for Council Action

Originator City Manager's Office	Item 3.7 Resolution to Update Council Rules of Procedures
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-____, a resolution amending the council rules of procedure.

Item created by: Melissa Manderschied, City Manager's Office

Item presented by: Zach Walker, City Manager

Description:

Council Rules of Procedure: Given the more informal nature of the Council's study meetings, a sentence was added to allow for more flexibility in the order of business for study meetings. A clarification was added to more closely align with the text of City Charter Section 3.01. City Clerk was replaced with Council Secretary to more accurately reflect operations. Several minor clarifying edits were made. A redline is attached.

Listening session guidelines: The Council also previously considered its existing listening session guidelines and asked for a report back in December 2025. Staff reviewed and researched the questions, and recommend that the Council retain the existing listening session guidelines. Listening sessions will continue to be audio recorded only (no video recording or live broadcast), with a call-in option available for those needing to participate remotely upon request. The existing guidelines are attached.

Attachments:

RESOLUTION

[Exhibit A: City Council Rules of Procedure](#)

[City Council Rules of Procedure \(revisions noted\)](#)

[Listening Session Guidelines](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

A RESOLUTION AMENDING COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota (“City”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Charter Section 3.03, the City Council determines its own rules and order of business; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to update its existing Council Rules of Procedure as set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, that based upon the foregoing, that

1. The Council Rules of Procedure are hereby approved and effective December 15, 2025, as set forth in Exhibit A to this Resolution, which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference.
2. City staff are hereby authorized and directed to take all reasonable and necessary steps to implement the intent of this Resolution.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Council

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 2025-
City Council Rules of Procedure

COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Revised: July 18, 2005; December 21, 2009; July 12, 2010; January 2, 2020; December 21, 2020; April 5, 2021; March 28, 2022; March 17, 2025; December 15, 2025

PREAMBLE^a

The purpose of these Rules of Procedure (“Rules”) is to provide guidelines for the orderly and efficient conduct of the public business by, among, and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bloomington. The Council believes there is a benefit to adopting a set of common sense guidelines and incorporating *Robert’s Rules of Order* by reference for those unique or complex situations that can arise. By stating clear rules, the public is better able to prepare, to understand Council actions, and to participate in a Council meeting.

Although the majority will decide, the minority has rights that are also respected. Council members desire information from staff and the public in order to make their decisions. Courtesy and respect are necessary for an orderly and efficient discussion where all members have equal rights to be heard. Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. A sample handout for the public on Council meeting procedures and guidelines is provided in Appendix A. This Appendix may be amended by the City Manager as needed to clarify these Rules or related matters without the Council’s formal approval.

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Council.^b

(a) **Time.** The Council holds its regular meetings on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.. with these regular meetings being commonly known as a “Council Meeting” or a “Study Meeting”.

(b) **Place.** Unless another place is designated in advance by the Council, all regular meetings of the Council for the purpose of taking official action must be held at Civic Plaza and electronically, and must be open to the public and to the media, except as otherwise permitted or required by law, and recorded.

(c) **Schedule.** The Council must adopt a schedule of its regular meetings by resolution.

(d) **Adjournment.** Each regular meeting must adjourn at or before 9:00 p.m. unless a vote to extend the meeting no later than 10:00 p.m. is adopted by a majority of those members of the Council present at that meeting.

(e) **Public Notice and Attendance.** The Council Secretary must maintain a schedule of regular meetings of the Council that must be available for public inspection during regular business hours. All meetings of the Council must be open to the public in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D.

(f) **Special Meetings.** The City Manager, the Mayor, or any three members of the Council may call a special meeting of the Council upon notice to each member of the Council and notice must be posted at Civic Plaza in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Such notice must be delivered to each Council member and may be delivered electronically.

^a Preamble established by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^b Section 1 amended by resolution adopted January 12, 1981; by resolution adopted July 6, 1981; by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted December 21, 2020; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

(g) **Meetings with the City Manager.** Members of the Council may individually meet informally with the City Manager.

(h) **Council Voting.** The aye and no vote of each member of the Council on ordinances, resolutions, and motions must be recorded in the minutes unless the vote is unanimous.

(i) **Tie Vote.** When there is a tie vote on a motion, the motion is lost.

(j) **Emergency Meetings.** The City Manager, the Mayor, or any three members of the Council may call an emergency meeting of the Council upon reasonable notice to each member of the Council and notice must disseminated in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Such notice must be delivered to each Council member and may be delivered electronically.

SECTION 2. First Meeting of the Year.^c

The City Council must hold an organizational meeting on the first business day on or after the first Monday of January following a regular municipal election at the usual time and place(s) of holding Council meetings. In all other years, the City Council must hold an organizational meeting not later than the second Monday of January. The organizational meeting must be held to:

- (a) Appoint the Council Secretary.
- (b) Designate the official depository of City funds.
- (c) Designate the official newspaper of the City.
- (d) Designate the mayor pro tem, who must serve in the absence of the Mayor.
- (e) And such other organizational business as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. Agendas.^d

All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, documents, or other matters submitted to the Council must be filed before 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Monday Council meeting at which consideration is desired, and must be delivered to the City Manager, or in the Manager's absence must be filed with the acting City Manager for inclusion in the proper order of business on the agenda. Provided, however, in unusual circumstances and when the matter does not require investigation by the City Manager or some department head, matters may be accepted after completion of the agenda upon approval of the City Manager. Any two members of the Council or the Mayor may request that the City Manager include a matter on the agenda.

Each agenda must state the location(s) of the Council meeting and explain the process to take action on matters on the consent agenda.

No item of business will be considered by the Council which does not appear on the agenda for the meeting, except that an exigent item that requires immediate action and is so stated as such may be considered by the Council regardless of whether there is a full membership present.

The Mayor, each Council member, the City Manager, the Council Secretary, and the City Attorney must be sent a copy of the agenda by the afternoon of the Friday prior to the

^c Section 2 amended by resolution adopted December 30, 1968; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

^d Section 3 amended by resolution adopted January 12, 1970; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

Monday Council meeting, three days prior to a special Council meeting, or as soon as reasonably possible for an emergency Council meeting.

SECTION 4. Administrative Officials.^e

No matter may be submitted for Council action by an administrative official, department head, or employee unless it has first been presented to the City Manager for investigation or study for inclusion on the Council agenda.

SECTION 5. The Presiding Officer and Duties.^f

The Presiding Officer of the Council is the Mayor. The Mayor must assume the chair of the Presiding Officer at the first meeting of the Mayor's term of office. The Mayor must preserve strict order and decorum at all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Council. As Presiding Officer, the Mayor must use the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* for guidance, interpretation, or to supplement these Rules. The Mayor must state every question coming before the Council, announce the decision of the Council on all subjects and decide all questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal to the Council, in which event a majority vote of the Council must govern and conclusively determine such question of order. The Mayor may vote on all questions, being the last name called. The Mayor must sign all ordinances and resolutions and contracts adopted by the Council. In the event of the absence of the Mayor, the mayor pro tem may sign ordinances, resolutions, or contracts as needed.

SECTION 6. Call to Order – Presiding Officer.^g

The Mayor, or in the Mayor's absence, the mayor pro tem, must take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the meeting, and must immediately call the Council to order. In the absence of the Mayor, or the mayor pro tem, the Council Secretary must call the Council to order, whereupon a temporary Presiding Officer must be elected by the members of the Council present. Upon the arrival of the Mayor or mayor pro tem, the temporary Presiding Officer must immediately relinquish the chair upon the conclusion of the business immediately before the Council.

SECTION 7. Roll Call.^h

Before proceeding with the business of the Council, the Council Secretary must visually check the roll of the members and the names of those present and absent must be entered in the minutes, noting specifically those participating in person and remotely.

SECTION 8. Quorum.ⁱ

A majority of all members elected constitutes a quorum to do business at any regular, special, or emergency meeting of the Council, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

^e Section 4 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^f Section 5 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^g Section 6 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^h Section 7 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

ⁱ Section 8 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

SECTION 9. Order of Business.^j

All meetings of the Council must be open to the public and the media in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Promptly at the hour set on the day of each regular meeting, the members of the Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Council Secretary, must take their regular stations in the Council Chambers or as otherwise allowed by State Law, these Rules, or otherwise at Civic Plaza as stated on the meeting agenda, and the business of the Council must be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order:

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
INTRODUCTORY
CONSENT BUSINESS
HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES
ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS
ADJOURNMENT

The City Manager, in consultation with the Mayor, may amend the order of business for the orderly and efficient conduct of the public business.

SECTION 10. Hearing Procedure.^k

(a) **Parliamentary procedure.** These Rules govern hearing procedures. When these Rules are silent, parliamentary procedure is governed by the most current version of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

- (b) **Hearing Procedure.**
1. The Presiding Officer must state the matter to be heard.
 2. The Presiding Officer may call upon the staff representative to present the staff report. At the conclusion of the report, Council members may ask questions of the staff representative through the Presiding Officer.
 3. The Presiding Officer may thereafter call upon the applicant, licensee or other interested parties to address the Council on the matter under consideration.
 4. All persons addressing the Council, including City staff, must address the Presiding Officer only, not other Council members, staff, or the public.
 5. There must be no dialogue amongst Council members, staff, or the public during the hearing except as permitted by the Presiding Officer. Council members may ask questions of persons addressing the Council in order to clarify a fact, but any statement by a Council member for anything other than to pose a question on the matter under consideration may be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer.
 6. After all new facts and information have been brought forth to the Council, the hearing may be closed upon a majority vote of the Council.

^j Section 9 amended by resolution adopted January 2, 1974; by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted January 2, 2020; by resolution adopted December 21, 2020; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

^k Section 10 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

7. If the hearing is closed the Presiding Officer may recall anyone who testified during the hearing in order to clarify points raised subsequent to the closure of the hearing. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, if the testimony received after the closure of the hearing brings forth new facts or information of a substantive nature, the hearing may be reopened so that all interested parties may be heard again, but only to respond to the new facts or information.

8. Upon the completion of the hearing the Council members may debate the matter under consideration.

SECTION 11. Minutes.^l

(a) The Council Secretary must keep the record of all Council meetings.

(b) Unless a reading of the minutes of a Council meeting is requested by a member of the Council, such minutes may be approved without reading if the Council Secretary has previously furnished each member with a copy thereof.

SECTION 12. Rules of Debate.^m

(a) **Participation of the Presiding Officer.** The Mayor or such other member of the Council as may be presiding may move, second, and debate from the chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these Rules imposed on all members and must not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a Council member by reason of the Council member acting as the Presiding Officer.

(b) **Getting the Floor – Improper References to be Avoided.** Every member desiring to speak must address the Presiding Officer, and upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, must confine comments to the question under debate, avoiding all improper and indecorous language.

(c) **Interruptions.** A member, once recognized, must not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call the member to order, to vote on a motion, to close a debate, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking, is called to order, the member must cease speaking until the question of order is determined and if in order, the member must be permitted to proceed.

(d) **Privilege of Closing Debate.** The Council member moving the adoption of an ordinance or resolution has the privilege of closing the debate.

(e) **Remarks of Council member – When Entered in Minutes.** A Council member may request, through the Presiding Officer, the privilege of having an abstract of the member's statement on any subject under consideration by the Council entered in the minutes. If the Council consents thereto, such statement must be entered in the minutes.

(f) **Synopsis of Debate – When Entered in Minutes.** The Council Secretary may be directed by the Presiding Officer, with consent of the Council, to enter in the minutes a synopsis of the discussion on any question coming regularly before the Council.

SECTION 13. Addressing the Council.ⁿ

^l Section 11 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^m Section 12 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

ⁿ Section 13 established by resolution adopted July 12, 1993; amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

Any person desiring to address the Council must first secure the permission of the Presiding Officer.

(a) Written Communications. Interested parties or their authorized representatives may address the Council by written communications regarding matters then under discussion.

(b) Oral Communications. Members of the public, or their authorized legal representatives, may address the Council by oral communications on any matter concerning the City's business, or any matter over which the Council has control; provided, however, that preference must be given to those persons who may have notified the City Manager, or the acting City Manager or other designee of the City Manager, in advance of their desire to speak in order that they may appear on the agenda. The Presiding Officer may limit remarks to set amount of time per speaker so long as the time limit is uniformly enforced.

(c) Reading of Protests, Petitions, or Communications. Interested persons or their authorized representatives may address the Council by reading protests, petitions, or communications relating to zoning, special or general assessment proceedings, hearings on protests, appeals and petitions, or similar matters, in regard to matters then under consideration. The Presiding Officer may limit remarks to five minutes per speaker so long as the time limit is uniformly enforced. Any person wishing to address the City Council may notify the City Manager's office in advance of the meeting.

(d) Access to Communication. A member of the public, or one's authorized legal representative, may request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication (such as an interpreter or assisted listening device) by contacting the City at 952-563-8733 or MN Relay 711, preferably two (2) business days before the meeting.

SECTION 14. Handling a Motion.^o

(a) Main Motion. A Council member may ask for recognition and be recognized by the Presiding Officer. A brief preliminary statement in favor of the motion may be made before the motion is stated. All motions must contain only one subject. All motions require a second. The Council member seconding the motion may speak for or against the motion. Once seconded, the Presiding Officer must state the motion and thereafter no other topics may be taken up until after the motion is disposed of. The motion under consideration may now be debated pursuant to Section 12 of these Rules.

(b) Motion to Amend. Any Council member may make a motion to amend in order to change, add or omit some part of a main motion. This motion is debatable and requires a majority vote of the Council members present for passage. A motion to amend is not amendable. First, a vote must be held on the motion to amend. If that vote is affirmative, the second vote is held on the main motion as amended. Only one amendment to a motion should be on the floor at any one time.

(c) Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain. Any Council member may make a motion to require that consideration of the main motion be delayed until a certain, stated time for, among other reasons, obtaining more information. A future date certain must be set when the subject is considered. This motion is debatable and requires a majority vote of the Council members present for passage.

(d) Motion to Table Indefinitely. Any Council member may make a motion to postpone consideration of the main motion so that the issue under consideration will be taken

^o Section 14 established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

up at an unspecified, later date when it is placed on the agenda and a majority of the Council members present vote to call it from the table. This motion is not debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage.

(e) Motion to Call the Question. Any Council member, upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, may make a motion to end discussion. When seconded, the Presiding Officer must immediately call the vote on the question of closing the discussion. This motion is not debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage.

(f) Motion to Reconsider. Any Council member who voted on the prevailing side of the issue may make a motion that Council reconsider its vote on a matter considered during the same meeting that the original vote was taken or the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. The motion is in order at any time before final adjournment of that meeting or the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. In order to be reconsidered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council, a Council member on the prevailing side must request that the City Manager place it on the Council agenda for reconsideration no later than the Thursday prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. Only one Council member on the prevailing side is required to make such a request to the City Manager. A member on the prevailing side voted ‘yes’ on a matter that passed, or ‘no’ on a matter that did not pass. If a tie vote, then those voting against the matter are the prevailing side. Upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, a member of the prevailing side, may make a motion to reconsider a vote; any other member may second that motion. The Presiding Officer then restates the motion to reconsider. This motion is debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage. Once debate concludes, then Council members vote on the motion to reconsider. If a motion to reconsider passes, then the prior original action by the Council is rescinded, and the matter is returned to the status that it had immediately before the prior original vote was taken. The motion originally voted upon will once again be pending.

(g) Motion to Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted. A motion to rescind or amend is appropriate when the time for reconsideration has ended. A motion is not in order if rescission or amending of an action is forbidden by law. If a motion to rescind or amend fails, no motion to rescind or amend the same action is in order until 12 months have elapsed. Any Council member may make either of these motions regardless of how that member voted on the original motion. If advanced notice was not given of a Council member’s intent to make one of these motions, then a two-thirds vote of the Council members present at the meeting, or a majority of all members of the Council, is required to adopt the motion. If advanced notice was given of a Council member’s intent to make one of these motions, then a majority of those present is required to adopt the motion. Advance notice is provided by announcing one’s intent at the immediately preceding Council meeting or by placing the item on the Council agenda in advance of the Council meeting.

(h) Point of Order. When a Council member believes that these Rules are being violated that member may, upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, interrupt business by calling out “Point of Order”. The Presiding Officer will then request the Council member to speak and decide whether the Point of Order is valid. In the discretion of the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer can place the matter to a majority vote of the Council. Point of Order must be raised when the alleged violation occurs; after debate it is untimely.

SECTION 15. Addressing the Council after Hearing Closed.^P

No person may address the Council after the Council has voted to close the public hearing, unless recalled by the Presiding Officer. After a motion is made by the Council, no person may address the Council without first securing the permission of the Presiding Officer to do so or where the motion itself addresses the procedures by which the public hearing may be continued.

SECTION 16. Manner of Addressing Council – Time Limit.^Q

Each person addressing the Council must use the microphone in front of the dais or otherwise follow the required directions when appearing electronically, must state one’s name in an audible tone of voice for the record, sign the speaker’s register in appearing in person, and unless further time is granted by the Presiding Officer, must address the Council no more than five minutes unless a longer period of time is permitted by the Presiding Officer or by vote of the Council and is uniformly enforced. All remarks must be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the Council and the person having the floor, may be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the Council, without the permission of the Presiding Officer. The Council may ask the speaker if the speaker resides in Bloomington.

SECTION 17. Silence Constitutes Affirmative Vote.^R

Unless a member of the Council states that the member is not voting, the member’s silence must be recorded as an affirmative vote.

SECTION 18. Decorum.^S

(a) **By Council members.** While the Council is in session, Council members must preserve order and decorum, and a member must neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any Council member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its Presiding Officer, except as otherwise herein provided.

Council members must be respectful of diverse opinions. Personal attacks will not be tolerated. Members must honor the role of the Presiding Officer to focus discussion on current agenda items. Objections to the Presiding Officer or other members’ actions should be voiced politely and with reason.

Care must be exercised to define and constrain discussions among members to the facts and relevant information.

The Mayor and Council members have a public stage to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole. The Mayor and Council members are role models for residents, business people, and often stakeholders involved in public debate.

^P Section 15 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^Q Section 16 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

^R Section 17 has not been amended since establishment; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^S Section 18 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

Members should support the majority opinion of the Council once a vote has been taken.

(b) By Staff and Members of the Public. No one may address the City Council unless recognized by the Presiding Officer. Oral communications at City Council meetings concerning matters that are otherwise on the agenda are governed by Section 16 of these Rules. Staff and members of the public attending meetings of the City Council must refrain from any unnecessary conversation or distracting activity. Members of the public attending a council meeting must observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to the Council. City staff may exceed the three minute limit when required to provide the requested or other information.

SECTION 19. Code of Conduct.^t

The Mayor and Council members are dedicated to govern efficiently and effectively with a commitment to the promotion of values and integrity of local government and democracy. The following principles govern the conduct of the Mayor and every City Council member:

1. The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid the appearance of impropriety. Members should refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of the Council, Boards, Commissions, staff or the public intended to disrupt or impede the orderly conduct of the City's business.
2. Members must comply with all applicable laws in the performance of their public duties, specifically including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapters 13 and 13D.
3. Members must perform their duties in accordance with these Rules established by the City Council governing the deliberation of public policy issues, meaningful involvement of the public and implementation of policy decisions by the Council and City staff.
4. The Mayor and Council members must maintain the confidentiality of information concerning property, personnel, or legal affairs of the City. They must neither disclose confidential information without proper legal authorization, nor use such information to advance their personal, financial or other private interests. Such disclosure is a violation of these Rules.
5. Members will represent the official policies or positions of the Council to the best of their abilities. When presenting their individual opinions and positions, members must explicitly state they do not represent the position of the entire Council.
6. Each member must support the maintenance of a positive and constructive work place environment for City staff, private citizens, and businesses dealing with the City. Council members will recognize their roles, as delineated in the City Charter, City Code and State Statutes, in individual dealings with City staff.
7. No member may participate in a matter that affects the member's financial interests or those of a business with which the member is associated, unless the effect on the person or business is no greater than on other members of the same business classification, profession or occupation.
8. No member may use one's public position for personal gain or to secure special privileges or exemptions for the person or for others.

^t Section 19 was established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

9. No member must, except as specifically permitted by Minnesota Statutes Section 471.895, accept or receive any gift, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise or any other form under circumstances in which it could be reasonably expected to influence the member in the performance of the member's official duties or intended as a reward for the member's official actions.

10. Public decision-making must be fair and impartial and must not be discriminatory on the basis of those protected classes outlined in federal, state, and city laws and ordinances. The Mayor and Council members must conduct business and operate in a manner that is free from illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, receiving public assistance and familial status, both internally and in the relationships by and among the elected officials, the City staff, and their constituencies.

SECTION 20. Censure Policy.^u

(a) **Purpose.** This policy is intended to provide the mechanism by which the City Council, acting as a whole, can discipline and punish any of its members who violate state or federal laws, City ordinances, the City Charter or the Council's Code of Conduct as set forth in Section 19 of these Rules.

(b) **Policy.** It is the policy of the City Council that all of its members must comply with federal and state law, City ordinances, the City Charter and the City Council's Code of Conduct as set forth in Section 19 of these Rules. Violation of such law or rule of procedure tends to injure the City and to undermine the effectiveness of the City Council as a whole. Such conduct is deemed to be a dereliction of duty.

Censure is a formal resolution of the City Council officially reprimanding one of its members. An official reprimand is a punitive action which serves as a penalty imposed for wrongdoing but carries no fine or suspension of the rights of a member as an elected official. Censure is an appropriate measure when the violation of law or the Code of Conduct is deemed by the City Council to be a serious offense.

The City Council must not impose censure on any of its members for the violation of any law while criminal charges are pending. However, when the criminal proceedings are final, the City Council need not be bound by the conclusion of a court or jury and may hold a censure hearing.

(c) **Procedure**

1. The Rules Committee is a standing committee of the Council consisting of three Council members each serving a two year term. A rotating schedule of two year terms must be prepared by the City Manager and approved by the Council. In the event the Rules Committee includes a Council member who is the subject of a requested censure or the Council member requesting censure, then the City Manager will advance the schedule forward to ensure there are three members serving as the Rules Committee.

2. A request for a censure hearing must be submitted to the Rules Committee in writing by a member of the Council. The request must contain the specific charges on which the proposed censure is based. A copy of the request for censure and the charges must be delivered to the Council member who is the subject of the requested censure at least three days prior to the Rules Committee meeting at which censure will be considered.

3. The Rules Committee must determine whether:

^u Section 20 was established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

- a. Further investigation of the charges is required;
 - b. The matter is to be set for a public hearing; or
 - c. No action is required.
4. This determination is subject to confirmation by the City Council as part of the Rules Committee report at the next regular Council meeting.
 5. Further investigation, if required, must be done by an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Mayor. If the Mayor is the subject of the request, the committee must be formed by the mayor pro tem.
 6. If the matter is set for public hearing, it must be scheduled far enough in advance to give the accused member adequate time to prepare a defense, not to exceed 30 days.
 7. At the hearing, the Council member who is the subject of the requested censure must be given the opportunity to make an opening and closing statement and to question one's accusers from the podium. The Council member who is the subject of the requested censure may be represented and may have the representative speak or question on their behalf. Testimony must be taken only from witnesses having direct knowledge of facts or circumstances relevant to the specific charges under consideration. The strict rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings do not apply to the hearing and the procedures may be generally informal.
 8. A decision to censure requires adoption of a resolution making findings with regard to the specific charges, based on substantial evidence and approved by two-thirds of the Council members eligible to vote on the matter. The Council member who is the subject of the requested censure may not vote on the matter.

SECTION 21. Enforcement of Decorum.^v

(a) **Sergeant-at-Arms.** The Chief of Police, or such member or members of the Police Department as designated, must be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Council meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms carries out orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer or by majority of the Council present for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council meetings. Upon instructions of the Presiding Officer, or majority of the Council, it is the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any members of the Police Department present, to place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest or restrained, and cause the individual to be prosecuted or civilly restrained, as appropriate.

(b) **Disruption.** The public will be allowed to appear and speak before the Council during public hearings as set forth in these Rules, unless the person disrupts or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting, hearing, or other proceeding of the Council such as using threatening language, making personal defamatory statements, undertaking indecent or threatening behavior or violent actions. If, after receiving a warning from the Presiding Officer, the person persists in such conduct or otherwise disrupting the meeting, the Presiding Officer, pursuant to these Rules, may expel and direct the person to leave the meeting. Any Council member may appeal the order of the Presiding Officer and upon a majority vote of the Council members present such order of the Presiding Officer will be set aside. The vote is not debatable. Such person must be readmitted at a future Council meeting as long as there are not further disturbances or disruptions by such person at the future public meeting. Nothing herein limits or restrains negative, positive or neutral

^v Section 21 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022.

comment about the manner in which an individual employee, officer, official or Council member carries out the one's duties in public office or employment.

(c) Banners and Signs. Holding or placement of a banner or sign in the Council Chambers in a way that endangers others or obstructs the free flow of pedestrians or the view of others attending the meeting is a violation of these Rules. Signage or banners may be no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches inclusive of any handles. The Presiding Officer will direct the Sargeat-at-Arms to remove and store any sign or banner in violation of these Rules until the owner of it leaves the Council meeting and requests it returned. These requirements will be uniformly enforced.

(d) Recess or Adjourn. All members of the Council must assist the Presiding Officer in preserving decorum and in providing for the efficient operation of the meeting. By a majority vote of those present, the Council may vote to recess or adjourn the meeting to preserve order and decorum or for public safety.

SECTION 22. Special Committees.^w

All special Council committees must be appointed by the Council, except that the Rules Committee is appointed as set forth in Section 20 of these Rules.

SECTION 23. Council members May File Protests Against Council Action.^x

Any Council member has the right to have the reasons for the member's dissent from, or protest against, any action of the Council entered in the minutes.

SECTION 24. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Contracts.^y

(a) Preparation of Ordinances. All ordinances must be reviewed by a licensed attorney in the City Attorney's Office. The preparation of an ordinances may be requested by any two members of the Council, at the request of the City Manager, or upon the City Attorney's own initiative.

(b) Introducing for Passage or Approval.

1. No ordinance may relate to more than one subject, which must be clearly expressed in its title, and no ordinance or section thereof may be amended or repealed unless the new ordinance contains the title of the ordinance or section amended or repealed, and when practicable, all ordinances must be introduced as amendments to existing ordinances or sections thereof.

2. At the time set for considering an ordinance, the Presiding Officer must refer it to the Council for a vote.

3. To the extent and in the manner provided by law, an ordinance may incorporate by reference a statute of Minnesota, a state administrative rule or a regulation, a code, or ordinance or part thereof without publishing the material referred to in full. The City Council may by a two-thirds vote of all of its members direct publication of only the title and a summary of an ordinance.

4. The City Manager, at the meetings, may take part in the discussions of the City Council and may recommend to the Council such measures as the City Manager may deem necessary for the welfare of the people and the efficient administration of the

^w Section 22 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^x Section 23 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^y Section 24 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

affairs of the City. The City Manager has all the rights, powers and duties prescribed by City Charter and Minnesota Statutes in regard thereto; however, it is recognized that the City Council is the policy making body for the City and the City Manager's discussions at Council meetings must be confined to statements of fact, recommendations based on the City Manager's knowledge and experience, and explanations of the reasons for same, and any matters pertaining to administration.

5. The City Attorney may not take part in the discussions of the City Council at the meeting except to answer questions directed to the City Attorney, comment on matters involving legal posers or procedures of the City, and to present factual material to the Council.

6. No City employee, other than those above mentioned in subdivisions 4 and 5, may enter into discussions of the City Council at the meeting except to answer questions directed to such employee or to present factual information. This regulation of City employees must not be construed to limit their appearance before the City Council of any City employee when such appearance is made as a member of the public, for or against some particular issue under discussion by the Council.

SECTION 25. Presentations and Proclamations^z

- (a) **Proclamations.** All proclamations will be issued outside of Council Meetings except that City-sponsored events may be presented during the City Council meeting (e.g., Public Works Week).
- (b) **Presentations.** All presentation materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations provided by members of the public for presentation at Council meeting, must be presented to the City Manager's office at least two business days prior to the City Council meeting to ensure compatibility with the City's audiovisual equipment and technical quality of the presentation materials. This requirement does not apply to pieces of paper placed by the speaker at the speaker's podium for display when seeking to use the overhead camera in the Council Chambers. Failure to provide the materials as required herein is a reasonable basis to remove a presentation from the meeting agenda.
- (c) **Right to refuse.** Requests to make a presentation and proclamation at a City Council meeting must be submitted to the Council Secretary. The City of Bloomington reserves the right to refuse to allow a presentation or proclamation that is in conflict with these Rules.

SECTION 26. Suspend the Rules.^{aa}

By unanimous consent of all Council members present at a meeting, provisions of these Rules may be suspended.

SECTION 27. Adjournment.^{bb}

A motion to adjourn is always in order, be decided without debate, and must be adopted by a majority of those members of the Council present at that meeting.

^z Section 25 was amended by resolution adopted July 12, 2010; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; amended by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

^{aa} Section 26 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{bb} Section 27 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

SECTION 28. Matters Not Specifically Covered.^{cc}

The most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is accepted as an authority on parliamentary practice on matters not specifically covered in these Rules.

SECTION 29. Appointment of Persons to City Boards and Commissions.^{dd}

In filling a vacancy on a City board or commission, the City Council must complete the process of nominating one or more candidates and then hold an election to select one or more eligible persons. The voting must be by roll call. An affirmative vote of a majority of those Council members present is required to elect a candidate.

SECTION 30. City Council E-Mail Communications.^{ee}

E-mail communications exchanged between a quorum or more of Council members that are related to official City business are prohibited. Any issue that may or will be acted on by the City Council is considered official business of the City. Any Council member desiring to communicate information relating to official City business to the other Council members through e-mail or other electronic means must direct that communication to the City Manager, or the City Manager's designee, who must then transmit the information to the other Council members. An exchange of e-mails between two or three Council members involving official City business must not be forwarded to the other Council members.

^{cc} Section 28 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{dd} Section 29 established by resolution adopted January 30, 1995; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{ee} Section 30 established by resolution adopted July 18, 2005; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

Appendix A

SAMPLE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES

WELCOME TO A MEETING OF THE BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

The City Council welcomes you to this meeting and invites you to participate in matters before the council. When meeting in the Council Chambers, members of the council are seated at the dais or appearing electronically and each has a nameplate for recognition. City staff members are seated on the side of the dais, or may appear electronically. The council meets nearly each Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at Civic Plaza, or electronically as permitted by law. The Council may need to meet at other times to take care of time sensitive matters.

AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting agendas are typically available a few days before and during the meeting. A paper copy is located near the public entrance door to the Council Chambers. The agenda is also available on the City's website. Any written materials received sufficiently in advance of the meeting and then distributed to the Council will also be available for public inspection at the meeting and on the City's website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council welcomes suggestions and comments that help meet the needs of the City and improve its operations. Please speak from the podium and use the microphone when addressing the Council in person. Follow directions to make your presence known if appearing electronically. Speak clearly. Written materials may be submitted instead of or in addition to oral public testimony at any time by handing your materials to the Council secretary or by sending them by email address or voicemail account listed on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (MATTERS ON THE AGENDA)

Before the City Council takes action on certain matters on the agenda, the law requires a public hearing or opportunity for provide testimony. This hearing is an opportunity for members of the public to provide testimony to the City Council on that specific matter. Each speaker has 5 minutes to address the Council unless a different time limit has been announced by Presiding Officer (typically the Mayor). Groups are encouraged to appoint a spokesperson in order to avoid repetitive testimony. Please sign the speaker roster after you testify so we have the proper spelling of your name and contact information for the meeting minutes and any required follow up by City staff to you. The Council or City staff may briefly respond to statements or questions raised during the public hearing. Written materials may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to public testimony at any time by handing your materials to the Council secretary or by sending them by email to the address listed on the agenda. You may also leave a voicemail by following the directions listed on the agenda.

IDENTITY OF SPEAKERS

The presiding officer (typically the Mayor) will ask each speaker to write the speaker's name on a sign-up sheet so your name is correctly recorded in the minutes if appearing in person. The presiding officer will ask each speaker to state the speaker's name to introduce themselves before speaking.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

These items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests it be removed from the consent agenda and considered at the end of Consent Business or at another stated time on the agenda as determined by the City Council. If you want to have an item removed from the consent agenda, then please alert the Council Secretary prior to the start of the City Council meeting. The Council Secretary will notify the City Council of a request to remove an item from the consent agenda

PRESENTATIONS

All presentation materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations, must be presented to the City Manager's office at least two business days prior to the City Council meeting to ensure compatibility with the City's audiovisual equipment and technical quality of the presentation materials. This requirement does not apply to a piece of paper placed by the speaker at the speaker's podium for display when seeking to use the overhead camera in the Council Chambers.

RECORDING

City council meetings are often recorded and often televised. In order for the Council and audience to hear you, it is essential that speakers use the podium or your electronic microphone when addressing the Council.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To observe the order and decorum of city council meetings, the volume on all electronic devices should be turned off or set on silent mode.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information or request language access for an individual with limited-English please do so as soon as possible, preferably at least two (2) business days before the meeting, so the City can attempt to provide a qualified individual to fulfill the request. Contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.

Last Updated December 15, 2025.

COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Revised: July 18, 2005; December 21, 2009; July 12, 2010; January 2, 2020; December 21, 2020; April 5, 2021; March 28, 2022; March 17, 2025; December 15, 2025

PREAMBLE^a

The purpose of these Rules of Procedure (“Rules”) is to provide guidelines for the orderly and efficient conduct of the public business by, among, and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bloomington. The Council believes there is a benefit to adopting a set of common sense guidelines and incorporating *Robert’s Rules of Order* by reference for those unique or complex situations that can arise. By stating clear rules, the public is better able to prepare, to understand Council actions, and to participate in a Council meeting.

Although the majority will decide, the minority has rights that are also respected. Council members desire information from staff and the public in order to make their decisions. Courtesy and respect are necessary for an orderly and efficient discussion where all members have equal rights to be heard. Making the public feel welcome is an important part of the democratic process. A sample handout for the public on Council meeting procedures and guidelines is provided in Appendix A. This Appendix may be amended by the City Manager as needed to clarify these Rules or related matters without the Council’s formal approval.

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Council.^b

(a) **Time.** The Council holds its regular meetings on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.. with these regular meetings being commonly known as a “Council Meeting” or a “Study Meeting”.

(b) **Place.** Unless another place is designated in advance by the Council, all regular meetings of the Council for the purpose of taking official action must be held at Civic Plaza and electronically, and must be open to the public and to the media, except as otherwise permitted or required by law, and recorded.

(c) **Schedule.** The Council must adopt a schedule of its regular meetings by resolution.

(d) **Adjournment.** Each regular meeting must adjourn at or before 9:00 p.m. unless a vote to extend the meeting no later than 10:00 p.m. is adopted by a majority of those members of the Council present at that meeting.

(e) **Public Notice and Attendance.** The ~~[City Clerk]~~Council Secretary must maintain a schedule of regular meetings of the Council that must be available for public inspection during regular business hours. All meetings of the Council must be open to the public in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D.

(f) **Special Meetings.** The City Manager, the Mayor, or any three members of the Council may call a special meeting of the Council upon notice to each member of the Council and notice must be posted at Civic Plaza in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Such notice must be delivered to each Council member and may be delivered electronically.

^a Preamble established by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^b Section 1 amended by resolution adopted January 12, 1981; by resolution adopted July 6, 1981; by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted December 21, 2020; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

(g) **Meetings with the City Manager.** Members of the Council may individually meet informally with the City Manager.

(h) **Council Voting.** The aye and no vote of each member of the Council on ordinances, resolutions, and motions must be recorded in the minutes unless the vote is unanimous.

(i) **Tie Vote.** When there is a tie vote on a motion, the motion is lost.

(j) **Emergency Meetings.** The City Manager, the Mayor, or any three members of the Council may call an emergency meeting of the Council upon reasonable notice to each member of the Council and notice must be disseminated in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Such notice must be delivered to each Council member and may be delivered electronically.

SECTION 2. First Meeting of the Year.^c

The City Council must hold an organizational meeting on the first business day on or after the first Monday of January following a regular municipal election at the usual time and place(s) of holding Council meetings. In all other years, the City Council must hold an organizational meeting not later than the second Monday of January. The organizational meeting must be held to:

- (a) Appoint the Council Secretary.
- (b) Designate the official depository of City funds.
- (c) Designate the official newspaper of the City.
- (d) Designate the mayor pro tem, who must serve in the absence of the Mayor.
- (e) And such other organizational business as deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. Agendas.^d

All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, documents, or other matters submitted to the Council must be filed before 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the Monday Council meeting at which consideration is desired, and must be delivered to the City Manager, or in the Manager's absence must be filed with the acting City Manager for inclusion in the proper order of business on the agenda. Provided, however, in unusual circumstances and when the matter does not require investigation by the City Manager or some department head, matters may be accepted after completion of the agenda upon approval of the City Manager. Any two members of the Council or the Mayor may request that the City Manager include a matter on the agenda.

Each agenda must state the location(s) of the Council meeting and explain the process to take action on matters on the consent agenda.

No item of business will be considered by the Council which does not appear on the agenda for the meeting, except that an exigent item that requires immediate action and is so stated as such may be considered by the Council regardless of whether there is a full membership present.

The Mayor, each Council member, the City Manager, the ~~[City Clerk]~~Council Secretary, and the City Attorney must be sent a copy of the agenda by the afternoon of the

^c Section 2 amended by resolution adopted December 30, 1968; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

^d Section 3 amended by resolution adopted January 12, 1970; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

Friday prior to the Monday Council meeting, three days prior to a special Council meeting, or as soon as reasonably possible for an emergency Council meeting.

SECTION 4. Administrative Officials.^e

No matter may be submitted for Council action by an administrative official, department head, or employee unless it has first been presented to the City Manager for investigation or study for inclusion on the Council agenda.

SECTION 5. The Presiding Officer and Duties.^f

The Presiding Officer of the Council is the Mayor. The Mayor must assume the chair of the Presiding Officer at the first meeting of the Mayor's term of office. The Mayor must preserve strict order and decorum at all regular, special, and emergency meetings of the Council. As Presiding Officer, the Mayor must use the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* for guidance, interpretation, or to supplement these Rules. The Mayor must state every question coming before the Council, announce the decision of the Council on all subjects and decide all questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal to the Council, in which event a majority vote of the Council must govern and conclusively determine such question of order. The Mayor may vote on all questions, being the last name called. The Mayor must sign all ordinances and resolutions and contracts adopted by the Council. In the event of the absence of the Mayor, the mayor pro tem may sign ordinances, resolutions, or contracts as needed.

SECTION 6. Call to Order – Presiding Officer.^g

The Mayor, or in the Mayor's absence, the mayor pro tem, must take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the meeting, and must immediately call the Council to order. In the absence of the Mayor, or the mayor pro tem, the Council Secretary must call the Council to order, whereupon a temporary Presiding Officer must be elected by the members of the Council present. Upon the arrival of the Mayor or mayor pro tem, the temporary Presiding Officer must immediately relinquish the chair upon the conclusion of the business immediately before the Council.

SECTION 7. Roll Call.^h

Before proceeding with the business of the Council, the Council Secretary must visually check the roll of the members and the names of those present and absent must be entered in the minutes, noting specifically those participating in person and remotely.

SECTION 8. Quorum.ⁱ

A majority of all members elected constitutes a quorum to do business at any regular, special, or emergency meeting of the Council, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

^e Section 4 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^f Section 5 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^g Section 6 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^h Section 7 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

ⁱ Section 8 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

SECTION 9. Order of Business.^j

All meetings of the Council must be open to the public and the media in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D. Promptly at the hour set on the day of each regular meeting, the members of the Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Council Secretary, must take their regular stations in the Council Chambers or as otherwise allowed by State Law, these Rules, or otherwise at Civic Plaza as stated on the meeting agenda, and the business of the Council must be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order:

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
INTRODUCTORY
CONSENT BUSINESS
HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES
ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS
ADJOURNMENT

The City Manager, in consultation with the Mayor, may amend the order of business for the orderly and efficient conduct of the public business.

SECTION 10. Hearing Procedure.^k

(a) **Parliamentary procedure.** These Rules govern hearing procedures. When these Rules are silent, parliamentary procedure is governed by the most current version of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

- (b) **Hearing Procedure.**
1. The Presiding Officer must state the matter to be heard.
 2. The Presiding Officer may call upon the staff representative to present the staff report. At the conclusion of the report, Council members may ask questions of the staff representative through the Presiding Officer.
 3. The Presiding Officer may thereafter call upon the applicant, licensee or other interested parties to address the Council on the matter under consideration.
 4. All persons addressing the Council, including City staff, must address the Presiding Officer only, not other Council members, staff, or the public.
 5. There must be no dialogue amongst Council members, staff, or the public during the hearing except as permitted by the Presiding Officer. Council members may ask questions of persons addressing the Council in order to clarify a fact, but any statement by a Council member for anything other than to pose a question on the matter under consideration may be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer.
 6. After all new facts and information have been brought forth to the Council, the hearing may be closed upon a majority vote of the Council.

^j Section 9 amended by resolution adopted January 2, 1974; by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted January 2, 2020; by resolution adopted December 21, 2020; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025; by resolution adopted December 15, 2025.

^k Section 10 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

7. If the hearing is closed the Presiding Officer may recall anyone who testified during the hearing in order to clarify points raised subsequent to the closure of the hearing. At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, if the testimony received after the closure of the hearing brings forth new facts or information of a substantive nature, the hearing may be reopened so that all interested parties may be heard again, but only to respond to the new facts or information.

8. Upon the completion of the hearing the Council members may debate the matter under consideration.

SECTION 11. Minutes.^l

(a) The Council Secretary must keep the record of all Council meetings.

(b) Unless a reading of the minutes of a Council meeting is requested by a member of the Council, such minutes may be approved without reading if the Council Secretary has previously furnished each member with a copy thereof.

SECTION 12. Rules of Debate.^m

(a) **Participation of the Presiding Officer.** The Mayor or such other member of the Council as may be presiding may move, second, and debate from the chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by these Rules imposed on all members and must not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a Council member by reason of the Council member acting as the Presiding Officer.

(b) **Getting the Floor – Improper References to be Avoided.** Every member desiring to speak must address the Presiding Officer, and upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, must confine comments to the question under debate, avoiding all improper and indecorous language.

(c) **Interruptions.** A member, once recognized, must not be interrupted when speaking unless it is to call the member to order, to vote on a motion, to close a debate, or as herein otherwise provided. If a member, while speaking, is called to order, the member must cease speaking until the question of order is determined and if in order, the member must be permitted to proceed.

(d) **Privilege of Closing Debate.** The Council member moving the adoption of an ordinance or resolution has the privilege of closing the debate.

(e) **Remarks of Council member – When Entered in Minutes.** A Council member may request, through the Presiding Officer, the privilege of having an abstract of the member's statement on any subject under consideration by the Council entered in the minutes. If the Council consents thereto, such statement must be entered in the minutes.

(f) **Synopsis of Debate – When Entered in Minutes.** The Council Secretary may be directed by the Presiding Officer, with consent of the Council, to enter in the minutes a synopsis of the discussion on any question coming regularly before the Council.

SECTION 13. Addressing the Council.ⁿ

^l Section 11 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^m Section 12 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

ⁿ Section 13 established by resolution adopted July 12, 1993; amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

Any person desiring to address the Council must first secure the permission of the Presiding Officer.

(a) Written Communications. Interested parties or their authorized representatives may address the Council by written communications regarding matters then under discussion.

(b) Oral Communications. Members of the public, or their authorized legal representatives, may address the Council by oral communications on any matter concerning the City's business, or any matter over which the Council has control; provided, however, that preference must be given to those persons who may have notified the City Manager, or the acting City Manager or other designee of the City Manager, in advance of their desire to speak in order that they may appear on the agenda. The Presiding Officer may limit remarks to set amount of time per speaker so long as the time limit is uniformly enforced.

(c) Reading of Protests, Petitions, or Communications. Interested persons or their authorized representatives may address the Council by reading protests, petitions, or communications relating to zoning, special or general assessment proceedings, hearings on protests, appeals and petitions, or similar matters, in regard to matters then under consideration. The Presiding Officer may limit remarks to five minutes per speaker so long as the time limit is uniformly enforced. Any person wishing to address the City Council may notify the City Manager's office in advance of the meeting.

(d) Access to Communication. A member of the public, or one's authorized legal representative, may request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication (such as an interpreter or assisted listening device) by contacting the City at 952-563-8733 or MN Relay 711, preferably two (2) business days before the meeting.

SECTION 14. Handling a Motion.^o

(a) Main Motion. A Council member may ask for recognition and be recognized by the Presiding Officer. A brief preliminary statement in favor of the motion may be made before the motion is stated. All motions must contain only one subject. All motions require a second. The Council member seconding the motion may speak for or against the motion. Once seconded, the Presiding Officer must state the motion and thereafter no other topics may be taken up until after the motion is disposed of. The motion under consideration may now be debated pursuant to Section 12 of these Rules.

(b) Motion to Amend. Any Council member may make a motion to amend in order to change, add or omit some part of a main motion. This motion is debatable and requires a majority vote of the Council members present for passage. A motion to amend is not amendable. First, a vote must be held on the motion to amend. If that vote is affirmative, the second vote is held on the main motion as amended. Only one amendment to a motion should be on the floor at any one time.

(c) Motion to Postpone to a Time Certain. Any Council member may make a motion to require that consideration of the main motion be delayed until a certain, stated time for, among other reasons, obtaining more information. A future date certain must be set when the subject is considered. This motion is debatable and requires a majority vote of the Council members present for passage.

(d) Motion to Table Indefinitely. Any Council member may make a motion to postpone consideration of the main motion so that the issue under consideration will be taken

^o Section 14 established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

up at an unspecified, later date when it is placed on the agenda and a majority of the Council members present vote to call it from the table. This motion is not debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage.

(e) Motion to Call the Question. Any Council member, upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, may make a motion to end discussion. When seconded, the Presiding Officer must immediately call the vote on the question of closing the discussion. This motion is not debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage.

(f) Motion to Reconsider. Any Council member who voted on the prevailing side of the issue may make a motion that Council reconsider its vote on a matter considered during the same meeting that the original vote was taken or the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. The motion is in order at any time before final adjournment of that meeting or the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. In order to be reconsidered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council, a Council member on the prevailing side must request that the City Manager place it on the Council agenda for reconsideration no later than the Thursday prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. Only one Council member on the prevailing side is required to make such a request to the City Manager. A member on the prevailing side voted ‘yes’ on a matter that passed, or ‘no’ on a matter that did not pass. If a tie vote, then those voting against the matter are the prevailing side. Upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, a member of the prevailing side, may make a motion to reconsider a vote; any other member may second that motion. The Presiding Officer then restates the motion to reconsider. This motion is debatable and requires a majority of the Council members present for passage. Once debate concludes, then Council members vote on the motion to reconsider. If a motion to reconsider passes, then the prior original action by the Council is rescinded, and the matter is returned to the status that it had immediately before the prior original vote was taken. The motion originally voted upon will once again be pending.

(g) Motion to Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted. A motion to rescind or amend is appropriate when the time for reconsideration has ended. A motion is not in order if rescission or amending of an action is forbidden by law. If a motion to rescind or amend fails, no motion to rescind or amend the same action is in order until 12 months have elapsed. Any Council member may make either of these motions regardless of how that member voted on the original motion. If advanced notice was not given of a Council member’s intent to make one of these motions, then a two-thirds vote of the Council members present at the meeting, or a majority of all members of the Council, is required to adopt the motion. If advanced notice was given of a Council member’s intent to make one of these motions, then a majority of those present is required to adopt the motion. Advance notice is provided by announcing one’s intent at the immediately preceding Council meeting or by placing the item on the Council agenda in advance of the Council meeting.

(h) Point of Order. When a Council member believes that these Rules are being violated that member may, upon recognition of the Presiding Officer, interrupt business by calling out “Point of Order”. The Presiding Officer will then request the Council member to speak and decide whether the Point of Order is valid. In the discretion of the Presiding Officer, the Presiding Officer can place the matter to a majority vote of the Council. Point of Order must be raised when the alleged violation occurs; after debate it is untimely.

SECTION 15. Addressing the Council after Hearing Closed.^P

No person may address the Council after the Council has voted to close the public hearing, unless recalled by the Presiding Officer. After a motion is made by the Council, no person may address the Council without first securing the permission of the Presiding Officer to do so or where the motion itself addresses the procedures by which the public hearing may be continued.

SECTION 16. Manner of Addressing Council – Time Limit.^Q

Each person addressing the Council must use the microphone in front of the dais or otherwise follow the required directions when appearing electronically, must state one’s name in an audible tone of voice for the record, sign the speaker’s register in appearing in person, and unless further time is granted by the Presiding Officer, must address the Council no more than five minutes unless a longer period of time is permitted by the Presiding Officer or by vote of the Council and is uniformly enforced. All remarks must be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the Council and the person having the floor, may be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the Council, without the permission of the Presiding Officer. The Council may ask the speaker if the speaker resides in Bloomington.

SECTION 17. Silence Constitutes Affirmative Vote.^R

Unless a member of the Council states that the member is not voting, the member’s silence must be recorded as an affirmative vote.

SECTION 18. Decorum.^S

(a) **By Council members.** While the Council is in session, Council members must preserve order and decorum, and a member must neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any Council member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its Presiding Officer, except as otherwise herein provided.

Council members must be respectful of diverse opinions. Personal attacks will not be tolerated. Members must honor the role of the Presiding Officer to focus discussion on current agenda items. Objections to the Presiding Officer or other members’ actions should be voiced politely and with reason.

Care must be exercised to define and constrain discussions among members to the facts and relevant information.

The Mayor and Council members have a public stage to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole. The Mayor and Council members are role models for residents, business people, and often stakeholders involved in public debate.

^P Section 15 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^Q Section 16 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

^R Section 17 has not been amended since establishment; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^S Section 18 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

Members should support the majority opinion of the Council once a vote has been taken.

(b) By Staff and Members of the Public. No one may address the City Council unless recognized by the Presiding Officer. Oral communications at City Council meetings concerning matters that are otherwise on the agenda are governed by Section 16 of these Rules. Staff and members of the public attending meetings of the City Council must refrain from any unnecessary conversation or distracting activity. Members of the public attending a council meeting must observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to the Council. City staff may exceed the three minute limit when required to provide the requested or other information.

SECTION 19. Code of Conduct.^t

The Mayor and Council members are dedicated to govern efficiently and effectively with a commitment to the promotion of values and integrity of local government and democracy. The following principles govern the conduct of the Mayor and every City Council member:

1. The professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid the appearance of impropriety. Members should refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members of the Council, Boards, Commissions, staff or the public intended to disrupt or impede the orderly conduct of the City's business.
2. Members must comply with all applicable laws in the performance of their public duties, specifically including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes Chapters 13 and 13D.
3. Members must perform their duties in accordance with these Rules established by the City Council governing the deliberation of public policy issues, meaningful involvement of the public and implementation of policy decisions by the Council and City staff.
4. The Mayor and Council members must maintain the confidentiality of information concerning property, personnel, or legal affairs of the City. They must neither disclose confidential information without proper legal authorization, nor use such information to advance their personal, financial or other private interests. Such disclosure is a violation of these Rules.
5. Members will represent the official policies or positions of the Council to the best of their abilities. When presenting their individual opinions and positions, members must explicitly state they do not represent the position of the entire Council.
6. Each member must support the maintenance of a positive and constructive work place environment for City staff, private citizens, and businesses dealing with the City. Council members will recognize their roles, as delineated in the City Charter, City Code and State Statutes, in individual dealings with City staff.
7. No member may participate in a matter that affects the member's financial interests or those of a business with which the member is associated, unless the effect on the person or business is no greater than on other members of the same business classification, profession or occupation.
8. No member may use one's public position for personal gain or to secure special privileges or exemptions for the person or for others.

^t Section 19 was established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

9. No member must, except as specifically permitted by Minnesota Statutes Section 471.895, accept or receive any gift, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise or any other form under circumstances in which it could be reasonably expected to influence the member in the performance of the member's official duties or intended as a reward for the member's official actions.

10. Public decision-making must be fair and impartial and must not be discriminatory on the basis of those protected classes outlined in federal, state, and city laws and ordinances. The Mayor and Council members must conduct business and operate in a manner that is free from illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, receiving public assistance and familial status, both internally and in the relationships by and among the elected officials, the City staff, and their constituencies.

SECTION 20. Censure Policy.^u

(a) **Purpose.** This policy is intended to provide the mechanism by which the City Council, acting as a whole, can discipline and punish any of its members who violate state or federal laws, City ordinances, the City Charter or the Council's Code of Conduct as set forth in Section 19 of these Rules.

(b) **Policy.** It is the policy of the City Council that all of its members must comply with federal and state law, City ordinances, the City Charter and the City Council's Code of Conduct as set forth in Section 19 of these Rules. Violation of such law or rule of procedure tends to injure the City and to undermine the effectiveness of the City Council as a whole. Such conduct is deemed to be a dereliction of duty.

Censure is a formal resolution of the City Council officially reprimanding one of its members. An official reprimand is a punitive action which serves as a penalty imposed for wrongdoing but carries no fine or suspension of the rights of a member as an elected official. Censure is an appropriate measure when the violation of law or the Code of Conduct is deemed by the City Council to be a serious offense.

The City Council must not impose censure on any of its members for the violation of any law while criminal charges are pending. However, when the criminal proceedings are final, the City Council need not be bound by the conclusion of a court or jury and may hold a censure hearing.

(c) **Procedure**

1. The Rules Committee is a standing committee of the Council consisting of three Council members each serving a two year term. A rotating schedule of two year terms must be prepared by the City Manager and approved by the Council. In the event the Rules Committee includes a Council member who is the subject of a requested censure or the Council member requesting censure, then the City Manager will advance the schedule forward to ensure there are three members serving as the Rules Committee.

2. A request for a censure hearing must be submitted to the Rules Committee in writing by a member of the Council. The request must contain the specific charges on which the proposed censure is based. A copy of the request for censure and the charges must be delivered to the Council member who is the subject of the requested censure at least three days prior to the Rules Committee meeting at which censure will be considered.

3. The Rules Committee must determine whether:

^u Section 20 was established by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

- a. Further investigation of the charges is required;
 - b. The matter is to be set for a public hearing; or
 - c. No action is required.
4. This determination is subject to confirmation by the City Council as part of the Rules Committee report at the next regular Council meeting.
5. Further investigation, if required, must be done by an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Mayor. If the Mayor is the subject of the request, the committee must be formed by the mayor pro tem.
6. If the matter is set for public hearing, it must be scheduled far enough in advance to give the accused member adequate time to prepare a defense, not to exceed 30 days.
7. At the hearing, the Council member who is the subject of the requested censure must be given the opportunity to make an opening and closing statement and to question one's accusers from the podium. The Council member who is the subject of the requested censure may be represented and may have the representative speak or question on their behalf. Testimony must be taken only from witnesses having direct knowledge of facts or circumstances relevant to the specific charges under consideration. The strict rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings do not apply to the hearing and the procedures may be generally informal.
8. A decision to censure requires adoption of a resolution making findings with regard to the specific charges, based on substantial evidence and approved by two-thirds of the Council members eligible to vote on the matter. The Council member who is the subject of the requested censure may not vote on the matter.

SECTION 21. Enforcement of Decorum.^v

(a) **Sergeant-at-Arms.** The Chief of Police, or such member or members of the Police Department as designated, must be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Council meetings. The Sergeant-at-Arms carries out orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer or by majority of the Council present for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council meetings. Upon instructions of the Presiding Officer, or majority of the Council, it is the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms, or any members of the Police Department present, to place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest or restrained, and cause the individual to be prosecuted or civilly restrained, as appropriate.

(b) **Disruption.** The public will be allowed to appear and speak before the Council during public hearings as set forth in these Rules, unless the person disrupts or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting, hearing, or other proceeding of the Council such as using threatening language, making personal defamatory statements, undertaking indecent or threatening behavior or violent actions. If, after receiving a warning from the Presiding Officer, the person persists in such conduct or otherwise disrupting the meeting, the Presiding Officer, pursuant to these Rules, may expel and direct the person to leave the meeting. Any Council member may appeal the order of the Presiding Officer and upon a majority vote of the Council members present such order of the Presiding Officer will be set aside. The vote is not debatable. Such person must be readmitted at a future Council meeting as long as there are not further disturbances or disruptions by such person at the future public meeting. Nothing herein limits or restrains negative, positive or neutral

^v Section 21 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; by resolution adopted March 28, 2022.

comment about the manner in which an individual employee, officer, official or Council member carries out the one's duties in public office or employment.

(c) Banners and Signs. Holding or placement of a banner or sign in the Council Chambers in a way that endangers others or obstructs the free flow of pedestrians or the view of others attending the meeting is a violation of these Rules. Signage or banners may be no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches inclusive of any handles. The Presiding Officer will direct the Sargeat-at-Arms to remove and store any sign or banner in violation of these Rules until the owner of it leaves the Council meeting and requests it returned. These requirements will be uniformly enforced.

(d) Recess or Adjourn. All members of the Council must assist the Presiding Officer in preserving decorum and in providing for the efficient operation of the meeting. By a majority vote of those present, the Council may vote to recess or adjourn the meeting to preserve order and decorum or for public safety.

SECTION 22. Special Committees.^w

All special Council committees must be appointed by the Council, except that the Rules Committee is appointed as set forth in Section 20 of these Rules.

SECTION 23. Council members May File Protests Against Council Action.^x

Any Council member has the right to have the reasons for the member's dissent from, or protest against, any action of the Council entered in the minutes.

SECTION 24. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Contracts.^y

(a) Preparation of Ordinances. All ordinances must be reviewed by a licensed attorney in the City Attorney's Office. The preparation of an ordinances may be requested by any two members of the Council, at the request of the City Manager, or upon the City Attorney's own initiative.

(b) Introducing for Passage or Approval.

1. No ordinance may relate to more than one subject, which must be clearly expressed in its title, and no ordinance or section thereof may be amended or repealed unless the new ordinance contains the title of the ordinance or section amended or repealed, and when practicable, all ordinances must be introduced as amendments to existing ordinances or sections thereof.

2. At the time set for considering an ordinance, the Presiding Officer must refer it to the Council for a vote.

3. To the extent and in the manner provided by law, an ordinance may incorporate by reference a statute of Minnesota, a state administrative rule or a regulation, a code, or ordinance or part thereof without publishing the material referred to in full. The City Council may by a two-thirds vote of all of its members direct publication of only the title and a summary of an ordinance.

4. The City Manager, at the meetings, may take part in the discussions of the City Council and may recommend to the Council such measures as the City Manager may deem necessary for the welfare of the people and the efficient administration of the

^w Section 22 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^x Section 23 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^y Section 24 was amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

affairs of the City. The City Manager has all the rights, powers and duties prescribed by City Charter and Minnesota Statutes in regard thereto; however, it is recognized that the City Council is the policy making body for the City and the City Manager's discussions at Council meetings must be confined to statements of fact, recommendations based on the City Manager's knowledge and experience, and explanations of the reasons for same, and any matters pertaining to administration.

5. The City Attorney may not take part in the discussions of the City Council at the meeting except to answer questions directed to the City Attorney, comment on matters involving legal posers or procedures of the City, and to present factual material to the Council.

6. No City employee, other than those above mentioned in subdivisions 4 and 5, may enter into discussions of the City Council at the meeting except to answer questions directed to such employee or to present factual information. This regulation of City employees must not be construed to limit their appearance before the City Council of any City employee when such appearance is made as a member of the public, for or against some particular issue under discussion by the Council.

SECTION 25. Presentations and Proclamations^z

- (a) **Proclamations.** All proclamations will be issued outside of Council Meetings except that City-sponsored events may be presented during the City Council meeting (e.g., Public Works Week).
- (b) **Presentations.** All presentation materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations provided by members of the public for presentation at Council meeting, must be presented to the City Manager's office at least two business days prior to the City Council meeting to ensure compatibility with the City's audiovisual equipment and technical quality of the presentation materials. This requirement does not apply to pieces of paper placed by the speaker at the speaker's podium for display when seeking to use the overhead camera in the Council Chambers. Failure to provide the materials as required herein is a reasonable basis to remove a presentation from the meeting agenda.
- (c) **Right to refuse.** Requests to make a presentation and proclamation at a City Council meeting must be submitted to the Council Secretary. The City of Bloomington reserves the right to refuse to allow a presentation or proclamation that is in conflict with these Rules.

SECTION 26. Suspend the Rules.^{aa}

By unanimous consent of all Council members present at a meeting, provisions of these Rules may be suspended.

SECTION 27. Adjournment.^{bb}

A motion to adjourn is always in order, be decided without debate, and must be adopted by a majority of those members of the Council present at that meeting.

^z Section 25 was amended by resolution adopted July 12, 2010; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021; amended by resolution adopted March 28, 2022; by resolution adopted March 17, 2025.

^{aa} Section 26 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{bb} Section 27 amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

SECTION 28. Matters Not Specifically Covered.^{cc}

The most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is accepted as an authority on parliamentary practice on matters not specifically covered in these Rules.

SECTION 29. Appointment of Persons to City Boards and Commissions.^{dd}

In filling a vacancy on a City board or commission, the City Council must complete the process of nominating one or more candidates and then hold an election to select one or more eligible persons. The voting must be by roll call. An affirmative vote of a majority of those Council members present is required to elect a candidate.

SECTION 30. City Council E-Mail Communications.^{ee}

E-mail communications exchanged between a quorum or more of Council members that are related to official City business are prohibited. Any issue that may or will be acted on by the City Council is considered official business of the City. Any Council member desiring to communicate information relating to official City business to the other Council members through e-mail or other electronic means must direct that communication to the City Manager, or the City Manager's designee, who must then transmit the information to the other Council members. An exchange of e-mails between two or three Council members involving official City business must not be forwarded to the other Council members.

^{cc} Section 28 amended by resolution adopted December 21, 2009; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{dd} Section 29 established by resolution adopted January 30, 1995; by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

^{ee} Section 30 established by resolution adopted July 18, 2005; amended by resolution adopted April 5, 2021.

Appendix A

SAMPLE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES

WELCOME TO A MEETING OF THE BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

The City Council welcomes you to this meeting and invites you to participate in matters before the council. When meeting in the Council Chambers, members of the council are seated at the dais or appearing[ly] electronically and each has a nameplate for recognition. City staff members are seated on the side of the dais, or may appear electronically. The council meets nearly each Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at Civic Plaza, or electronically as permitted by law. The Council may need to meet at other times to take care of time sensitive matters.

AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting agendas are typically available a few days before and during the meeting. A paper copy is located near the public entrance door to the Council Chambers. The agenda is also available on the City's website. Any written materials received sufficiently in advance of the meeting and then distributed to the Council will also be available for public inspection at the meeting and on the City's website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council welcomes suggestions and comments that help meet the needs of the City and improve its operations. Please speak from the podium and use the microphone when addressing the Council in person. Follow directions to make your presence known if appearing electronically. Speak clearly. Written materials may be submitted instead of or in addition to oral public testimony at any time by handing your materials to the Council secretary or by sending them by email address or voicemail account listed on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (MATTERS ON THE AGENDA)

Before the City Council takes action on certain matters on the agenda, the law requires a public hearing or opportunity for provide testimony. This hearing is an opportunity for members of the public to provide testimony to the City Council on that specific matter. Each speaker has 5 minutes to address the Council unless a different time limit has been announced by Presiding Officer (typically the Mayor). Groups are encouraged to appoint a spokesperson in order to avoid repetitive testimony. Please sign the speaker roster after you testify so we have the proper spelling of your name and contact information for the meeting minutes and any required follow up by City staff to you. The Council or City staff may briefly respond to statements or questions raised during the public hearing. Written materials may be submitted in lieu of or in addition to public testimony at any time by handing your materials to the Council secretary or by sending them by email to the address listed on the agenda. You may also leave a voicemail by following the directions listed on the agenda.

IDENTITY OF SPEAKERS

The presiding officer (typically the Mayor) will ask each speaker to write the speaker's name on a sign-up sheet so your name is correctly recorded in the minutes if appearing in person. The presiding officer will ask each speaker to state the speaker's name to introduce themselves before speaking.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

These items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests it be removed from the consent agenda and considered at the end of Consent Business or at another stated time on the agenda as determined by the City Council. If you want to have an item removed from the consent agenda, then please alert the Council Secretary prior to the start of the City Council meeting. The Council Secretary will notify the City Council of a request to remove an item from the consent agenda

PRESENTATIONS

All presentation materials, including videos and PowerPoint presentations, must be presented to the City Manager's office at least two business days prior to the City Council meeting to ensure compatibility with the City's audiovisual equipment and technical quality of the presentation materials. This requirement does not apply to a piece of paper placed by the speaker at the speaker's podium for display when seeking to use the overhead camera in the Council Chambers.

RECORDING

City council meetings are often recorded and often televised. In order for the Council and audience to hear you, it is essential that speakers use the podium or your electronic microphone when addressing the Council.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To observe the order and decorum of city council meetings, the volume on all electronic devices should be turned off or set on silent mode.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information or request language access for an individual with limited-English please do so as soon as possible, preferably at least two (2) business days before the meeting, so the City can attempt to provide a qualified individual to fulfill the request. Contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.

Last Updated [~~March 17~~]December 15, 2025.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
CITY COUNCIL LISTENING SESSION GUIDELINES

- 5:45-6:15 p.m. (Council meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.)
- Civic Plaza Conference Room
- Occurs when there is a regularly scheduled council meeting that same Monday (see Council's approved calendar)
- "Regular Meeting" under the Minnesota Open Meeting Law
- Each Listening Session meeting will be posted on the city's calendar/website.
- Audio recorded only (no video recording or live broadcast)
- Call in option available.
- Information will be published on the agenda packet.
- Subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.
- A quorum is needed to open the meeting and take action, except less than a quorum can vote to adjourn.
- Preregistration (with topic) is requested by contacting the Council Secretary. The Council Secretary will request the speaker's topic(s). Those that have preregistered will be called on to speak before those that have not preregistered.
- Listening Session testimony is permitted on any topic except those that have a scheduled public hearing the City Council agenda that same day.
- Five minutes per speaker/topic.
- Process must be content-neutral
- If everyone that has preregistered or otherwise desires to speak has spoken but it's not yet 6:15 p.m., then the City Council can adjourn early.
- Minutes will be taken (with actions and attendance recorded).
- The Mayor, or its designee, is the Presiding Officer.
- City Manager and City Attorney, or their designees, shall also attend.
- A sergeant at arms will be present.
- City Manager may request additional staff attend based on topics indicated at preregistration.
- ADA accommodation available upon request; at least two business days' notice is requested.
- Section 21 of the City Council's Rules of Procedure (Enforcement of Decorum) are applicable to these Listening Sessions as if they occurred in the Council Chambers.
- The City Council's Rules of Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order (most current edition) shall be consulted for parliamentary procedures, when needed.

Last Edited March 17, 2025.



Board Agenda Item

Originator Housing and Redevelopment Authority	Item 3.8 Resolution Approving the 2026 Final HRA Levy
Agenda Section CONSENT BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Approving A Special Benefit Tax Levy For Year 2026 Pursuant To Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, Subdivision 6 By The Housing And Redevelopment Authority In And For The City Of Bloomington

Description:

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) requests the City Council adopt the attached resolution providing consent to the HRA's 2026 levy. The requested levy amount is reduced from the maximum allowable preliminary levy which was approved by City Council Resolution on September 8, 2025. This item was discussed by the City Council on December 8, 2025, and held over to the meeting on December 15, 2025 for final approval.

The HRA levy authority requested is \$2,769,133, which is approximately 84% of the maximum levy and estimated to yield a cost per month for the median value home of \$4.12. This is a reduction of \$529,332 from the preliminary levy.

The HRA Board of Commissioners approved its 2026 budget and levy at its meeting on November 25, 2025.

Attachments:

[Resolution Approving 2026 HRA Final Levy](#)
[2026 Budget Memo](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-_____

**APPROVING A SPECIAL BENEFIT TAX LEVY FOR YEAR 2026
PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 469.033,
SUBDIVISION 6 BY THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY IN AND FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

WHEREAS, the City Council (the “Council”) of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota (the “City”) is the official governing body of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority in and for the City of Bloomington (the “Authority”) is a housing and redevelopment authority under Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.001 through 469.047, as amended (the “HRA Act”); and

WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subdivision 6 of the HRA Act provides that all of the territory included within the area of operation of a housing and redevelopment agency (the entire City) shall be a taxing district for the purpose of collecting special benefit taxes; and

WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subdivision 6 of the HRA Act permits the Authority to levy and collect a special benefit tax of up to 0.0185% of estimated market value of taxable property within the City, levied upon all taxable real property within the City; and

WHEREAS, the special benefit tax levy authorized by Section 469.033, subdivision 6 of the HRA Act is separate and distinct from the City’s levy and is not subject to levy limits; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to levy a special benefit tax in the amount of \$2,769,133, which is equal to or lesser than 0.0185% of the estimated market value of taxable property within the City; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of the Authority adopted a resolution (the “Authority Resolution”) approving the levy a special benefit tax in the amount of \$2,769,133; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Authority Resolution, the Authority has adopted a budget for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the special benefit tax in an amount of \$2,769,133 to be used for the Authority's housing and redevelopment activities is based on the approved budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subdivision 6 of the HRA Act requires that the amount of the special benefit tax levy be approved by the governing body of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON that based upon the foregoing facts:

1. The Council hereby accepts the budget submitted by the Authority for fiscal year 2026.
2. The Council hereby approves the levy by the Authority of a special benefit tax pursuant to Section 469.033, subdivision 6 of the HRA Act in the amount equal to the lesser of a levy at a rate of 0.0185% of the estimated market value of taxable property within City or \$2,769,133 with respect to taxes payable in calendar year 2026.
3. Staff of the City and Authority are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary and expedient steps consistent with the intent of this Resolution and as required by law.

Passed and adopted this ____th day of December, _____, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Council



DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Bloomington City Council

CC: Housing and Redevelopment Authority Commissioners; Zach Walker, City Manager; Lori Economy-Scholler, City of Bloomington Chief Financial Officer; Kim Berggren, Community Development Director

FROM: Sarah Abe, HRA Administrator

RE: 2026 Housing and Redevelopment Authority Final Budget and Levy

Following multiple discussions on the 2026 budget, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority in and for the City of Bloomington (HRA) Board approved a final levy of \$2,769,133 at its meeting on November 25, 2025, to be considered by the Council. This is approximately 84% of the maximum levy and a reduction of \$529,332 from the preliminary amount.

City of Bloomington Mission:

Our mission is to cultivate an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Mission:

Create a stable and inclusive community through safe and dignified housing choices.

Budget Request Summary:

The 2026 operating budget for the HRA is \$11,338,729, an increase of \$999,388 or 9.7% from the 2025 budget. The 2026 budget is structured to continue to invest in housing programs that support a variety of housing services for Bloomington residents.

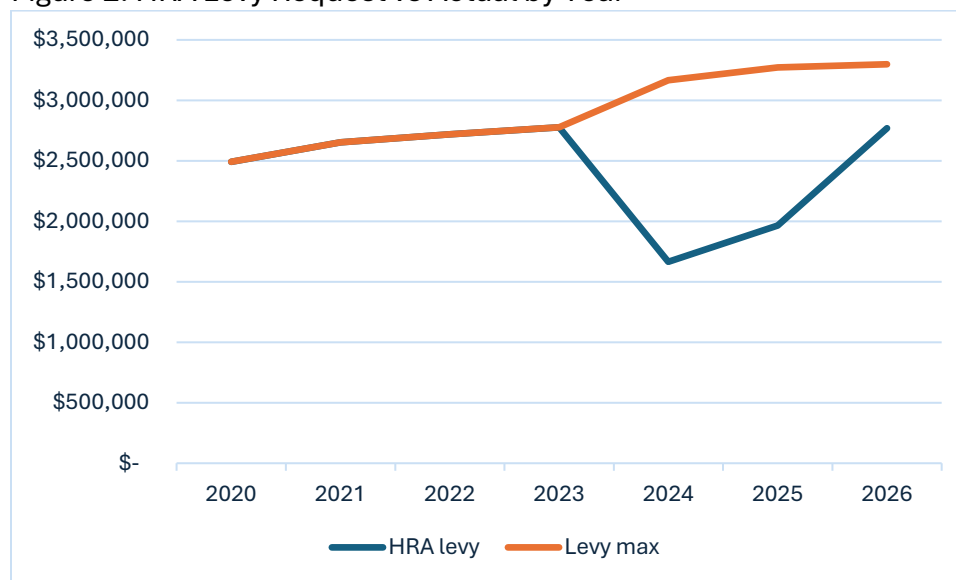
Per State Statute, the HRA levy can be up to 0.0185% of market value. The maximum allowable levy in 2026 is \$3,298,465; the HRA approved levy is \$2,769,133, or 84% of the maximum. This represents a \$803,777 increase from 2025. The levy results in an estimated median-valued home tax of \$4.12 per month for Pay 2026, up from \$2.84 per month in 2025.

The HRA previously levied the maximum amount annually but the levy was reduced in 2023, 2024, and 2025 to make space to add a new Port Authority levy for the purpose of city-wide economic development.

Figure 1: 2026 High Level Budget Request

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	\$ from 2025	% from 2025
Revenues					
Property Taxes	\$ 1,696,533	\$ 1,965,356	\$ 2,769,133	\$ 803,777	40.90%
Permits and Licenses				-	0.00%
Intergovernmental	7,513,684	7,192,058	7,180,142	(11,916)	-0.17%
Other Revenues	3,417,954	1,181,927	1,389,454	207,527	17.56%
Debt Service	(323,652)	-	-	-	0.00%
Transfers from Other Funds	1,951,150	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	14,255,669	10,339,341	11,338,729	999,388	9.67%
Expenditures					
Salaries and Benefits	1,523,786	1,975,207	2,003,067	27,860	1.41%
Materials, Supplies, & Services	9,288,532	7,438,769	8,393,798	955,029	12.84%
Internal Charges	272,443	372,112	391,864	19,752	5.31%
Capital Outlay	1,078,112	53,253	50,000	(3,253)	-6.11%
Transfer to Other Funds	1,913,209	500,000	500,000	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 14,076,082	\$ 10,339,341	\$ 11,338,729	\$ 999,388	9.67%
Less Expenses Charged to Other Funds				-	0.00%
Net Total Expenditures	\$ 14,076,082	\$ 10,339,341	\$ 11,338,729	\$ 999,388	9.67%
Revenues less Expenditures	\$ 179,587	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	0.00%

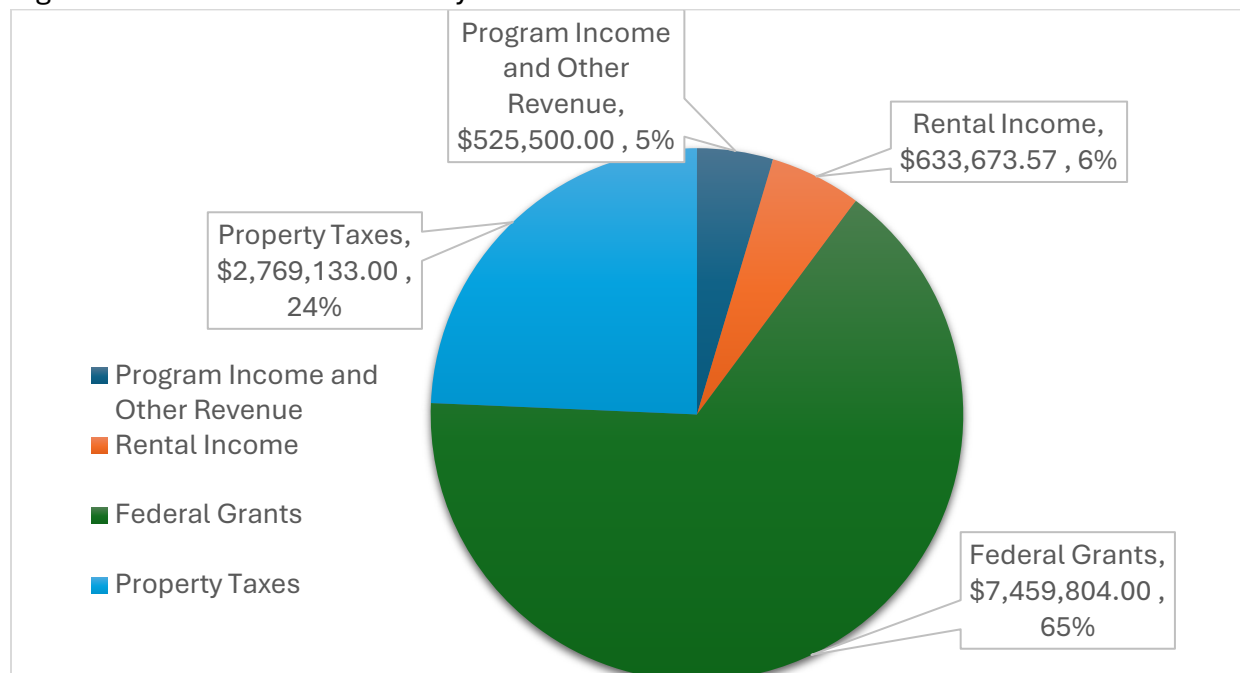
Figure 2: HRA Levy Request vs Actual by Year



Revenue Sources:

HRA revenue comes from a mix of sources which primarily include federal grants, local levy, rental income, loan repayments, and grants from Federal, State, and regional sources. Approximately 65% of the HRA’s annual budget is federal grants from Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administration. In 2026, significant changes in priorities and policies at the federal level have the potential to dramatically impact the HRA budget, a key factor in the budget discussions this year.

Figure 3: 2026 Revenue Summary



HRA Major Programming:

The HRA provides coordination, services, and program administration along the housing continuum in alignment with the Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together. strategic plan. In 2026, the HRA will continue to implement various strategic projects as well as core programming. Several key strategic initiatives in 2026 as well as ongoing programs are identified below.

Strategic Initiatives

- Loan management software implementation
- Bring It Home State Rental Assistance program launch
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded partnerships
- Down Payment Assistance Program
- Capital Improvement Planning
- Local Affordable Housing Aid implementation
- Bloomington Affordable Homeownership

Ongoing core programs

- Housing Choice Voucher program (federally funded)
- Community Development Block Grant (federally funded)
- Partnership agreements
- Homelessness services coordination
- Home buyer counseling & education
- Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers
- HRA-owned property maintenance
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Opportunity Housing Ordinance
- Various development projects

The HRA aims to provide various services from homelessness to homeownership that support attainable housing through all life stages and phases. The image below captures the spectrum of services and programs that the HRA offers.

Figure 4: Housing Continuum



Strategic Alignment:

Mission alignment: The City of Bloomington’s mission is to cultivate an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be. The HRA’s mission supports this through:

- Creating a sense of home and space
- Promoting housing stability and choice
- Building opportunities for homeownership

Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together priority alignment:

- Connected, Welcoming Community: Invests in housing options and programs that ensure all residents feel welcomed and have the opportunity to thrive.
- A Healthy Community: Expands access to quality housing that supports the health, safety, and well-being of community members.
- A Community with Equitable Economic Growth: Develops and promotes attainable housing opportunities for families across all income levels.

Cost Reductions and Efficiencies

Over the past year, staff have worked to manage programming and capital costs in order to manage growing expenses. Cost saving and performance improvement measures include:

- Bringing property management in house, which has also resulted in a much higher level of service from residents of HRA-owned homes.
- Screening recommended repairs to HRA-owned properties to ensure that they are necessary and approved by staff.
- Planning a capital improvement strategy to invest in major repairs over a longer period of time.
- Pausing on processing Rehabilitation Loans when requests exceeded the budget.

Staff have also worked to utilize other sources for funds to supplement the HRA budget. Only 24% of the 2026 HRA budget is from the levy, demonstrating the effectiveness of utilizing other sources. Examples of leveraging other dollars include:

- Local Affordable Housing Aid dollars, delegated by the City Council to the HRA to administer (\$1,478,986.21 in 2025)
- Livable Communities Development Account grants from the Met Council (\$500,000 over 3 grants awarded in 2025)
- Bring It Home dollars (\$2.6M awarded in 2025 over the next 2 years)
- CDBG COVID funding directed to HRA-owned home deferred maintenance (\$230,447)
- Seeking additional funds for property maintenance from the State's Publicly Owned Housing Program and the Federal Home Loan Bank

Priority Based Budgeting Process:

The PBB process was conducted Citywide for the first time in 2025. The goal of PBB is to evaluate programs based on cost, impact, and alignment with Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together priorities and generate ideas for cost efficiencies in programs.

Seven of the eight identified HRA programs were scored as high impact, with some programs being low and some being high in cost. The eighth program was scored as low cost and low impact. Opportunities for the future generally fell into the broad categories of technology and automation, diversifying revenue (such as reexamining fee structures), and seeking external funding sources through grants and partnerships. Below is a short summary of several key recommendations that are already being implemented and some takeaways to consider for the future.

Recommendations already being implemented

- Actively seeking Federal, State, and Regional grants. The HRA is already highly active in this space and very effective at leveraging outside funds with approximately 65% of its 2026 budget from external sources and additional revenue expected from various grants.
- Cross training of staff to implement Housing Choice Voucher services. The HRA is integrated with the City which supports the flow of front counter traffic, and staff across the HRA are trained to respond to customer service needs.
- Centralize development services, procurement, budgeting, onboarding, and offboarding. This is already implemented due to the HRA's position within the City's Community Development Department.

Recommendations to consider

The PBB process also included some opportunities to consider for the future. Several of these align with continuous improvement efforts currently under way.

- Regional resource sharing/coordinating. This year, the HRA and the City’s Building and Inspections (B&I) team are planning to partner on Housing Choice Voucher inspections over the winter with the goal of collaborating on staff time and resources. The HRA is also considering a contract with a regional partner for future homebuyer counseling. Future considerations could include regional sharing for inspections or other services.
- Examine fee structures. In 2025 the HRA evaluated its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) application fee. Additional fees that could be re-evaluated are other development fees, single family rehab loan processing fees, or fees associated with the HRA owned single-family rental homes.
- Explore automation and process redesign. The HRA team will continue exploring systems and automations in 2026 to streamline processes. Some changes already under consideration are online loan repayment forms or other electronic interfaces. Overall, the PBB process generated some ideas are cost efficiencies and collaboration opportunities. This year was the first year for this system to be in place and there may be more opportunities to explore in the future.

Proposed Levy Increases:

There are several key areas that are contributing to the proposed levy increase this year.

1. Property maintenance (\$344,945).

- The HRA owns 42 homes, most of which were built in the 1960’s and 1970’s.
- In 2024, the HRA invested \$1.2M in property improvements and shifted from a contracted property management team to an in-house model to better manage the needs of the aging housing stock.
- Deferred maintenance, increased attention to preventative maintenance, capital improvement planning, and other factors have led to an increase in property expenditures.

2. Strategic Partnerships (\$137,000).

- The HRA maintains a variety of local partnerships with agencies that provide housing services for Bloomington residents. These partnerships support the HRA’s mission and goals by diversifying the services available to residents.
- The levy increase corrects the budget deficit in 2025 for these programs and anticipates a greater need for partnerships to respond to housing needs.

Current Status of Federal Funding:

On November 12, the House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution. The bill included a full year of funding for several government functions. Other areas, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which provides the majority of the HRA’s federal dollars, were funded to the same level as Fiscal Year 2025 through January 30, 2026. After January 30 Congress will be required to pass a new budget or another Continuing Resolution to provide funding for HRA-run programs.

Fund Summary:

The HRA Budget is broken out into various funds, representing the programs and services administered by the HRA. A summary of each fund and the estimated distribution of levy dollars is outlined below. Year to year, the HRA has relied on fund balances to carry out specific strategic initiatives of the HRA, including funding new construction and preservation initiatives through the Development Fund. Levy contributions typically represent funds necessary to maintain ongoing programs of the HRA and do not result in significant contributions to maintaining or replenishing existing fund balances; this year, staff are recommending an increase to the Development Fund balance in order to be able to respond to likely federal funding reductions.

H180010 – General Administration

This fund is for the general operations of the HRA, including administrative functions and engagement. Funding for professional services related to renter and homebuyer education, as well as population-specific services and support, is included in this fund.

H280020 – Development

This fund consists of redevelopment activities led by the HRA. These levy and fund balance dollars will be spent on activities for single and two-family and missing middle redevelopment, development projects, NOAH preservation projects, and acquisition and disposition activities.

H280030 – Vouchers

This fund is for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program. The HRA earns an administrative fee for each month a voucher is in the lease. HUD typically notifies the HRA of budget allocation in April of the budget year. Estimated housing assistance payments are included in the “Maintenance/Rent/Premiums” budget line item. Levy dollars are included for memberships, professional development, supplies, and contract services.

H280040 – CDBG Rehab

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program includes federal grant allocation and program income from previous home improvement loans. This program is offered city-wide to households at or below 80% AMI. Estimated amounts for new loans are included in the “Maintenance/Rent/Premiums” budget line item.

H280041 – Neighborhood

This fund includes the Neighborhood Rehabilitation Loan Program, Housing and Environmental Loan Program (HELP), A Brush with Kindness (ABWK), Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Home Energy Squad air sealing and insulation programs, and funding for the biennial home fair. An estimated number of repayments of previous home improvement loans are included in revenue. Estimated amounts for new loans are included in the ‘Maintenance/Rent/Premiums’ budget line item.

H680120 – Assisted Rental (formerly Public Housing)

This fund reflects the revenues and expenditures for the operation of the 20 HRA scattered site rental housing units that the HRA converted from Public Housing to project-based Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) in 2012. Project-based HCV rental income sustains the activities of the program.

H680130– Rental Homes

This fund reflects the revenues and expenditures for the operation of the 21 HRA scattered site rental housing units under the Rental Housing for Future Home Buyers Program. This program provides the household the opportunity to escrow a portion of the rent to be applied to the purchase of a home of their choice in the future; the escrow funds are not included in the budget. The budget anticipates that rents will primarily support the management and maintenance of the units subsidized by levy funds for capital improvements and insurance-related costs.

H200 – Opportunity Housing

This fund includes funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). The AHTF revolving loan fund is a financial incentive option of the Opportunity Housing Ordinance that assists in the creation and/or preservation of affordable units of housing. The annual levy contribution to this fund is \$500,000.

H411 – Bloomington Affordable Homeownership Program

New in 2026, this fund will be used to track expenses and revenue relating to the development of 27 one or two-family dwelling units.

H412 – Bring It Home

Also new in 2026, this fund will capture expenses and grant funds from MN Housing to administer the new State housing voucher program. The HRA was informed by the State it would receive \$2.6M over the next two years.



Request for Council Action

Originator Finance	Item 4.1 Resolutions - 2026 Property Tax Levy and General Fund Budget
Agenda Section HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-_____, establishing Final Tax Levies for the City of Bloomington for the year 2026.

AND

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-_____, adopting the Final 2026 General Fund Budget.

Item created by: Briana Eicheldinger, Finance

Item presented by: Zach Walker, City Manager
Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer

Description:

Minnesota law requires local governments to hold a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy for the upcoming year. The City held the 2026 Property Tax Levy public hearing on December 8, 2025. The Council is now asked to approve the Resolution Establishing Final Tax Levies for the City of Bloomington for 2026 and the Resolution Adopting the Final 2026 General Fund Budget.

To provide context for the Council’s action this evening, the following summarizes the development of the 2026 budget:

Work began in April and continued through July with Priority Based Budgeting scoring, development of the conceptual budget, and meetings with departments. On August 18, the City Council held a study session on the conceptual levy and budget, which included an opportunity for public comment. On September 8, the Council set the preliminary levy at 9.44%. In October, staff presented department budgets at City Council meetings for review

and discussion. On November 24, the Council received an overview of the proposed final levy and General Fund budget, which included an additional opportunity for public comment in advance of the Truth in Taxation hearing. On December 8, the City held the Truth in Taxation public hearing and received further public input.

The proposed 2026 tax levy has been reduced to 6.96% from the preliminary 9.44%. This evening, December 15, the Council is asked to adopt the final 2026 property tax levy and General Fund budget following the completion of the annual budget development process.

Attachments:

[Presentation](#)

[TNT Summary of Public Questions with Responses](#)

[2026 City Budget Guestbook 12-15-25.pdf](#)

[Resolution - Tax Levy](#)

[Resolution - General Fund Budget](#)



2026 Property Tax Levy and General Fund Budget

Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer
December 15, 2025



Agenda



Presentation to Council

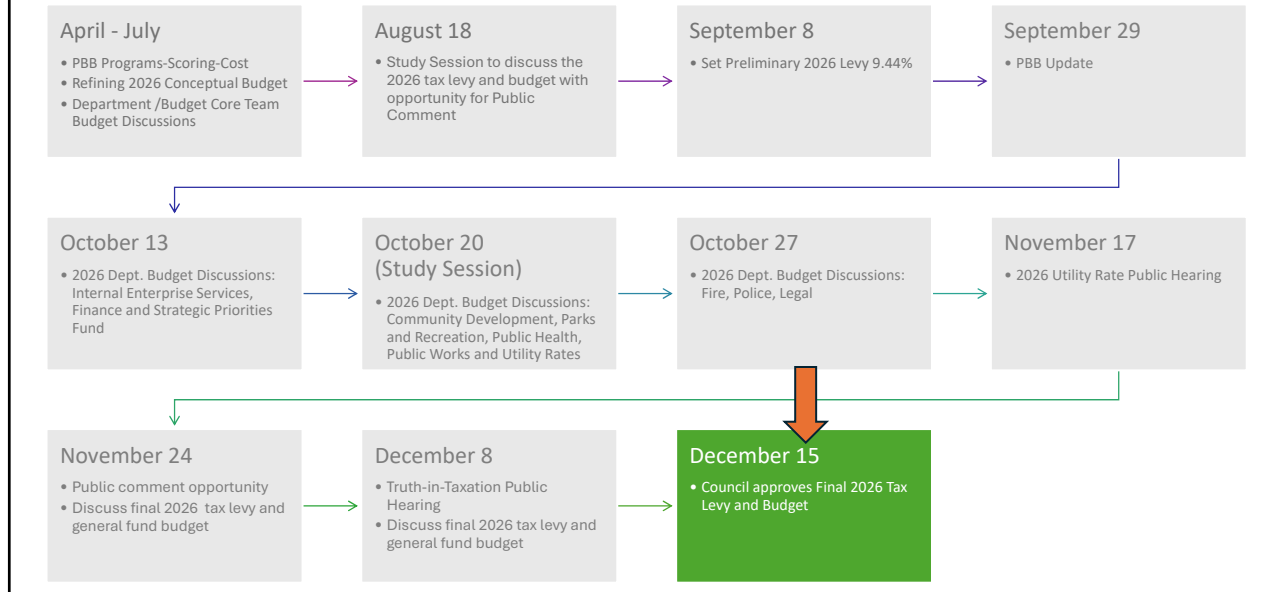
- Review of Budget Process Calendar
- Public Safety Investment
- Reductions to 2026 Preliminary Levy
- 2026 Final Property Tax Levy and General Fund Budget Request
- Focus For Next Year
- Recommendation

Council Discussion

- Approval of final levy



2026 Budget Process Calendar



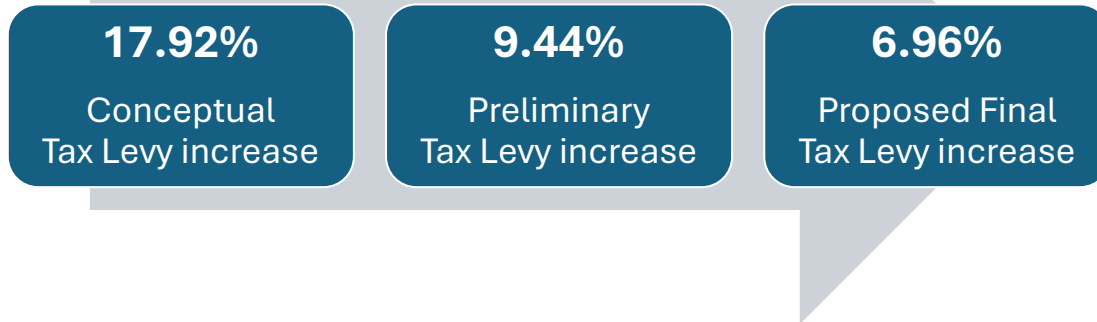
Public Safety Investment



- More than half of the budget increase supports Public Safety as Fire transitions to a combination staffing model.
- Long-term plan grows staffing to 78 full-time and 75 part-time firefighters and upgrades all six fire stations for full-time coverage.
- Federal SAFER grant ending in early 2026 funded 18 firefighters hired in 2023, and ARP funds added three Battalion Chiefs that is running out in 2025.
- One-time State Public Safety Aid supported additional Police positions that will be absorbed into the General Fund in 2026.



2026 Tax Levy



Budget Reductions to reduce 2026 tax levy increase to 6.96%



Budget Reduction Lever	Reduction Amount
Debt Service reduction	\$453,907
Paid-on-Call Firefighter expense reduction	\$350,000
Fire State Aid revenue increase	\$28,000
Permit Revenue increase	\$625,000
Priority Based Budgeting alignment reduction	\$265,800
Increase in Tax Levy Stabilization from Strategic Priorities Fund	\$450,000
Total	\$2,172,707



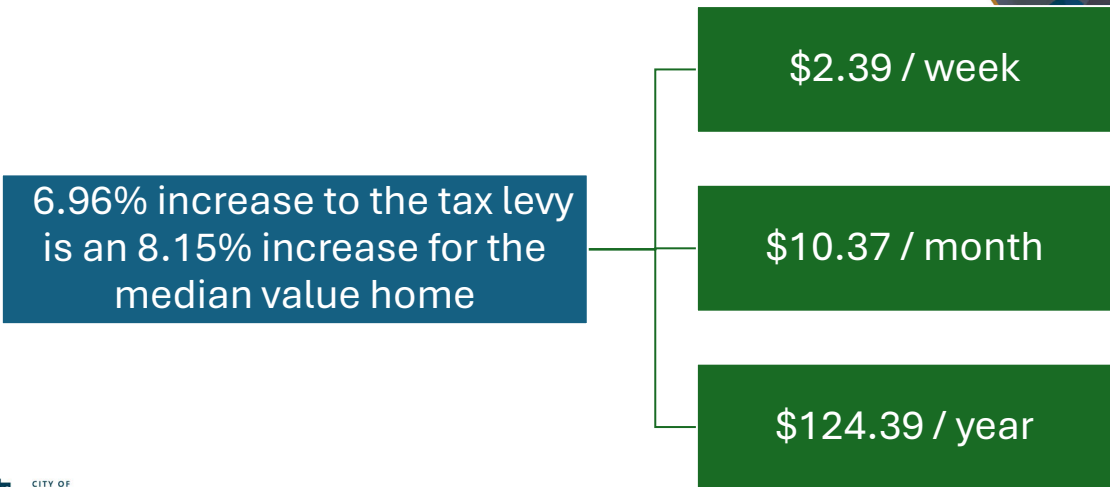
Breakdown of 6.96% Increase by Dept.



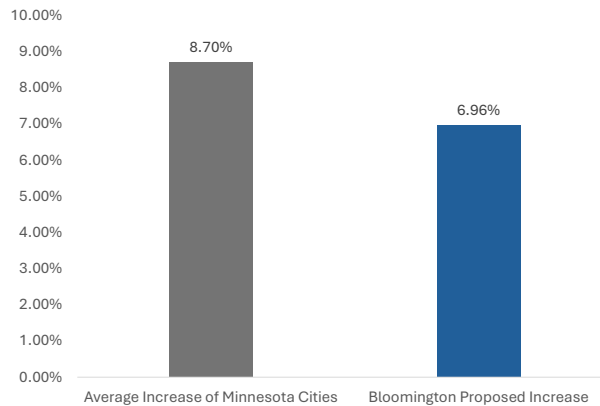
	% Change
Police	2.62
Fire	1.47
Public Works	1.18
Parks and Recreation	1.01
Public Health	0.26
Community Development	-0.34
Finance/Legal/Administration/Communications	0.76
Total	6.96%



Impact on median value home \$365,400 = \$10.37 / month increase



Comparison to Average of MN Cities



City Portion of Property Tax Bill is Only One Component



- Preliminary tax statements reflect the preliminary levy of 9.44%. The proposed levy of 6.96% is a 2.48% reduction from that preliminary amount.
- Residents pay combined taxes to the City, County, and School District.
- The City's share is roughly one-third of the total bill. The majority of a property tax bill does not go to the City.
- County and School District levies make up the remaining two-thirds.
- Each jurisdiction sets its own levy.
- The City controls only the City portion of the bill.



Comparison of 2025 Final Tax Levy to 2026 Proposed Tax Levy



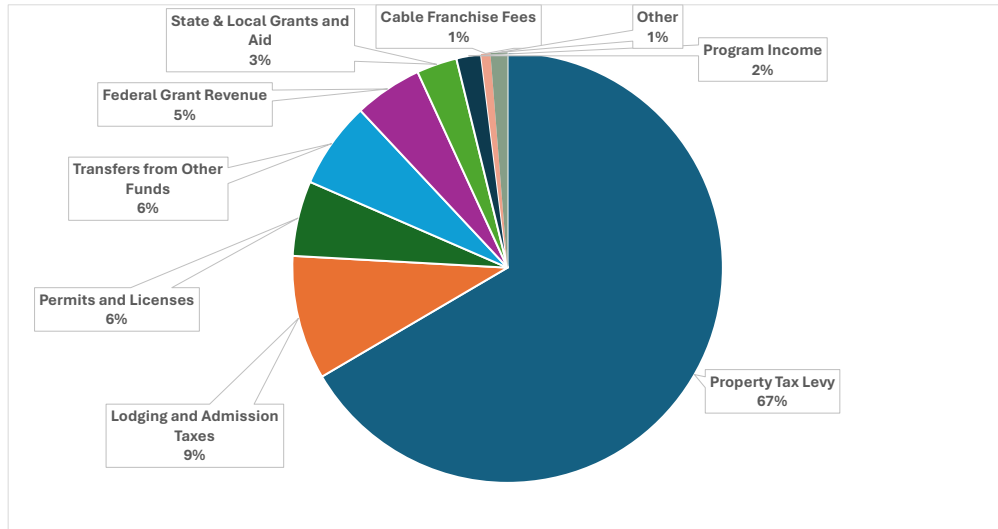
	Final 2025 Tax Levy	Proposed 2026 Tax Levy	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	\$76,357,500	\$81,373,644	\$5,016,144	
Fire Pension Obligation	1,050,000	1,050,000		
Forestry/Diseased Trees	185,000	350,000	165,000	
Pool	335,000	335,000		
Center for the Arts	1,500,000	1,500,000		
Ice Garden	200,000	200,000		
Normandale Lake District Tax Abatement Capital Projects	400,000	250,000	-150,000	
Debt Payments	7,848,711	8,936,825	1,088,114	
Total	\$87,876,211	\$93,995,469	\$6,119,258	6.96%

City of Bloomington General Fund 2026 Budget

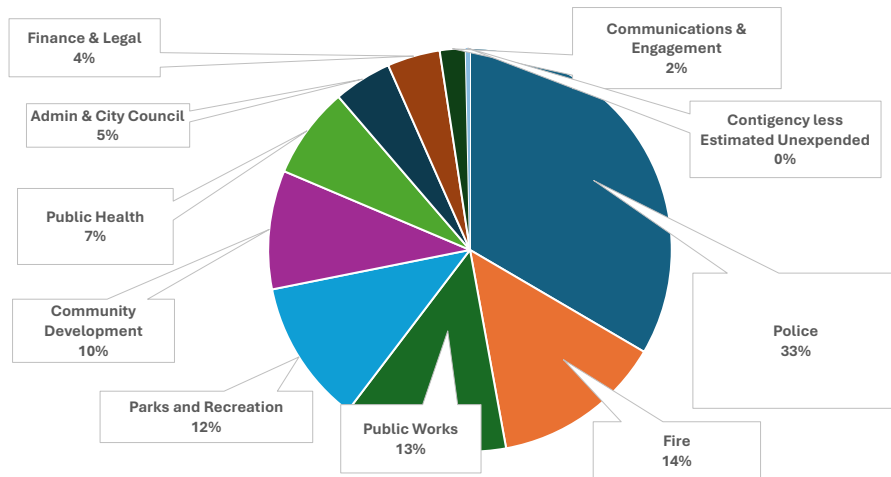
REVENUES:		
Property Tax Levy	81,373,644.00	67%
Lodging and Admission Taxes	11,388,000.00	9%
Permits and Licenses	6,902,200.00	6%
Transfers from Other Funds	7,955,881.00	7%
Federal Grant Revenue	6,262,730.00	5%
State & Local Grants and Aid	3,704,170.00	3%
Program Income	2,270,390.00	2%
Cable Franchise Fees	850,000.00	1%
Other	1,562,258.00	1%
TOTAL REVENUES	122,269,273.00	100%
EXPENDITURES:		
Police	40,872,274.00	33%
Fire	16,756,184.00	14%
Public Works	16,135,748.00	13%
Parks and Recreation	14,093,048.00	12%
Community Development	11,631,685.00	10%
Public Health	8,979,990.00	7%
Admin & City Council	5,689,660.00	5%
Finance & Legal	5,179,920.00	4%
Communications & Engagement	2,516,923.00	2%
Contingency less Estimated Unexpended	413,841.00	0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	122,269,273.00	100.00%



2026 Budget - General Fund Revenues



2026 Budget - General Fund Expenditures*



*funded by tax levy, grants, and other revenue

Recommendation



Staff recommends adopting the proposed 2026 final tax levy, a 6.96% increase from 2025.

- Residents and business owners have shared concerns about affordability and year-over-year tax increases. The levy has been reduced from the preliminary 9.44% and down further from the amount presented at the December 8th Truth-in-Taxation public hearing.
- The proposed levy supports the essential service levels our community relies on every day and includes an increased amount of tax levy stabilization funding from the Strategic Priorities Fund.
- Public Safety, Public Works and Parks make up the majority of the budget, and further expense reductions at this stage would affect staffing and service delivery.



Focus for Next Year



- Continue evaluating efficiencies and advancing priority-based budgeting
- Explore a two-year budget process to improve predictability
- Improve education and public engagement on the budget



Motions



Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-____, establishing Final Tax Levies for the City of Bloomington for the year 2026.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 2025-____, adopting the Final 2026 General Fund Budget.

From: [Walker, Zach](#)
Cc: [Hedin, Kathy](#); [Tolzmann, Elizabeth](#); [Carlson, Kari](#); [Economy-Scholler, Lori](#); [Eicheldinger, Briana](#); [Rai, Priyanka](#)
Subject: TNT Summary of Public Questions with Responses
Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025 1:22:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor and City Council,

Good afternoon. Below are follow-up responses from the December 8 Truth-in-Taxation public hearing. These responses will be included in the December 15 agenda packet to provide follow-up to the questions we heard from residents that were not addressed by Council during the meeting. If you have any questions, or if there are additional items you would like addressed before the meeting, please let me know.

Assessment & Valuation Questions

Many of the questions raised were specific to individual property valuations. City Assessor Tim Bulger stayed after the hearing and met one-on-one with residents in the lobby. Anyone who did not have the chance to speak with him or who has additional questions can contact Tim directly at 952-563-8708 or tbulger@bloomingtonmn.gov.

Questions About the Levy and Budget Reductions

We heard questions about reducing the levy through across-the-board cuts (i.e., a 2% across-the-board decrease for each City department). Across-the-board reductions do not account for legal mandates, safety requirements, or workload realities. Instead, we have started using Priority Based Budgeting to evaluate programs strategically to identify lower-priority programs and services. The final proposed levy reflects months of work to balance essential services, long-term infrastructure needs, and community priorities.

Clarification on Ice Garden Temporary Chiller Costs

There was a comment suggesting the Ice Garden renovation project was over budget by \$300,000 due to chillers. This is not accurate. Temporary chillers were an operational expense, not a project overrun. Opening BIG on October 1 allowed youth hockey, high school teams, and figure skating programs to continue without disruption, and revenues are expected to offset much of the cost. The renovation project itself remains on track and on budget, with the new plant expected to go live around January 1.

Questions About Nonprofit/NGO Funding

In 2025, the City provided:

- \$217,435 to resident arts organizations at Bloomington Civic Plaza and other arts partners through a formal application and review process that was approved by Council
- \$95,989 in eviction prevention and rental assistance through Federal ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds managed and distributed by the HRA.
- \$115,000 to date from the Council-authorized \$250,000 emergency food assistance allocation due to the Federal government shutdown.
- All nonprofit funding follows a structured approval process, with contracts reviewed by Legal

and compliance reviewed by Finance.

Again, please let me know any additional information you may need or questions you may have. Thank you for your time commitment to this critical process.



Zach Walker

City Manager

Phone: 952-563-8784 | **Email:** zwalker@bloomingtonmn.gov

1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431

Context | Developer | Empathy | Positivity | Adaptability

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Report generated at: 2025-12-15 by Briana Eicheldinger
Project: 2026 City Budget
GuestBook: Comments through 2025-12-15

#	Posted at	Contribution
1	18-Aug-25	I would like the city to expand the public works budget so they can add more biking infrastructure into Bloomington's cycling network. The city currently adds biking infrastructure through reconstruction efforts like the PMP Program, but I think we can be more ambitious, and really take advantage of our construction season, and make this a city where residents can walk, bike, and use public transit just as much as they can use personal vehicles.
2	28-Aug-25	I agree with the person who stated that expanding bike (and pedestrian and transit) infrastructure should be a priority in the 2026 budget. This closely aligns with Bloomington's strategic plan goal of cultivating an enduring, remarkable community where people want to be, as well as comprehensive plan Transportation strategies 1.6, 3.1, and 4.2. This should be done not only through regular PMP projects, but also by boosting capital bikeway projects like the I-35W and Xerxes bikeways, and increasing local match for projects like Nicollet, Portland, and 494 to enhance bike infrastructure on those projects as well.
3	29-Aug-25	Make cycling and pedestrian friendly routes to school/work/shopping/recreation a priority! We are facing an environmental crisis and having all transportation options in place now will help.
4	1-Sep-25	<p>I don't think the city should be funding the Hatch Bloomington \$100,000 prize or covering the administrative costs of this program. Taxpayer money should not be used to give ONE business any of the \$100,000 prize money. I haven't seen any evidence that the return on this investment to the city, from the winning business, justifies this expenditure of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>As I understand it, Bloomington funds a large majority of the prize money, I believe over 80% of the \$100,000 (I believe some small amount comes from the Port of Bloomington, but that's still a government org of Bloomington). As an aside, Bloomington needs to be MORE transparent of how this prize is funded - I've looked and found it difficult to find clear, precise information online, but I'm certain Bloomington is funding the majority of the prize. (Suggestion: Place this information on the Hatch Bloomington page, clearly and transparently.) There's also a not insignificant administrative cost to this program, and as I understand it, Bloomington pays all those costs.</p> <p>This expenditure is one of the first that should be on the chopping block as Bloomington looks for ways to reduce expenditures. It's a risky investment (many new businesses fail) and unlikely that overall, Bloomington will recoup the costs through revenues Bloomington receives from the winning business. In fact, the winning business, if it succeeds over time, likely would have succeeded without the prize money. One suggestion: the money could be redirected to cover some of the costs for snowplowing of sidewalks. If private money can be secured to fund the prize, that's fine.</p>
5	3-Sep-25	<p>I would like the city to set money aside for a full time Accessibility staff person. Having an ADA coordinator is fantastic and very very needed, but I think having someone whose job it is to consult with city departments about their projects and events as well as work to build lasting relationships with disabled residents can help create a more inclusive city and bridge gaps where they may be occurring (especially with agencies running group homes in the city). This position would greatly improve quality of life for seniors as well!</p> <p>It's important that the city keep investing in ADA transition plans for right of way, parks, and buildings. The work being done to make every park at the very least accessible is so important and it should continue.</p>
6	9-Sep-25	When funding sources are shrinking or disappearing our budget needs to reflect that. It appears there has been an attempt to do that but there is still a significant increase of over 9%, some of which can't be avoided. However, that can also happen when the city supports "interests" that are not a benefit to the whole community and that area then continues to expect funding in the future. Special interests (other than ADA, required) might need to come up with their own creative funding. If it does not benefit the entire population don't put it in the budget, keep to strict city function support and development. I know there are positives about many interests but when funds are tight draw the line.
7	9-Sep-25	Bloomington briefing announcing this feedback process was received today 9/9 one day after the levy was set on 9/8. That tells me feedback isn't valued. Nevertheless, I agree with the comments that when tax base is tightening so does the belt need tightening on city expenses, and elective interest programs need to be scrutinized.
8	10-Sep-25	I am grateful for the robust community services. However, I would urge the counsel to please be extremely mindful to reduce non-essential spending as the property tax increases we have recently experienced are unsustainable. I know the city is under financial pressures, but so are the residents. Please do not assume that we can continue to pay more and more each year
9	12-Sep-25	<p>I don't think the city should even be contemplating spending many millions to put in a dedicated bus lane on American Boulevard, or contemplating reducing NON-BUS traffic lanes to ONE in each direction. All this will do is push more traffic into residential neighborhoods as traffic on American Boulevard gets backed up due to just ONE lane of traffic for them. On top of that, American Boulevard was constructed only about 20 years ago.,The road surface is in very good condition. Finally, there aren't enough buses along American Blvd to justify a dedicated bus lane, and there never will be enough bus riders to justify it. East of 12th (most buses), there is max 12-13 buses per hour. West of Lyndale, there is max of 7 buses per hour in the stretch from Lyndale to Penn; and a max of 3 buses per hour in the stretch west of Penn. From Portland to Penn, there is a max of 8-9 buses an hour. That the city is even contemplating a dedicated bus line along American Blvd is quite frankly, an example of all that is WRONG in the city. The city council and various advisory committees have little respect for taxpayers if their plans including spending millions to reconstruct a road that is in perfectly good shape, and creating a dedicated bus line which will have at most 13 buses per hour traveling on the eastern most stretch of it - that is a max of ONE BUS every 4.5 MINUTES. Reconstructing a perfectly good concrete road is also BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.</p> <p>Bloomington City Council needs to be much more cautious about spending taxpayer money, and stop increasing the property tax levy and stop increasing/imposing fees in other ways such as the franchise fee. With shifting the fire department from a volunteer to a paid department, this will start to cost taxpayers a lot more money. Over the last few years, grants have paid for some of those costs, but those grants are not guaranteed into the future. Fire department employees will have to be paid, regardless of whether grants are available, and taxpayers will be on the hook for that. These salaries are obligatory if residents want a fire department (now that the volunteer model is no longer with us), and will undoubtedly cause the city to further raise the property tax levy.</p> <p>With this in mind, the city council and mayor needs to be taking steps to cut unnecessary expenses at the city, NOT spending millions on reconstructing a perfectly fine 20 year old road. The promoters say this will lead people to take the bus more, but quite frankly, it won't to any significant degree. Few people go ONLY from point A to point B without stops in between, without taking their kids with them, without needing to haul things like groceries. If you have to do just ONE of those things, taking the bus simply becomes a huge exhausting hassle, compared to driving a car (and, you can consolidate trips to cut down on miles driven and improve your carbon footprint - the city should be promoting trip consolidation). It becomes even more of a hassle in the winter or during hot humid days.</p> <p>The city council acts like a kid in a candy shop, spending money unnecessarily (and in the case of American Boulevard, wastefully), and in ways that don't benefit the city as a whole. That needs to stop.</p>
10	2-Oct-25	How many years do we have to stomach a 9% increase in property taxes. There is still so much wasteful spending in Bloomington. I own 2 homes. My taxes in Cape Coral Florida have DECREASED by 5% the last two years. It's absolutely disgusting.
11	19-Nov-25	I believe Bloomington needs to tighten their purse strings like the residents of Bloomington have to do. Let's stop the "wants" spending. Put unnecessary spending to a halt.
12	20-Nov-25	Stop spending money, we can't afford your budgets!
13	20-Nov-25	<p>I am a big fan of native plants and prairie restoration (example: The restored prairie off James Ave South and W 92nd Street). Putting effort into turning unused grassy spots into smalls fields of native plants can save on mowing, insecticides, and help declining populations of bumblebees, monarchs, and other important insects that we need to survive.</p> <p>I will also never say no to more robust bike infrastructure!</p>

14	22-Nov-25	<p>I have lived in West Bloomington for the past 25 years. When I first moved to the area taxes were reasonable and the area I lived in had numerous shops, restaurants and businesses, however the majority of these have closed or moved out of Bloomington. Revitalization has occurred in other parts of Bloomington, but not this portion. Large amounts of money were spent on revitalizing Normandale Lake and creating bike lanes yet the lake is in worse condition (low water levels, stagnant water and increased algae) and bike lanes are hardly used. Sidewalks were replaced along Normandale Blvd north of Normandale Lake but not beyond 98th St. I am paying approximately \$300 more per month in taxes than when I first bought my home 13 years ago. I have a good career with a good salary yet feel I have less disposable income now than ever. Every year Bloomington taxes and levies continue to climb yet wages and COLA's don't come close to covering the increase. This creates a hardship for home owners - especially for people on a fixed income. Taxes and levies cannot continue climbing at the current pace or homeowners will be forced to leave their homes. Homeowners are the heart of Bloomington and take pride of our city and community. The city needs to think outside the box for alternative funding sources - ones that won't adversely impact it's homeowners. Thank you options than continuing to raise taxes and levies</p>
15	22-Nov-25	<p>Bike path along busy routes example American Blvd. Old Shakopee Road would be nice to have. Richfield has really good trail system set up along their highways. Also Edina has a good trail system along their highways. Also speeding enforcement on secondary roads (86th/12th/Portland) would be wonderful. Sometimes for these so-called E bikes that are motorcycles come down our street at 45 miles an hour. They are not an E bike but tend to ride on shoulder of the road. When I had called to ask for speeding enforcement, traffic enforcement is very short on officers, if we could get some officers, whose only job is traffic enforcement, that would be a good use of our property tax money. Neighborhood inspections once a year for violations</p>
16	23-Nov-25	<p>Hello! These questions are directed to Kari Carlson. Kari, please reply to my questions below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is the amount budgeted for DEI in 2026 and how does it compare to 2025? 2) What is the FTE increases or decreases planned for 2026 (excluding Fire and Police)? 3) Are there any material planned revenue increases or planned expense reductions factored into the 2026 budget? 4) Regarding Community engagement, why did you select Juneteenth and Pride day as there were less than 100 participants? Will you do this next year? 5) The merit increases are set at 3.25%, correct? Whatever the number how does this compare to other local MN city's? Also, are promotions taken from this pool as well? 6) As evidenced at the State level, there is massive fraud what safeguards exist at the city level?
17	24-Nov-25	<p>Stop spending and cut tax. 14% increase. Ridiculous. So much for family friendly. But hey buildings are getting refaced.</p>
18	26-Nov-25	<p>I have listened to the council meeting on the budget and Still wonder how a city who sends out news emails with out of date information need so MUCH more money than the percentage of the CPI. Bloomington has never been able to live within the budget increases at the same level of the CPI. I can see that the HRA portion of the increase is a very high percent increase. Bloomington talks about the cost of buying a house. It is getting to be the property tax is a very large part of that increasing cost of buying. And for those that have a house for a few years the property tax is greater than the mortgage and insurance and utilities. You are like a Ouroboros.</p>
19	30-Nov-25	<p>I'm a Bloomington homeowner, and our city property tax levies have clearly drifted into a zone that is not sustainable for ordinary families.</p> <p>Since I bought my home in 2021, my total property tax has gone from about \$5,247 to a proposed \$6,785 for 2026. That is a roughly 30% increase in five years, or more than 5% per year on average. My mortgage is fixed; the only reason my payment keeps jumping is escalating taxes.</p> <p>For 2026, the City's own presentation shows a 9.44% increase in the tax levy, which staff say translates into about a 10.87% increase for the median-value home, or \$165.81 more per year just for the city portion. Even after staff reductions, you're still talking about a proposed 7.48% final levy increase at a time when inflation has cooled, and many residents' wages are not rising anywhere near that pace.</p> <p>We keep hearing about "reductions" from a conceptual 17.9% levy down to 9.44% and then 7.48%, but that's just cutting back from unthinkable to merely very high. There is no clear plan to bring annual levy increases back down to something close to real inflation; instead, it feels like 5-10% hikes are being normalized as the new baseline.</p> <p>From the outside, it looks like the council is unwilling to make truly hard choices on the biggest cost drivers, especially in public safety staffing and major capital commitments, and is relying on homeowners to quietly absorb year after year of above-inflation tax growth. That is not sustainable for young families, seniors on fixed incomes, or anyone trying to budget responsibly.</p> <p>I'm asking you to do what you keep telling us you're doing: practice real "priority-based budgeting," set an explicit target to bring levy increases back in line with inflation over the next few years, and be honest that this will require saying no to some programs and to the current pace of expansion. Until you show a credible path to that, these budgets are not responsible, and I cannot support them.</p>
20	8-Dec-25	<p>While I think priority-based budgeting sounds like a good idea, I'm lost on how it will actually reduce the budget? As this seems like an obvious need when you and Hennepin county keep raising property taxes significantly year after year. I would like some transparency on where the state budget surplus was spent a few years back and if that money led to more businesses hiring people/paying taxes and better outcomes for students. I think Bloomington should provide everyone with mailed property tax changes that include the same info that Hennepin county does; proposed budget by line of business and where the money comes from.....so voters understand who is providing money to the city and who is using it. I would like more respect/ focus on residents and businesses who pay a lot in taxes to city instead of all the focus being on art/ affordable housing/ parties/ equity in your council meetings and social media. I found it quite distasteful that the mayor mentioned an award for creativity/ equity/ community in the last council meeting. I don't think any of these things are bad but they don't pay the bills. I support the police and fire department and their funding but perhaps we could put more art installations on hold until this is accomplished. I also don't believe we have equity in Bloomington when the residents who are retired and on a fixed income are afraid they won't be able to live here anymore because they can't afford property taxes, don't go out to eat at Bloomington restaurants because of sales tax, and now have no senior center that can accommodate their needs until 2027. I personally know 2 long term residents who are moving out of Bloomington because of the increase in property taxes now that they are retired. I think the city council should be worried about further decrease in revenue if this becomes a trend. I grew up here in Bloomington and returned after my husband left the military. I had hoped to stay in my home indefinitely, but it's not looking like that is going to be a wise financial decision and it's frustrating that my welfare seems to be of no concern to anyone since I pay a lot of money each year to Bloomington. I am old enough to remember that Bloomington does not need to be taxed this much to be a vibrant, welcoming community with good parks and schools and quality fire and police departments. It just needs people in leadership to make hard decisions to cut the fat out of the budget and focus on what really matters to the majority of the residents.</p>
21	11-Dec-25	<p>9.44% budget increase is just unacceptable, regardless of the process by which the number was determined. Families are holding the line on their own financial budgets by making hard decisions. I would expect the city council and mayor to do the same. This level of spending and mindset is not sustainable.</p>
22	11-Dec-25	<p>I am Miranda Anderson, a seven year resident of Bloomington. Part of what drew us to Bloomington was the closeness to everything else...downtown, the airport, even 494. As the committees explore budgeting for 2026, I implore you to think about our schools and the boon they are withdrawing from our community. Our schools are facing a \$5 million a year shortfall because state and federal budgets have not kept pace with inflation. The latest property tax increase I have seen fails to address the needs of our schools, so they are cutting programming and buses to accommodate. As a taxpayer, I would like to make sure my increased taxes go to the schools and childcare in a sizable proportion, when compared to other city services.</p>
23	13-Dec-25	<p>The school's are facing more budget reductions. Further reductions will only make the current families consider moving out of the community to a better district, consider private schools and setter new families from moving in. Good schools are core to a thriving community. Please do better.</p>

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 -

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FINAL TAX LEVIES FOR
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.06 of the City Charter and Minnesota Statutes Section 275.07 require the Council to adopt a resolution levying taxes and to certify the levy to the County Auditor on or before five working days after December 20 in each year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA as follows:

Section 1. That there be, and hereby is, levied for the year 2026 on all taxable property, real, personal and mixed, situated within the corporate limits of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota and not exempted by the Constitution of the State or valid state laws, a tax sufficient to produce the amounts hereinafter set forth:

General Revenues	Certified Levy \$ 85,058,644
Debt Service	8,936,825
TOTAL	\$ 93,995,469

Section 2. That the City Clerk is directed to certify said tax levies to the County Auditor of Hennepin County on or before December 29, 2025.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor

Attest:

Secretary to the Council

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington is the official governing body of the City of Bloomington, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.06 of the City Charter requires the Council to adopt the budget by resolution not later than the third week of December; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has prepared a proposed General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, that the 2026 operating budget for the General Fund is hereby approved as follows:

REVENUES

Property Tax Levy	\$ 81,373,644
Less Estimated Delinquencies	(903,770)
Lodging and Admissions Tax	11,388,000
Business Licenses	2,314,000
Permits	4,588,200
Cable Franchise Fees	850,000
Fines	505,000
Program Income	2,270,390
Intergovernmental Revenue	9,966,900
Interest	475,000
Transfers from Other Funds	7,955,881
Other	<u>1,486,028</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$122,269,273</u>

APPROPRIATIONS

City Council	\$ 684,219
Administration	5,005,441
Legal	3,348,439
Finance	1,831,481
Police	40,872,274
Fire	16,756,184

Community Development	11,631,685
Public Health	8,979,990
Communications & Engagement	2,516,923
Parks and Recreation	14,093,048
Public Works	16,135,748
Contingency	2,982,176
Estimated Unexpended	<u>(2,568,335)</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS **\$122,269,273**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, (i) that this proposed operating budget resolution, and the related proposed tax levies (contained in Resolution No. 2025-____) are being submitted by the City in accordance with Minnesota Statutes in effect on this date (“Resolutions”); (ii) that the Resolutions represent a good faith effort by the City to substantially comply with applicable law and the guidance supplied by the Commissioner of Revenue; and (iii) that the City Council declares its intent to take all necessary actions legally permissible to conform with the laws, rulings, and regulations now or hereafter applicable to the submission and approval of the City's budget and tax levies, both proposed and final.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor

Attest:

Secretary to the Council



Request for Council Action

Originator Maintenance	Item 4.2 Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment Related to Approval of Contracts for Municipal Buildings
Agenda Section HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Staff recommend approval of the ordinance amendment updating Chapter 5 of the City Code regarding the approval of contracts for construction of municipal buildings, through the following motion:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-_____, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

Item created by: Kalea Fischer, Maintenance

Item presented by: Tim Behrendt, Maintenance Superintendent

Description:

Staff propose an amendment to Chapter 5, Article VI of the City Code regarding the approval process for contracts related to municipal buildings. The amendment would increase the threshold for City Council approval of construction contracts for municipal buildings from \$100,000 to \$175,000. This change would align with the City's purchasing policy.

A resolution of summary publication isn't included due to the brevity of this ordinance.

Attachments:

[Ordinance](#)
[Powerpoint](#)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The City Council for the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 5 of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting those words within brackets and [~~stricken through~~] and adding those words that are underlined, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 5: PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

ARTICLE VI: CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

§ 5.39 APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

Any contract for construction of a municipal building where the amount involved is more than \$175,000~~[100,000]~~ shall be approved by a vote of not less than five members of the City Council. The transfer of monies from one or more city funds to another city fund for the purpose of financing construction of any such building shall require the affirmative votes of at least five members of the City Council. The Council shall also establish a construction budget for any municipal project approved under this section.

Section 2. This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED: _____

Secretary to the Council

City Attorney



Ordinance Amending Chapter 5: Construction of Municipal Buildings

City Council | Item 4.4

December 15, 2025

Tim Behrendt, Maintenance Superintendent



Proposal

- Ordinance amendment to Chapter 5 of the City Code to update the approval of construction contracts for municipal buildings.



Terminology

- Municipal Building – Any City owned facility
- Construction – Any work completed on City facilities



Background

- Ordinance has been in place since 1994
- Council approval for contracts over \$100,000
- Approved by vote of not less than five members of City Council
- Transfer of funds to finance building construction requires affirmative votes of at least five members of City Council
- City Council establishes the construction budget



Recommendation

Staff recommends to change contract amount from \$100,000 to \$175,000 which would align with the City's purchasing policy

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-____, amending Chapter 5 and Article VI of the City Code related to Construction of Municipal Buildings.



**Thank you.
Questions?**



Request for Council Action

Originator Legal	Item 4.3 Public Hearing: Administrative Hearing Technical Amendment Ordinance
Agenda Section HEARINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Motion by _____, seconded by _____ to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-____, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CITY CODE.

Item created by: Melissa Manderschied, Legal
Item presented by: Melissa Manderschied, City Attorney

Description:

Staff recommend the adoption of an ordinance to make a technical amendment to Chapter 1 of the City Code to update references to an outdated position title in the code related to the the city’s civil hearing process. The title Associate City Attorney is no longer used at the City. The City Code text has been generalized to read "City Attorney's office" throughout the section.

A resolution of summary publication is not included due to the brevity of the ordinance.

Attachments:

[Ordinance](#)
[NOPH](#)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-_____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CITY CODE

The City Council for the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 1 of the City Code is hereby amended by deleting those words within brackets and ~~[stricken through]~~ and adding those words that are underlined, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE CITY CODE

ARTICLE II: CIVIL HEARING PROCESS

§ 1.15 PAYMENT OF CIVIL FINE; REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE.

- (a) The person responsible for the violation must either pay the scheduled civil fine to the Community Development Department or request a conference with the City Attorney's office within 25 calendar days after issuance of the administrative citation. This administrative conference will be with the City Attorney's office [or an Associate City Attorney] who has reviewed the underlying facts of the violation, the history of prior violations, the impact of the violation on adjoining properties and any information provided by the person responsible for the violation. Based upon those facts, the City Attorney's office [or an Associate City Attorney] will determine if any settlement options may, consistent with the public health, welfare and safety, be offered to the person responsible for the violation as an alternative to the payment of the entire amount of the fine. This conference shall take place within 20 calendar days of the City Attorney's office receiving the request. If a settlement cannot be reached at the administrative conference, the person responsible for the violation may, at the conclusion of the conference, either pay the fine or request a hearing before an independent hearing officer. A request for an administrative conference must be made to the City Attorney's office by mail or telephone. Only the City Attorney's office [or an Associate City Attorney] has authority to dismiss the citation or waive the scheduled civil fine or both during the administrative conference. Failure to pay the fine or request an administrative conference within 25 calendar days of the date of the citation shall be deemed an admission of the charges set forth therein.

Section 2. This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

Passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary to the Council

City Attorney

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
By the City Council

The Bloomington City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55431, or by electronic means as provided by State law, to consider an ordinance amending City Code § 1.15, related to updating a reference to an outdated position title in the code related to the city's civil hearing process specifically the payment of civil fines and requests for administrative conference.

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is available online at <http://blm.mn/notices> or for review during regular business hours in the City Clerk's Office at the Bloomington Civic Plaza, at the address listed above. For more information or to submit comments prior to the public hearing, contact City Attorney's office, 952-563-4895 or legal@bloomingtonmn.gov.

Publish in the *Sun Current* on December 4, 2025.



Request for Council Action

Originator Planning	Item 5.1 Study Item - Fence Standards Update
Agenda Section ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

No formal action is required at this time. Staff is seeking City Council feedback on proposed code amendments. If directed by City Council, and Ordinance will be drafted and presented in early 2026 at public hearings.

Item created by: Dylan Palmer, Planning

Item presented by: Dylan Palmer, Planner

Description:

Study session examining proposed code changes to the City’s fence ordinance (Sec. 21.301.08)

Attachments:

- [Staff Report](#)
- [Exhibit A - Staff Recommended Fence Code Changes](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: City of Bloomington
Location: Citywide
Request: Study session examining proposed code changes to the City’s fence ordinance (Sec. 21.301.08).

CHRONOLOGY

Planning Commission	12/04/2025	Study session held
Council	12/15/2025	Study session scheduled

STAFF CONTACT

Dylan Palmer, Planner
Phone: (952) 563-8918
E-mail: dpalmer@BloomingtonMN.gov

PROPOSAL

As part of the Planning Commission’s 2025 work plan, evaluation of certain issues within the City’s fence code ([§ 21.301.08](#)) was listed as a project. This study item aims to gather comments from the Planning Commission and City Council in order to develop a fence code ordinance update. The intention of the ordinance update is to consider increased allowance for taller fences, address issues with fence materials, and edit code language to provide more clarity to residents.

BACKGROUND

The City’s fence code was initially adopted on December 1, 2008 as defined in Ordinance No. 2008-43. The ordinance language became effective on December 31, 2008, and is detailed as Code Section 21.301.08. Since the initial passage of the fence code language, several code updates have been made to code language in Section 21.301.08.

In 2025, a fence code study was initiated to review the City’s current fence standards and begin working to update them to create a simpler code for both residents and contractors. As part of the study, fence standards in several nearby peer localities were studied in order to compare them with the existing City code. These peer localities include Edina, Eagan, Richfield, Minneapolis, St. Paul,

and Blaine. Throughout the initial study process, staff from across several City departments were consulted and helped to contribute to new code ideas and code language. One initial item of study was left out of the proposed code update, which was directed at changing fence standards along arterial and collector streets. After discussions with the City’s Engineering Division, it was determined that loosening fence standards along certain streets would impact the goals of slowing vehicle speeds in residential areas and protecting pedestrians, in addition to upholding the overall policy’s intent by maintaining open areas along front yards.

ANALYSIS

The analysis of the fence ordinance falls into five sub-topics. Staff has also prepared a document showing recommended changes and discussion items (highlighted in red text) pertaining to the existing fence ordinance. These concept code changes are attached to the staff report as Exhibit A. Analysis of the five sub-topics of the fence code study is provided as follows:

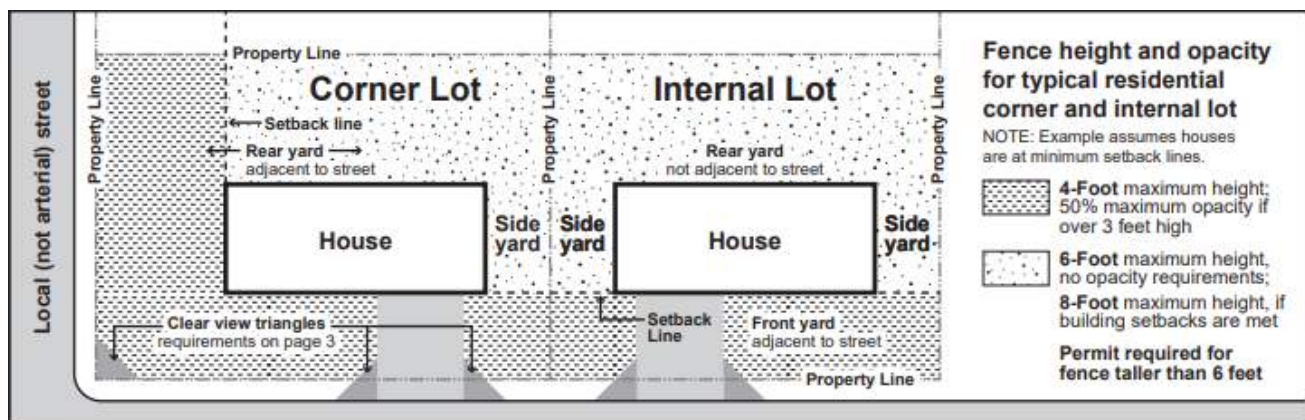
1. Corner Side Yards

The main focus of the fence standards update is to address issues with the fence height and opacity allowance in “corner side yards”, the side yards along streets of homes located on corner lots. Due to the nature of construction and location of many homes on corner lots, residents are not able to effectively maximize the use of their yards for recreation because of the four-foot height and 50 percent openness restrictions along streets. This code update could allow for more flexibility for residents who wish to build a fence taller than four feet in the areas adjacent to their home. Staff has settled on four proposals, all of which are based off fence regulations in peer cities.

Option A – Restrictive (current standards)

Option A would keep current corner lot fence standards as-is, restricting the height to four feet with maximum 50 percent opacity in the side yard along a street. See Figure 1A below:

Figure 1A – Bloomington Fence Height Graphic

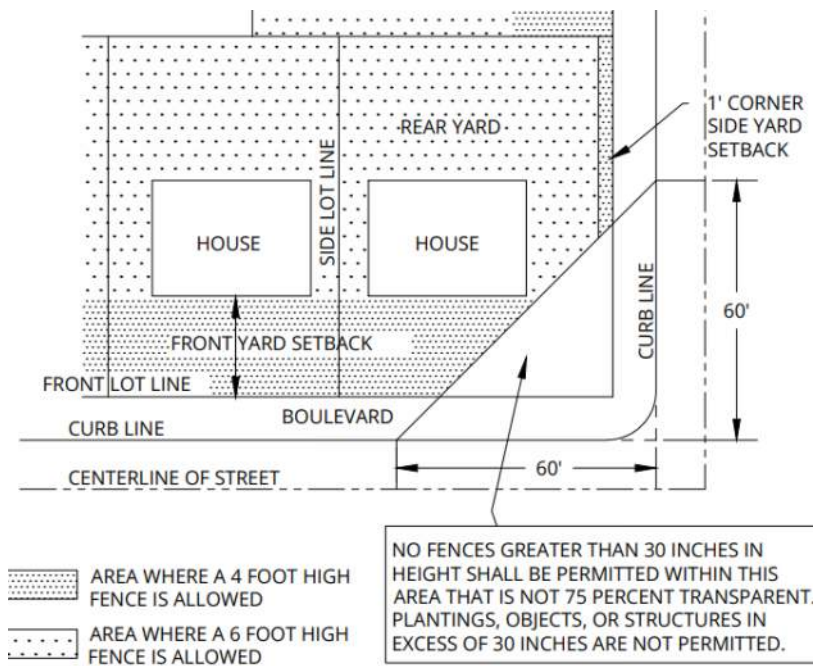


As seen in the graphic above, current standards limit the height of the fence in the side yard of a corner lot to four feet. Fence standards in Edina are similar.

Option B – Less Restrictive

Option B would allow for six-foot tall fences in side yards of corner lots behind the front plane of the principal structure, along with a setback. See Figure 1B below:

Figure 1B: Blaine Fence Height Graphic

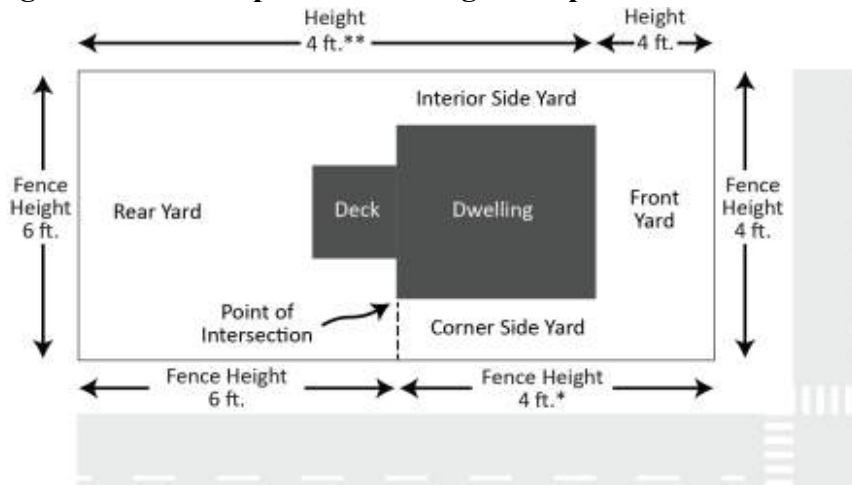


In this case, a six-foot tall fence would be permitted behind the front plane of the principal structure, with a minimal setback from the street-side property line. These requirements are in place in Blaine and Richfield (which sets a three-foot setback). Four-foot fences are still permitted without a setback.

Option C – More Permissive

Option C would allow for six-foot tall fences behind the rear plane of the principal structure. See figure below:

Figure 1C: Minneapolis Fence Height Graphic

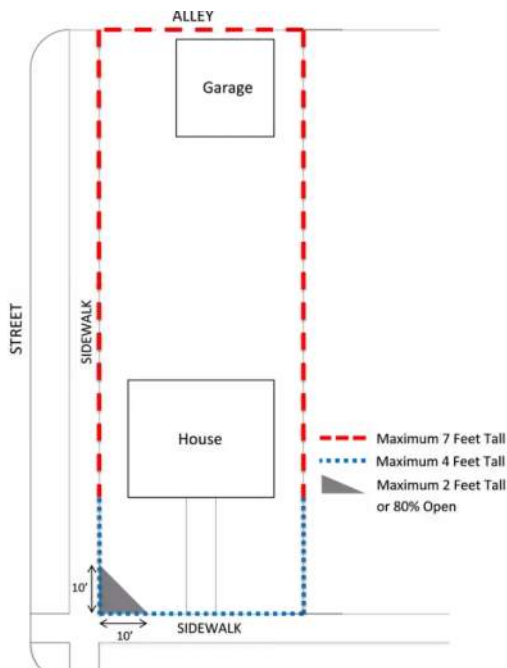


In this case, a six-foot tall fence would be permitted behind the rear plane of the principal structure, with no setback along the street.

Option D – Most Permissive

Option D would allow for a six-foot tall fence with no setback behind the front plane of the principal structure. See figure below:

Figure 1D: St. Paul Fence Height Graphic



This option is based off of Saint Paul’s fence standards for corner lots. Staff is not supportive of raising the fence height limit to seven feet, however this option would allow for a taller fence in the side yard along the principal structure.

Staff Recommendation

If greater allowances are allowed for six-foot tall privacy fencing on corner lots is desired, staff recommends that standards similar to Option C be adopted, allowing for a six-foot tall fence behind the rear plane of the principal structure with no setback requirement. Standards for clear view triangles would not change as part of the proposal. Staff is asking the City Council for information and direction about the four above options.

2. Fence Materials

Staff is proposing to add a new subsection to the Code that specifically defines covering materials that are permitted to be affixed or attached to fencing. This addition was initiated from concerns about using substandard materials or other unaesthetic qualities for fences. Staff’s proposed language is underlined as follows:

“21.301.08(e) Materials.

(1) Permitted materials. Fences must be constructed of wood, metal, bricks, masonry, plastic or other materials designed for permanent outdoor fencing. Wood fences must be constructed of cedar, redwood or other decay resistant wood. Chain link fencing of less than 12 gauge in diameter is prohibited (for example, where 13 gauges are finer and not permitted, and 11 gauges are thicker and permitted).

(2) Prohibited materials. Fences must not be constructed from razor wire, snow fencing, plywood or materials originally intended for other purposes. Above ground electric fencing is not permitted. Barbed wire is permitted only on top of fences in nonresidential districts, a minimum of six feet above the natural grade. Electric fencing or barbed wire is permitted for prescribed grazing as set forth in § 14.99(m).

(3) Fence covering materials. Any screening material placed upon or attached to a chain link fence must be a commercially built product manufactured specifically for use on fencing. Fence screening material must be securely fastened or attached to the fence itself. Plastic slat devices inserted into chain link fencing do not satisfy screening requirements as required in § 21.301.15(d).”

This new consolidated code section brings all materials requirements into one specific code section, providing less confusion for residents and specifically defining which materials are allowable. Several peer cities have similar requirements regarding fence materials, fence coverings, and proper fence maintenance.

Staff propose the following question for feedback and further guidance from the City Council as it pertains to fence materials and fence coverings:

- Should Code Section 21.301.08(h) pertaining to construction of the fence and requiring that the finished side of the fence be placed to the outside be moved into this new code language?

3. Removal of Location Language

Two separate code sections define standards regarding the allowed location for placing a fence near a property line. Code Section 21.301.08(b)(2) states “Fence location on lot. Unless otherwise required by this code, fences are permitted up to, but not over the property line.” Code Section 21.301.08(f)(1) states “Ownership. All fences, including fence footings, must be located entirely on the fence owner’s property.” Staff is proposing to remove both of these code sections based on legal advice and an effort to reduce redundant language. Staff is proposing that Section 21.301.08(b)(2) should read “Fence location on lot. Fences must maintain a clear view triangle area setback.” Section 21.301.08(f) will be rewritten to only contain language that currently exists in Section 21.301.08(f)(2), which pertains to restricting fences being built in public easements. Striking language pertaining to fence location up to property boundaries will help establish clearer expectations as to the City’s role in instances of potential fence trespass, which is a civil matter between private property owners.

4. Removal of Trellis Language

Arbors and trellises are defined as fences in Code Section 21.301.08(m)(1). Arbors and trellises are also defined as permitted encroachments in Code Section 21.301.02 (g)(4)(G), with separate standards. Staff proposes removing all language about arbors and trellises in Section 21.301.08, as the existence of two code sections creates confusion. Staff are proposing to strike section 21.301.08(m)(1) in its entirety. Section 21.301.08(m) will be revised to only contain standards related to walls (currently Section 21.301.08(m)(2)). Only two peer localities (Richfield and Blaine) define arbors and trellises in their respective City Codes, both of whom regulate them as permitted encroachments.

5. Opacity Requirements and Taller Fencing

Opacity. One other potential code change involves the removal of code language related to opacity requirements. Currently, fences within yards along a street are required to have 50 percent opacity if they are over three feet tall and do not meet structure setbacks for the applicable zoning district. The intent of the opacity requirements is to provide for an open feeling on streets and to prevent crime. There are several exceptions to the opacity requirements: fences in a yard adjacent to an arterial street, screening fences required by code or condition of approval, fences in a rear yard when adjacent lots are through lots, fences in the rear yard of a corner lot when the fence is no closer to the street than the garage or principal structure, and vegetation growing on the fence. Clear view triangle requirements will remain unchanged.

Staff propose the following questions for feedback and further guidance from the City Council as it pertains to fence opacity requirements in yards along streets:

- Should the opacity requirements (max 50%) remain in place?
- Should code language be updated to remove restrictions on fences in the rear yard in a corner lot?
- Should code language be updated to lessen restrictions when lots are adjacent to through lots?

Three nearby localities (Eagan, Edina, and Richfield) do not have specific opacity standards in their City Codes. Removing opacity regulations is one of the main ways to simplify the existing policy and make it more user-friendly.

Taller Fencing. Staff is also proposing to update language in Section 21.301.08(c)(2)(B), which currently states that fences eight feet tall have a required front yard setback of 65 feet, and principal structure setbacks of the applicable zoning code for side and rear yard setbacks. Staff is recommending updating code language to remove the 65-foot required setback and instead restrict eight-foot tall fences to applicable principal structure setbacks for all yards.

PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW

On December 4, 2025, the Planning Commission was consulted for their suggestions and recommendations regarding the key four proposed code updates as part of this project. Table 1 below summarizes the conclusions from the Commission’s feedback, with general support staff proposals identified in green, mixed support highlighted in orange, and lack of support highlighted in red.

Table 1: Summary of Planning Commission Feedback

Question Asked	Staff Recommendation	Planning Commission Recommendation
Fence height in “corner side yards”?	Allow for 6ft maximum behind the rear plane of the dwelling.	Overall support to allow for some allowance for taller fences in corner side yards. Options B and C had the most support. Commission was divided on setback requirements and which building plane to set height limit from.
Remove opacity requirements?	Yes, remove 50% opacity requirement.	Planning commission was divided on this topic.
New standards for fence materials?	Yes, limit screening types and add specific language.	Supportive, add language to limit fence covering types.

Question Asked	Staff Recommendation	Planning Commission Recommendation
Allow for 8 ft fences at principal structure setbacks?	Yes, allow for 8ft maximum in compliance with principal structure setbacks.	Not supportive, keep current standards or remove 8ft allowance altogether.

RECOMMENDATION

No formal motion is required at this time. Staff is seeking City Council feedback on proposed code amendments. If directed by City Council, and Ordinance will be drafted and presented in early 2026.

EXHIBIT A: STAFF RECOMMENDED FENCE CODE CHANGES

Ordinance changes or discussion items are documented in **red text**. Proposed amendments are identified by deleting those words that are contained in brackets [] with ~~strikethrough~~ text and adding those words that are underlined

§ 21.301.08 FENCES.

(a) *Purpose and intent.* The city recognizes the health, safety, aesthetic and economic value of fences. The provisions of this section are intended to:

- (1) Allow for areas on site for privacy, while maintaining the city's general open design along streets;
- (2) Provide screening and mitigation of potential conflicts between active areas and more passive areas;
- (3) Enhance the overall aesthetic conditions within the city;
- (4) Limit sight line obstructions;
- (5) Reduce the potential for criminal and illegal activities; and
- (6) Prevent conflicts with utilities and drainage flow.

(b) *Location.*

(1) *Zoning district.* Fences are allowed in any zoning district, subject to the provisions of this code.

(2) *Fence location on lot.* ~~[Unless otherwise required by this code, fences are permitted up to, but not over the property line.]~~ Fences must maintain a clear view triangle area setback.

(c) *Height.* Except where otherwise required by this code, the following regulations apply to fence height. For the purposes of fence height requirements, alleys are not considered a street.

(1) *Limitations.* Except where otherwise required by this code or required by a condition of approval for a development application, the following limitations apply to fence height:

Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

Type of Yard

Maximum Height for Body of Fence

	Residential Use	Nonresidential Use
Yard abutting a street	4 ft.	6 ft.
Yard not abutting a street	6 ft.	10 ft.

(2) *Exceptions and interpretation.* The following exceptions and guidance on interpretation apply to fence height limitations:

(A) A residential fence in a yard abutting an arterial street as designated by the Comprehensive Plan may rise to a maximum height of six feet;

(B) Any residential fence may rise to a height of eight feet if the fence meets the required setback from the property line for a principal structure in the applicable zoning district

~~[(B)—Any residential fence may rise to a height of eight feet if the following locational requirements are all met:~~

~~(i) The fence must not be located in a front yard or yard abutting a street unless it is set back at least 65 feet from the public right-of-way; and~~

~~———(ii) Fences located within side or rear yards not abutting a street must meet the required setback from a specific property line for a principal structure in the applicable zoning district;]~~

(C) A residential fence in the rear yard of a corner lot may rise to a height of six feet ~~[provided the fence meets the minimum setback from the street for a principal structure in the applicable zoning district or provided the fence is no closer to a street than an existing principal structure or garage]~~ when located behind the rear plane of the principal structure to the rear lot line;

(D) A residential fence in the rear yard of a through lot when one or more abutting lots are also through lots may rise to a height of six feet;

(E) A residential fence abutting a nonresidential use may rise to the height of eight feet;

(F) Screening fences required by the city code (see subsection (g)(4) below for references);

(G) Screening fences required by a condition of approval for a development application; and

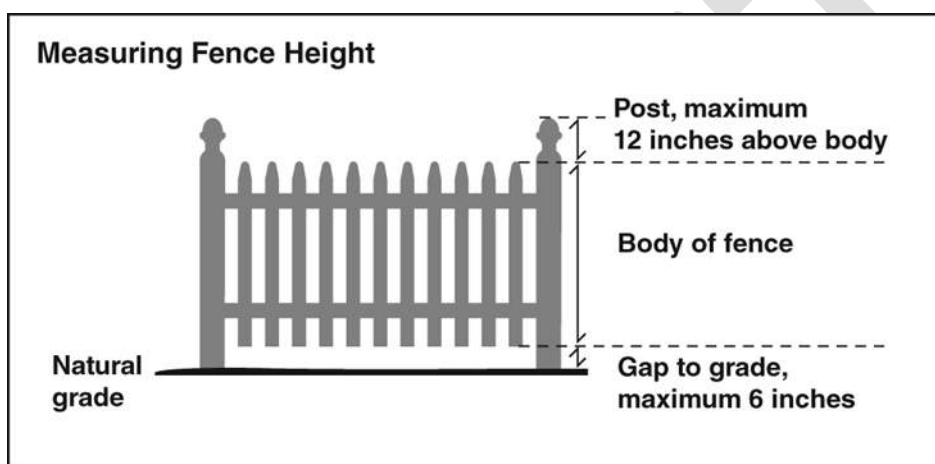
Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

(H) Public chain link fences for public safety and/or public research purposes such as along public trails and/or at public parks.

(3) *Measurement.* Fence height is measured to include the body of the fence, plus allowing a maximum of six inches (on average between posts) above the natural grade (i.e., for drainage purposes). Fence posts are permitted to extend a maximum of 12 inches above the body of the fence. In the event fence height has been elevated through the use of a retaining wall, the creation of a berm or other method for the primary purpose of increasing the elevation of the fence, the fence height is measured from the ground elevation prior to grade modification.

(4) *Graphic illustration: measuring fence height.*

Figure 21.301.08(c)(4)



(d) *Opacity (the degree of openness to which light or views are blocked measured perpendicular to the fence for each fence section between supports).* The following opacity limitations are meant to maintain an open feeling along public streets and to prevent crime.

(1) *Limitations.* Where the body of a fence in a yard adjacent to a street is over three feet in height and does not meet the required setback for a principal structure from a street in the applicable zoning district, the amount of fence opacity is limited to 50%. For the purposes of fence opacity limitations, an alley is not considered a street.

(2) *Exceptions.* The following fences are exempt from opacity limitations:

(A) Fences in a yard adjacent to an arterial street as designated by the City Comprehensive Plan provided a 15-foot clear view triangle area is maintained between the intersection of any driveway with a sidewalk or bikeway;

(B) Screening fences required by the city code (see subsection(g)(4) below for references);

Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

(C) Screening fences required by a condition of approval for a development application;

(D) Fences in the rear yard of a through lot when one or more abutting[adjacent] lots are also through lots;

(E) Fences in the rear yard of a corner lot [~~when the fence is no closer to the street than an existing principal structure or garage~~]; and

(F) Vegetation growing adjacent to or on a fence will not be considered in determining compliance with the opacity requirements for fences.

(3) *Graphic illustration: fence opacity.*

Figure 21.301.08(d)(3)

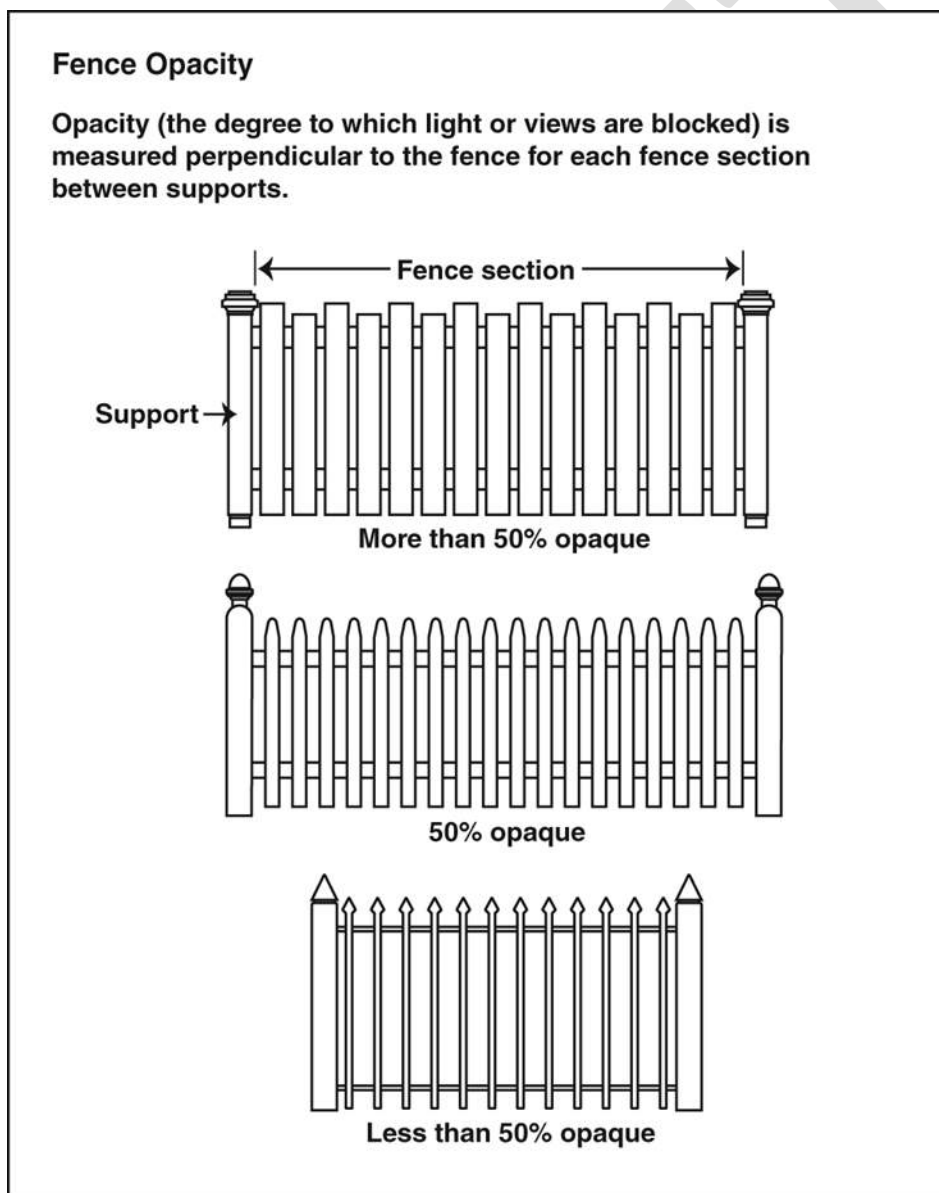


Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

(e) *Materials.*

(1) *Permitted materials.* Fences must be constructed of wood, metal, bricks, masonry, plastic or other materials designed for permanent outdoor fencing. Wood fences must be constructed of cedar, redwood or other decay resistant wood. Chain link fencing of less than 12 gauge in diameter is prohibited (for example, where 13 gauge is finer and not permitted, and 11 gauge is thicker and permitted).

(2) *Prohibited materials.* Fences must not be constructed from razor wire, snow fencing, plywood or materials originally intended for other purposes. Above ground electric fencing is not permitted. Barbed wire is permitted only on top of fences in nonresidential districts, a minimum of six feet above the natural grade. Electric fencing or barbed wire is permitted for prescribed grazing as set forth in § 14.99(m).

(3) *Fence covering material.* Any screening material placed upon a chain link fence must be a commercially built product manufactured specifically for use on fencing. Fence screening material must be securely fastened or attached to the fence itself. Plastic slat devices would not satisfy commercial or industrial property screening requirements as required in § 21.301.15.

(4) [(1)] *Exceptions.* The following fences are exempt from material limitations:

(A) Temporary fences made of chicken wire are permitted for garden and farm poultry enclosure uses only; and

(B) Temporary fence wrap made of material designed to withstand wind loads is permitted for temporary construction or excavation fences pursuant to subsection (l) below.

(f) *Restrictions.* The following restrictions on fences apply to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

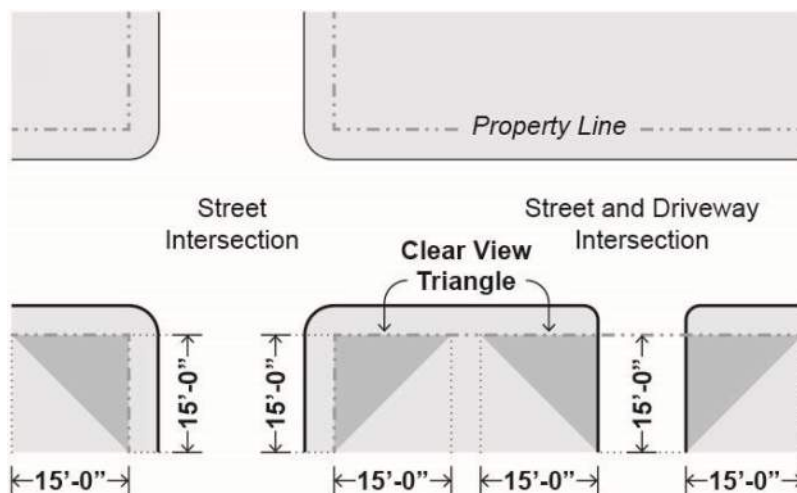
(1) ~~*Ownership.* All fences, including fence footings, must be located entirely on the fence owner's property.~~

—(2) *Public easements.* Fences may not be placed on or extend into a public easement where public improvements are located without approval of an encroachment agreement by the Director of Public Works or designee along with proof that the agreement has been filed with the records for the property in the office of the County Recorder or Registrar of Titles. When installing any part of a permitted fence into a public easement, the city or any agent of the city permitted to use the easement will be held harmless for any and all claims for damage to the fence that might occur when work is performed in the easement. In addition, the city is not responsible or liable for the reinstallation of any fence removed from the easement.

Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

(2[3]) *Clear view triangle.* Fences of any style or material must maintain a clear view triangle area as defined in § 21.601 and shown in Figure 21.301.08(f)(3)(A).

Figure 21.301.08(f)(3)(A)



(3[4]) *Adjacent to sidewalks.* Fences adjacent to public sidewalks must be set back a minimum of two feet from the nearest edge of sidewalk.

(4[5]) *Fire hydrant and utility clear zone.* The area three feet in radius around all fire hydrants, fire hose connections and utility boxes must be kept free of any fencing that could impede access to or use of the hydrant, fire hose connection or utility box.

(5[6]) *Fences in floodways.* Fences are not permitted in floodway areas as designated on FEMA's flood boundary and floodway map.

(6[7]) *Drainage.* A fence must not adversely affect drainage or create debris build-up.

(g) *Where fences are required.* At times this code requires fences to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

(1) *Dog enclosures.* See § 14.92.

(2) *Swimming pool enclosures.* See §§ 14.443 and 15.108.

(3) *Excavations and open pits.* See § 16.25.

(4) *Screening.* See §§ 8.16, 10.05, 10.29.05, 10.38, 10.57, 21.205.06, 21.301.24(i), 21.302.36, 21.302.38, 21.206.04, 21.301.05, 21.301.06, 21.301.13, 21.301.15, 21.301.16, 21.301.17, 21.302.01, 21.302.02, 21.302.13, 21.302.16, and 21.302.31 for specifications on required screening standards, to include fences as a method of screening.

(h) *Fence installation, posts and supporting members.* All fence elements must be permanently installed and constructed in a workmanlike manner to secure the fence in a vertically level position. Fences must be installed so that posts and lateral supports are

Exhibit A: Staff Recommended Code Changes

not on the side of the fence facing an adjacent property or public right-of-way, unless exposed on both sides.

(i) *Maintenance.* All fences must be kept in good repair and appearance on both sides of the fence by its owner and not be in a condition of disrepair or danger, or constitute a public or private nuisance. Peeling, flaking and chipped coating must be eliminated and surfaces recoated. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the area between the property line and the owner's fence.

(j) *Permit.* Fence installations, alterations or repairs do not require a permit, with the following exceptions.

(1) A fence greater than seven feet in height, where permitted by this code, requires a building permit from the City Building and Inspection Division prior to installation.

(2) The installation of a fence within a floodplain as specified in § 21.208.01 requires the approval of the Planning Manager prior to installation.

(3) The installation of a fence within a shore area as specified in § 21.303.01(d) requires a shore area permit from the City Building and Inspection Division prior to installation.

(k) *Utilities.* The property owner is responsible for verifying that no conflicts exist with utilities prior to installation of fencing.

(l) *Temporary fences.* Temporary fences are prohibited in residential districts, except for construction or excavation purposes. A temporary fence wrap is permitted for the duration of the construction or excavation period, subject to the following standards:

(1) Maximum height: six feet; and

(2) Minimum setback: at the greater of the property line, or easement for public sidewalk, or as otherwise approved by the City Engineer.

(m) ~~[Other constructed features. The following constructed features are differentiated from fences.~~

~~—(1) Arbors and trellises. Except where otherwise required in this code, regulations governing fences apply to arbors and trellises used in lieu of a fence or in combination with a fence, except that arbors and trellises used in lieu of a fence may rise once to a maximum height of nine feet for a distance of six feet in length, in compliance with § 21.301.02(g).~~

~~—(2) Walls. Except where otherwise required in this code, regulations governing the height, location and opacity of fences apply to walls used in lieu of a fence or combination with a fence.~~

~~[(n) Effective date. This section will be effective on December 31, 2008.]~~



Fence Standards Review Study Item

City Council – Item 5.2 – December 15, 2025

Presenter: Dylan Palmer, Planner

Objectives



- Update fence code to be clearer for residents and staff, particularly around fence materials, opacity requirements and height requirements.
- Evaluate opportunities to allow additional privacy fencing for residents.
- Make clerical updates – Code originally written in 2008.

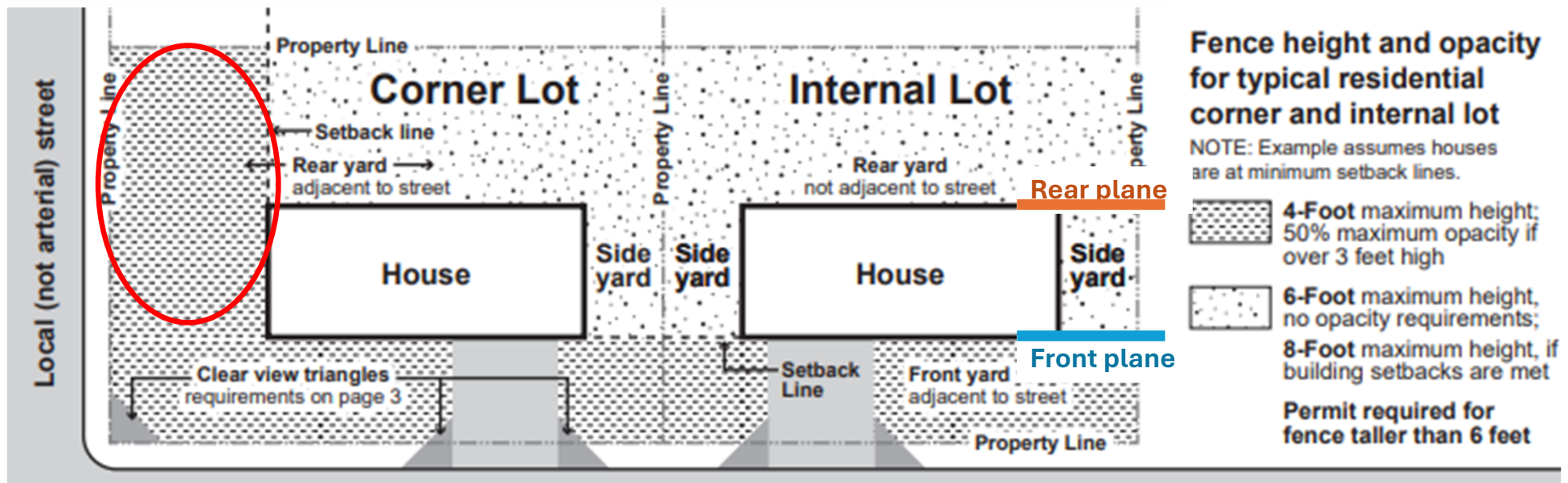
Fence Code Purpose (§21.301.08)



(a) *Purpose and intent.* The city recognizes the health, safety, aesthetic and economic value of fences. The provisions of this section are intended to:

- (1) Allow for areas on site for privacy, while maintaining the city's general open design along streets;
- (2) Provide screening and mitigation of potential conflicts between active areas and more passive areas;
- (3) Enhance the overall aesthetic conditions within the city;
- (4) Limit sight line obstructions;
- (5) Reduce the potential for criminal and illegal activities; and
- (6) Prevent conflicts with utilities and drainage flow.

Current Fence Standards

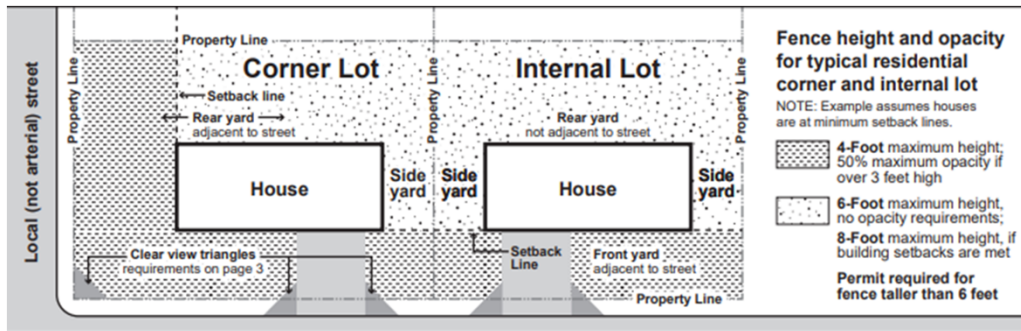


- 4-foot tall fence with max 50% opacity in front yard **and corner side yard**
- 6-foot tall in rear and side yard
- 4-foot tall fence with max 50% opacity in front yard
- 6-foot tall in rear and side yard

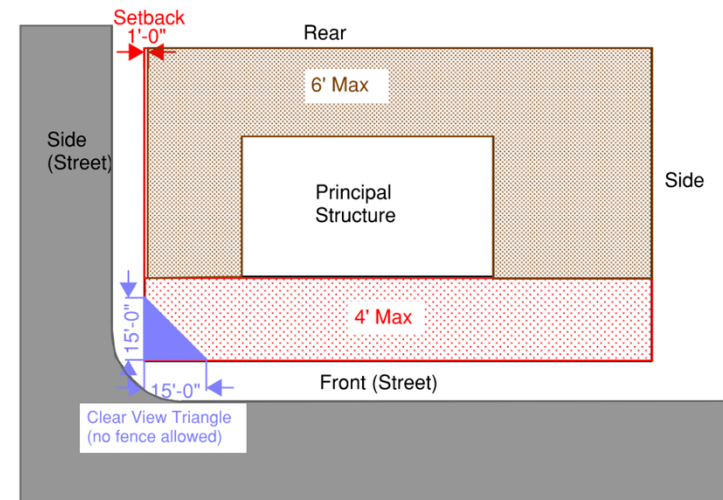
Proposed Options – Corner Lots



Option A – Maintain current standard



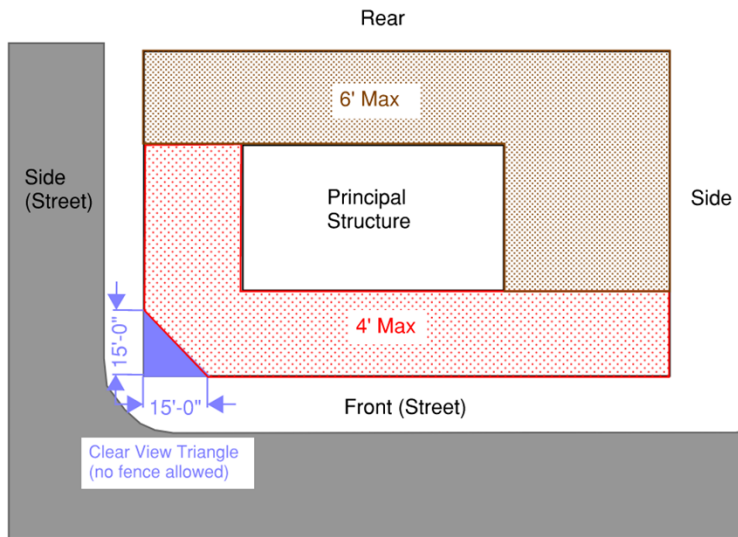
Option B – Allow 6' fence with 1' setback



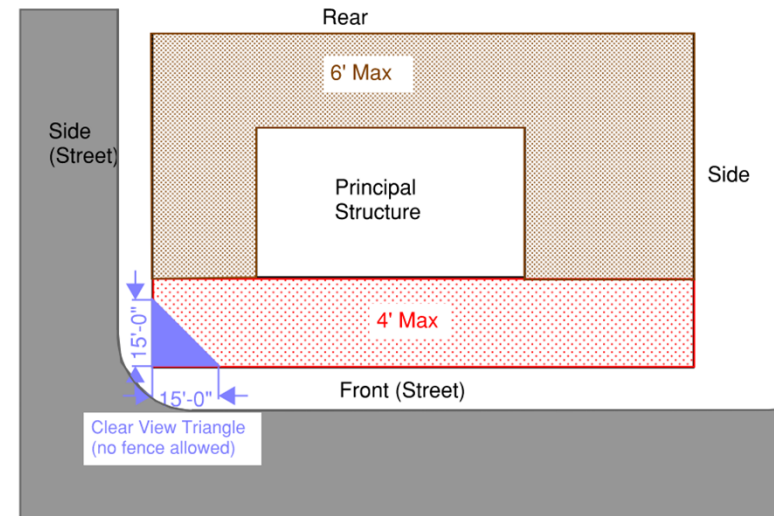
Proposed Options – Corner Lots



Option C – Allow 6' fence at the rear plane of the home



Option D – Allow 6' fence at front plane of the home, no setback



Corner Yard Standard Question



	Option A	Option B	Option C *Staff Supports*	Option D
Allowed fence height	4ft max	6ft max (with setback)	6ft max (no setback)	6 ft max
Side yard definition	Area anywhere on the side of the principal structure	Area behind front plane of the principal structure	Area behind rear plane of the principal structure	Area behind front plane of the principal structure
Peer locality	Bloomington, Edina	Blaine, Richfield	Minneapolis	St. Paul

Most Restrictive  Most Permissive

Which of the 4 options would be most appropriate? Are there any standards from one option that you like in particular?

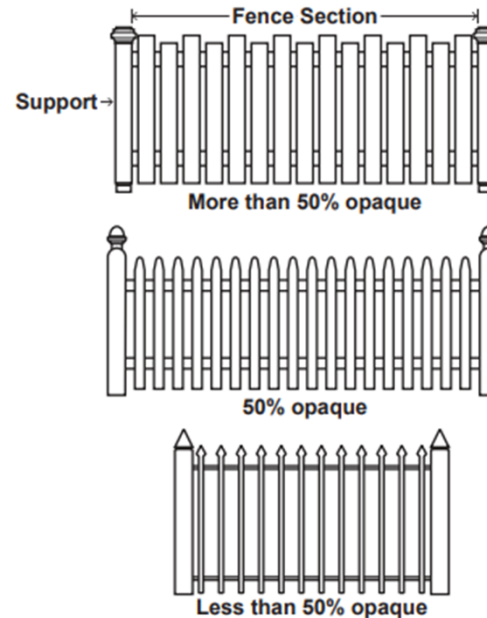
Planning Commission is generally supportive of allowing 6 foot fences in the corner side yard.

Opacity Question

- Does the Council support removing opacity requirements?
 - Current code standards require 50% opacity along streets.
 - Peer cities (Edina, Richfield, Eagan) do not have opacity requirements, focusing on height alone.
 - Staff is supportive of removing opacity requirements to ensure standards are easier for residents to understand.
 - Planning Commission was divided on removing the opacity requirement.

Fence Opacity

Opacity (the degree to which light or views are blocked) is measured perpendicular to the fence for each fence section between supports.



4' tall front yard fence example



Fence Materials



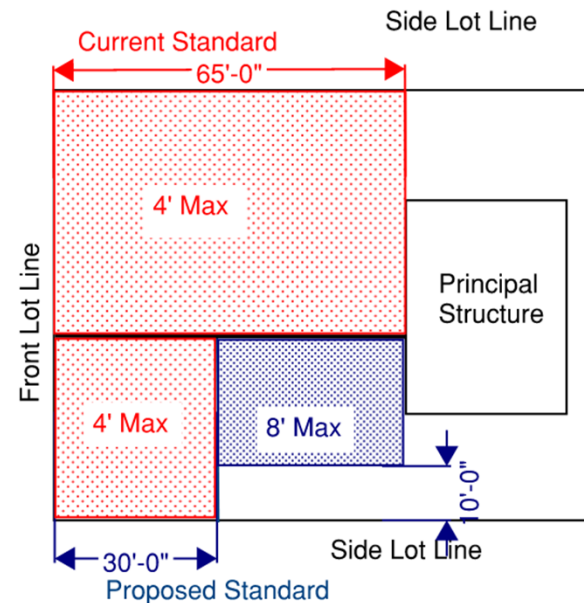
- Clarify plastic slats do not count towards screening requirements.
- Adding language to restrict fence coverings to “be a commercially built product manufactured specifically for use on fencing”.
- Do you support making updates to the fence materials standards?
- Planning Commission is supportive of the proposed updates.





Taller Fences at Structure Setback

- Current standards state that a fence may rise to 8 feet if it is located 65 feet from the front property line.
- Staff proposes allowing 8-foot-tall fences at applicable front structure setbacks (Example: 30ft in R-1).
- Would this be supported by the Council?
- Planning Commission is not supportive of this code update, and also expressed a desire to remove allowances for 8 foot tall fences.



Other Code Updates

- Staff is proposing to remove language that pertains to locating a fence up to the property line. Current language may expose the city to legal challenges.
- Staff is proposing to remove language governing arbors and trellises as fences. These structures are separately defined and regulated as part of the Permitted Encroachments section of code (§21.301.02(g)(4)(G)).



Questions to Council



- Taller Corner Yard Allowance?
 - Option A (no change), B (allow 6 ft fences w/ setback at rear plane), C (allow 6 ft fences w/o setback at rear plane), & D (allow 6 ft fences w/o setback at front plane)
 - *Planning Commission supported Options B & C.*
- Remove Opacity Requirement?
 - *Planning Commission was divided on removing opacity requirements.*
- Amend Permitted Fence Materials?
 - *Planning Commission supported proposed materials requirements.*
- Allow 8 Foot Fences at Front Building Setbacks?
 - *Planning Commission did not support proposed setback changes.*



Request for Council Action

Originator City Manager's Office	Item 5.2 2026 Legislative Platform Discussion
Agenda Section ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Discussion only.

Item created by: Briana Eicheldinger, City Manager's Office

Item presented by: Elizabeth Tolzmann, Deputy City Manager

Briana Eicheldinger, Strategy, Research, and Project Manager

Description:

Discussion of the 2026 Legislative Platform including the priorities Bloomington will lead on and the priorities Bloomington will support. Council will be asked to provide direction to staff. There will be a request to adopt the platform at the December 22, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Attachments:

Presentation

[2026 Legislative Platform Brochure DRAFT](#)

[State bonding request 1: North Central Sanitary Sewer Improvements_2026](#)

[State bonding request 2: Old Shakopee Road Improvement_2026](#)

[Legislative request Dwan_Liquor](#)



2026 Legislative Platform Discussion

December 15, 2025

Elizabeth Tolzmann, Deputy City Manager

Briana Eicheldinger, Strategy, Research, and Project Manager



Agenda

- Timeline
- State Capital Budget Requests
- Bloomington's request for on-sale liquor license for Dwan
- Priorities for Bloomington and the Region
- Federal Topics
- Discussion and Questions



Timeline

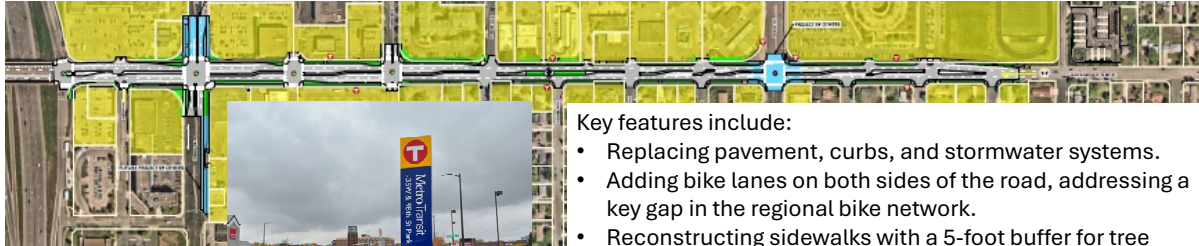


State Capital Budget Request #1: North Central Sanitary Sewer



- Upsizing sanitary sewer capacity
- Accommodate new land use densification
- Higher-density redevelopment
- New housing in the Penn American District

State Capital Budget Request #2: Old Shakopee Road Corridor Improvement Aldrich Ave to 2nd Ave



Key features include:

- Replacing pavement, curbs, and stormwater systems.
- Adding bike lanes on both sides of the road, addressing a key gap in the regional bike network.
- Reconstructing sidewalks with a 5-foot buffer for tree planting and improved pedestrian comfort.
- Upgrading crossings with ADA-compliant ramps and Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS).
- Safety enhancements at key intersections, especially near Kennedy High School.
- Modifying traffic signals and right-turn islands to calm traffic and support bike/pedestrian access.
- Extending a new trail along Lyndale Avenue to connect with major regional trails and the Minnesota River Valley.



Presenting to the House and Senate Capital Investment Committees



Dwan Liquor License



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
**LIFT LIQUOR PROHIBITION ON
 DWAN GOLF COURSE**

One of the City of Bloomington's legislative requests this year is for the state legislature to adopt special legislation to allow the City of Bloomington to serve alcohol at the Dwan Golf Course. Currently, the golf course is only authorized to sell 3.2 beer.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Bloomington is seeking authorization to sell intoxicating liquor at the Dwan Golf Course. Under state law, cities are not specifically authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to golf courses. State law authorizes cities to issue golf courses an intoxicating liquor license if they meet the statutory definitions of either a restaurant or club. Cities are authorized to issue a 3.2% malt liquor license to golf courses.



Priority Topic Areas

- Broadband (ROW)
- Data and Financial
- Economic Development
- Energy and Environment
- Environmental Health



Priority Topic Areas

- Housing
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Transportation and Infrastructure



Federal efforts



- Congressionally Directed Spending “Earmarks”
 - Booster Station Pump Replacement project funding recommendation was just over \$1m (originally requested \$1.5m)
 - Normandale Boulevard Sidewalk and Trail Improvements project \$600,000 (originally requested \$1m)
- Monitoring ongoing federal grant changes related to public health, emergency preparedness, housing, food security, clean energy, transportation, infrastructure, and community safety and security

B L O O M I N G T O N

BEST OF

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
2026



OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO CULTIVATE AN ENDURING AND REMARKABLE COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO BE.

OUR CORE VALUES – WE BELIEVE THAT...

- THE COMMUNITY THRIVES WHEN ITS MEMBERS SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS WELL-BEING.
- TRANSFORMATION WILL COME THROUGH COLLECTIVE COURAGE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS.
- WHEN DIVERSITY IS EMBRACED, THE COMMUNITY IS STRENGTHENED.
- EVERYONE BENEFITS WHEN THERE IS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY.
- SAFETY AND SECURITY ARE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

WE WILL NOT:

- ADD ANY PROGRAM, PROJECT, POLICY, OR SERVICE THAT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH OUR CORE VALUES AND ALIGNED TO OUR MISSION.
- ALLOW PAST PRACTICES TO INTERFERE WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF NEW IDEAS.



CITY COUNCIL



MAYOR
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STATE CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

NORTH CENTRAL SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

- Requesting \$13 million toward the \$27.7 million total estimated project cost

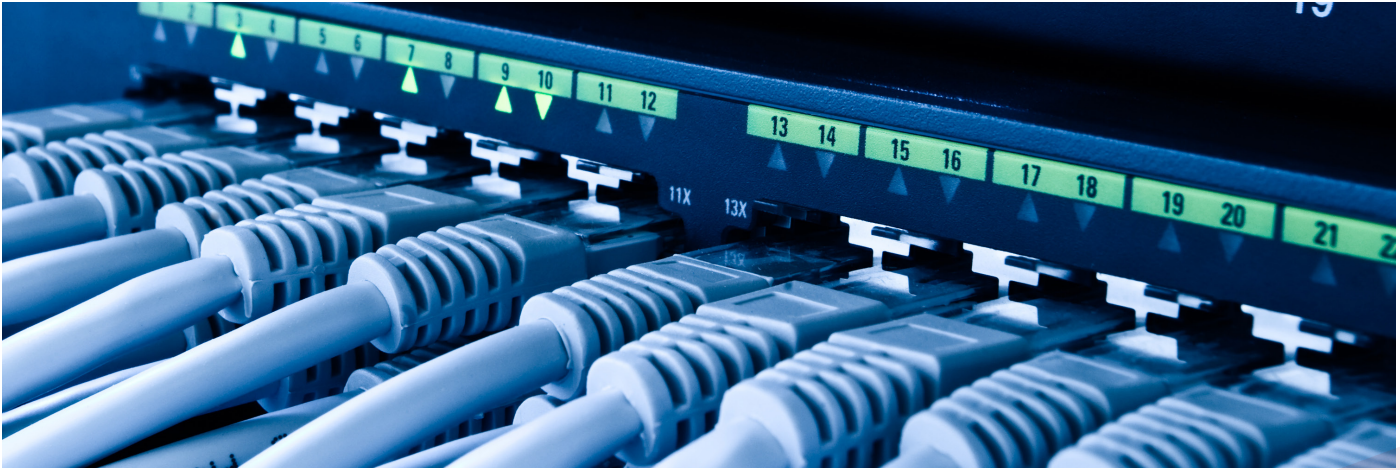
OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT (ALDRICH AVE TO 2ND AVE)

- Requesting \$4.4 million support toward the \$22 million total estimated project cost



BLOOMINGTON'S BILLS

- Special legislation to allow the City to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license for Dwan Golf Course (also requested in 2025)



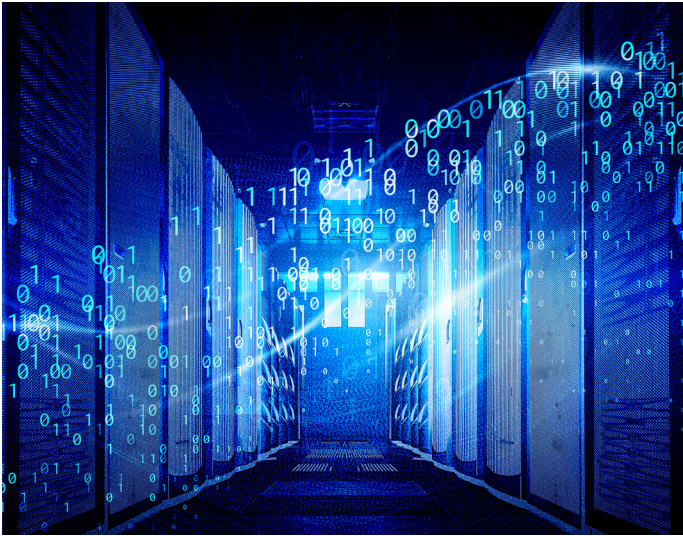
PRIORITIES FOR BLOOMINGTON AND THE REGION

BROADBAND (ROW)

- Support** the Equal Access to Broadband Act: Authorize cities to negotiate franchise agreements with broadband companies for the use of public rights-of-way (ROW). Local franchising is not just a governance preference—it is a fundamental tool that ensures private utilities pay fair compensation for occupying public space that taxpayers have built and maintain. Without clear municipal authority to charge for ROW use, residents effectively subsidize private broadband companies' infrastructure, even as those companies profit from service delivered through publicly owned corridors. Franchising allows cities to address system build-out, expand equitable broadband access, and establish consumer protections tailored to local needs. It also ensures a fair and predictable franchise fee for the significant value represented by public ROW access. These community benefits far exceed what can be achieved through simple permitting of broadband operators. While cities like Woodbury have successfully demonstrated that broadband franchising is both feasible and beneficial, relying on one-off negotiations city by city creates inconsistency and inequity across the state. A uniform, statewide framework that clearly affirms municipal broadband franchising authority is the best way to ensure fairness for taxpayers, predictability for providers, and equal access for communities of all sizes.
- Support** current statutes developed as a result of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. This federally funded initiative aims to expand high-speed internet access across the United States, particularly targeting underserved and unserved communities in each state.

DATA AND FINANCIAL

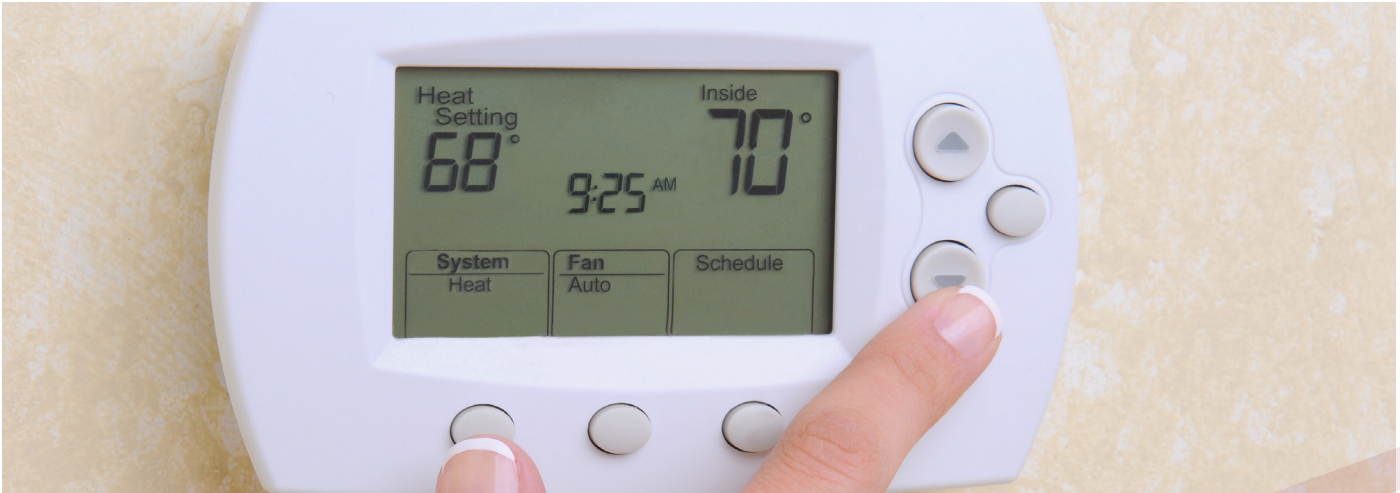
- Support** local governments in maintaining the authority to manage, retain, and delete their data as necessary to meet operational, legal, and privacy requirements. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Chapter 13), local governments must comply with specific requirements for making data publicly available. However, the complexity and volume of data requests have grown significantly in recent years. Supporting local agencies in maintaining authority over data retention practices—so they preserve only essential and relevant records—will help streamline compliance efforts and reduce the overall burden on staff and resources.



- **Support** clarifications to state and pass through federal grantmaking and recordkeeping (ex: audit and sub-grantee agreement templates). State and local governments play a critical role in administering federal funds, often acting as “pass-through” entities that distribute resources to local agencies or community organizations. Variations in grant agreements, audit requirements, and recordkeeping practices can create confusion, administrative inefficiencies, and compliance risks. Local governments are seeking clarity and consistency in how to manage federal grant funds.
- **Support** allowing intergovernmental data-sharing for law enforcement. Clear policies and well-defined systems will enhance public safety agencies’ ability to respond to and solve active and inactive cases.
- **Support** efforts for legislative clarification and statutory amendments to the ‘Clean Slate Act’ of 2023 to ensure consistent responses to requests for government data.
- **Support** aligning property tax levies with the unit of government where services are provided. Local governments in Minnesota occasionally provide residents and businesses similar types of services. Where similar services are provided by different levels of local government, property tax levies for those services should only apply to those areas receiving the service.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Support** startup funding for unique tourism projects. Home to 49 hotels and over 9,500 hotel rooms, Bloomington is a tourism hub for the region and State. To maintain and grow tourism in this area, creative partnership and funding strategies will be needed.
- **Support** reinstatement of cannabis tax revenue to cities. In 2025 the legislature eliminated the Local Government Cannabis Aid account, the only cannabis specific funding provided to cities and counties. This aid was a critical part of the state and local relationship for administration and implementation, however, it was repealed before it was ever dispersed to cities and counties. Restore the Local Government Cannabis Aid fund to ensure adequate funding for local governments to implement the law and respond to challenges resulting from the cannabis industry. Cities and counties should be able to recover costs from assisting businesses and implementing the law through fees or other revenue sources.



- **Support** reform of the construction sales tax exemption. Removing the state sales tax on materials used for all types of city capital improvement projects would save money for property taxpayers. The city could reduce the amount of debt issued or reserves used for these projects, which would reduce the tax levy needs. This change would make it more affordable to build and maintain essential public facilities like parks, fire stations, and streets. It ensures local tax dollars go directly toward local community improvements.
- **Support** investment in expanding microelectronics and other high-tech manufacturing. Bloomington's growing cluster of these types of companies provides high paying jobs, drives local economic growth, diversifies Bloomington's economy, and aligns with the State's strategic efforts to strengthen these industries.
- **Support** Tax Increment Financing (TIF) policies that improve the ability to support affordable housing, business expansion, and redevelopment projects. Bloomington seeks flexibility in this important economic development tool to allow for creative and strategic investments that overcome current barriers to desired development. For example, allow excess TIF dollars to be transferred into a city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- **Support** childcare feasibility study or regional efforts in this space. Employers and job seekers consistently report that access to childcare is a barrier to successful employment. There is an opportunity to better understand the problem and create shared solutions.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Support** establishing a right to cooling standard for Minnesotans. Landlords in Minnesota are required to keep rental temperatures at a minimum of 68° F from October 1 through April 30 for all units where residents cannot control the temperature themselves. This protects residents from extreme temperatures in the winter, but there are no protections in the summer. A right to cooling standard would change this. It would ensure safe indoor temperatures by minimizing residents' exposure to extreme heat. The City recommends using a maximum indoor temperature between 82°F and 86°F for this legislation.
- **Support** efforts to increase Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) funding. Cities need greater state investment in SCORE grants to meet local and regional recycling and waste diversion goals, address today's more complex solid waste challenges, and keep valuable materials out of the trash. Currently, 27% of the State Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) still goes to the state's General Fund rather than directly supporting waste reduction and recycling. This user tax on trash should be fully reinvested in local solid waste and sustainability programs in order to meet the State metro recycling goal of 75%.



- **Support** energy affordability efforts to ensure residents can maintain safe and healthy living conditions. This includes funding programs that lower residents' energy bills as well as programs that help pay for energy efficiency upgrades. Half of Bloomington's single-family homes are under insulated which makes heating and cooling homes more expensive. 82% of Bloomington's housing stock was built in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, while only 4% of the City's housing stock was built in the 1990's and later.
- **Oppose** closure of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) without first meeting the County's 85% recycling and diversion goal identified for an environmentally responsible closure of the facility. The City supports a phased and data-driven approach that ensures regional waste processing capacity, environmental outcomes, and equity impacts are fully addressed. Any transition away from HERC must include a clear, sustainable plan for managing the waste currently processed by the facility.
- **Oppose** efforts to repeal the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act. Passed in 2024, the Act (Minn. Stat. § 115A.144-115A.1463) establishes a producer responsibility framework for managing packaging materials. This legislation holds producers and brand owners accountable for the full lifecycle of their packaging and directs them to fund recycling and waste reduction efforts that have historically been paid for by local governments and residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- **Support** exemption of temporary food licenses from Statewide hospitality fee. Per MS 157.16, subd. 3a, the Minnesota Department of Health collects a \$50 hospitality fee that is in addition to the license fee. Public and community events serving food for a day or part of a day are charged the same \$50 fee as a restaurant operating 365 days of the year. Legislation to exempt temporary food event from the hospitality fee has been introduced both in 2024 and 2025.



HOUSING

- **Support** reinstating the ability for cities to license and inspect group homes. MS 144G.45, subd. 3 enacted on 5/16/24 prohibits cities from issuing rental licenses to state (MDH and DHS) licensed group homes. This means state licensed group homes, housing the most vulnerable tenant population, are no longer receiving annual safety and maintenance inspections or complaint investigations like the rest of the rented houses, condos, townhomes, and apartment buildings in the city. A group of northwest metro cities led by Brooklyn Park has drafted a detailed position that includes this topic as well as allowing cities to control the number and concentration of congregate care facilities for more equitable regional distribution.
- **Support** the continuation and expansion of Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA), including allowing a small percentage of LAHA to be used for administrative costs. LAHA is a valuable tool for cities to assist with funding local housing needs, including homeowners, housing production, and rental assistance. The need for LAHA funds far outpaces current resources. Administering these funds also requires resources to ensure compliance, which is currently not an allowed use.
- **Support** well-crafted policies and programs that increase regional housing supply and affordability (e.g. missing middle, building code, zoning, opportunity housing, affordable homeownership, small landlord rehab loans). Bloomington recognizes the complexity of housing development and is a leader in removing barriers to housing production despite being a fully developed community. Yet, we know there are additional policies and programs that could help Bloomington and the State increase housing supply and affordability. Bloomington seeks to be a leader and a partner in advancing legislation that supports housing affordability through all available avenues.



- **Support** HOA regulation reform that would help HOAs and their members resolve disputes outside of the courtroom. Needed reform also includes Minnesota FAIR plan that would establish a reinsurance program to backstop property & casualty insurers who have been unable to obtain reinsurance on the private market.
- **Support** funding for housing construction and rehabilitation; housing navigation services; rental assistance; homelessness prevention, response, and shelter capacity. Funding for these purposes currently falls far short of the need to address the housing crisis.
- **Support** the reporting of rent payments to credit bureaus to strengthen credit building and help aspiring homeowners improve credit scores. Reporting tenant rent payments to credit bureaus can improve tenants' credit, increasing their opportunity for homeownership or other financial products.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Support** the expansion of the definition of “mental health provider or practitioner” to allow providers to bill for service. As the mental health workforce shrinks, Certified Peer Support Specialist, Community Health Workers, School counselors, Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselors, family and caregiver support specialists and community-based or traditional healers are increasingly doing more mental health work. Increasing the hours they can bill or allowing them to bill would expand access to mental health service.
- **Support** consistent standards statewide for rapid access to mental health support. This would include piloting a benchmark of an initial consultation within 7 days of request for outpatient mental health services and a 30-day benchmark for follow up appointments. Support a youth access standard requiring each school district to provide at least one licensed mental health professional per 250 students, consistent with American School Counselor Association guidance.



PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Support** universal law enforcement background checks to allow for the standardization of material each public safety organization must review when conducting employment background checks on perspective employees. Also, require all employers who operate within the state of Minnesota to disclose all requested employment documentation to public safety organizations conducting background investigations.
- **Support** funding embedded social work program as this program has been invaluable at providing resources and stabilization services, such as housing and food access, to those who come into contact with police officers.
- **Support** funding therapist programs that serve residents by providing free in-home therapy to those who are in crisis as a result of suffering from addiction, mental health issues, or other social problems.
- **Support** statewide restorative court so that defendants' opportunities for success and stability are not determined by the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. Currently, only Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Minneapolis, Oakdale, and Saint Paul offer restorative court. Restorative court eligibility is based on criteria including the type of crime. Social workers help defendants address the underlying problems (such as lost paperwork) so the defendants can return to being law abiding citizens, thereby reducing costs of policing and prosecuting livability offenses.
- **Support** funding for State bomb squads. Bloomington has one of only four in MN and funding these units is vital to their ability to continue to provide this critical public safety service. The public safety of Minnesota's citizens will be put at risk if these units are not funded.



TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Support** limiting local cost participation with modifications to Cost Participation Policy (CPP). By limiting local cost participation, we can reduce the financial strain on local governments while ensuring every community benefits from safe, reliable highways, bridges, and alternative transportation systems while also ensuring local roads, trails and sidewalks and other transportation components have funding.
- **Support** transit that meets local needs including higher frequency service, on demand service, and last-mile connections. When transit reflects the needs of the community--through frequent service, on demand options, and better last-mile connections people have more freedom and reliability in how they travel. These improvements make it easier for people to get to work, school and essential services while supporting local mobility, economic opportunity and reducing congestion/greenhouse gases.
- **Support** the 494 Corridor Commission's requests for \$300,000 per year in on-going funding to support their efforts to promote alternatives to driving alone, including telework, vanpools, carpools, transit, and biking to work. The Commission has received annual state funds for over a decade, and these funds are critical to sustaining the services.

ADDENDUM:

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING:

I-494 CORRIDOR COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES – POLICIES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION PLATFORM

METRO CITIES – POLICIES

MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION – POLICIES



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON | STATE BONDING REQUEST

NORTH CENTRAL SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

The City of Bloomington is seeking funding assistance to improve sanitary sewer capacity in Bloomington adjacent to Interstate 494 and 35W.

The project includes upsizing sanitary sewer capacity to accommodate new land use densification in Bloomington. Redevelopment, including new affordable housing units, has created the need for additional sanitary sewer capacity and infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

The majority of the City's sanitary sewer system was originally constructed in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. It was designed to serve the projected land uses anticipated at that time. In the Penn American area, land uses typically consisted of low-density residential, large retail, and small manufacturing.

Recently, the City has been striving for redevelopment that better meets the needs of the community and region that includes housing and mixed-use developments resulting in densification, particularly around existing transportation infrastructure to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The pending development in the Penn American District cannot be accommodated by the existing sanitary sewer utility and available City funds are limited. Additional funds are needed to support further community growth.



THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS SEEKING APPROVAL FOR \$13 MILLION IN FUNDING TO IMPROVE SANITARY SEWER CAPACITY ADJACENT TO INTERSTATE 494 AND 35W. THE TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST IS \$27.7 MILLION.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Central Sanitary Sewer project consists of construction of 13,330 linear feet of 18-inch to 24-inch sanitary sewer pipe in north central Bloomington, also serving the Penn American District. The project limits extend from American Boulevard and Morgan Avenue to Syndicate Avenue and West 92nd Street and includes a crossing underneath Interstate I-35W just south of the I-35W/I-494 interchange.

This new infrastructure is necessary to accommodate sanitary sewer flows expected to be generated by higher-density redevelopment including housing in the Penn American District adjacent to the Orange Line, I-35W and I-494. Development and redevelopment in this district are consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and City and regional goals.

PROJECT COST AND SCHEDULE

Project design is planned to take place in 2025 with construction for 2026 and 2027. The project's total construction cost is estimated to be \$27.7 million. The City is seeking \$13 million in funding support to help fund the infrastructure improvements providing regional benefit.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact Utilities Superintendent Scott Anderson at smanderson@bloomingtonmn.gov or 952-563-4867.

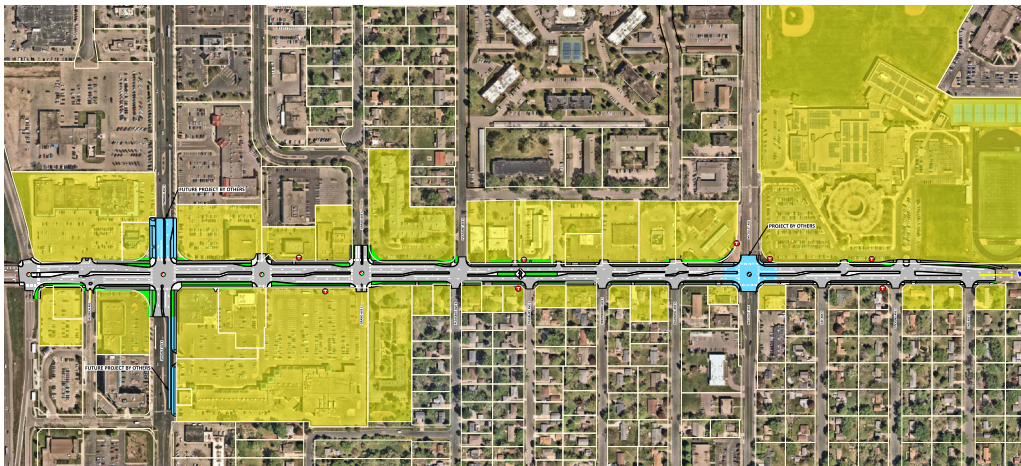




CITY OF BLOOMINGTON | STATE BONDING REQUEST

OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

ALDRICH AVE TO 2ND AVE




The Old Shakopee Road (CSAH 1) project from Aldrich Avenue to 2nd Avenue will replace pavement, curb, and stormwater structures, improve safety, and add ADA-compliant curb ramps, Accessible Pedestrian Signals, and new multimodal facilities. Intersection upgrades—including a three-quarter intersection—will reduce conflict points, add missing bicycle facilities, and create a safer corridor for all users. This investment provides essential, ADA-compliant infrastructure to meet the needs of residents, businesses, and other corridor users.

**THE TOTAL ESTIMATED
PROJECT COST IS \$22
MILLION. THE CITY IS
SEEKING \$4.4 MILLION IN
FUNDING SUPPORT**

REGIONAL BENEFIT

The I-35W and 98th Street area is designated by the Metropolitan Council as a regional destination job center, anchored by a major Transit Station serving the METRO Orange Line and other key transit routes. County Road 1 links I-35W and Highway 77, supporting efficient travel between two north-south freeways and this job hub.

The project's trail improvements will fill a major gap in east-west bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, advancing the Metropolitan Council's Regional Bicycle Transportation Network priorities:

- 
- Extending the Tier 1 Old Shakopee Road corridor, which connects regional destinations and local bike networks
 - Linking to the Tier 2 Lyndale Avenue trail system
 - Strengthening connections to Nicollet Avenue, a key north–south corridor between Bloomington and downtown Minneapolis that supports a busy transit route (Route 18) slated for future bus rapid transit

By creating safe, direct connections between transit, employment centers, and local neighborhoods, this project enhances regional mobility for commuters, residents, and visitors—whether they travel by bike, bus, or on foot.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Bloomington, in conjunction with Hennepin County, is planning improvements along Old Shakopee Road (CSAH 1) from Aldrich Avenue to 2nd Avenue to enhance safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users. Historically, the corridor prioritized fast car travel, limiting safe options for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. This project will maintain essential infrastructure while transforming the corridor into a more inclusive and sustainable transportation route.

Key features include:

- Replacing pavement, curbs, and stormwater systems.
- Adding bike lanes on both sides of the road, addressing a key gap in the regional bike network.
- Reconstructing sidewalks with a 5-foot buffer for tree planting and improved pedestrian comfort.
- Upgrading crossings with ADA-compliant ramps and Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS).
- Safety enhancements at key intersections, especially near Kennedy High School.
- Modifying traffic signals and right-turn islands to calm traffic and support bike/pedestrian access.
- Extending a new trail along Lyndale Avenue to connect with major regional trails and the Minnesota River Valley.
- Utility adjustments to support new trails and sidewalks.

The area includes vulnerable communities and is impacted by traffic-related pollution. These improvements aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support safer, greener, and more equitable transportation for all.

PROJECT COST AND SCHEDULE

Project design and easement acquisition will take place in 2026-2027 with construction planned for 2028-2029 and phased with two other area projects to ensure mobility through the area. The estimated project cost is \$22 million, with Hennepin County committed to 3/4 of the overall cost. The City is seeking \$4.4 million to help fund the infrastructure improvements.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact City Engineer Julie Long at jlong@bloomingtonmn.gov or 952-563-4865.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

LIFT LIQUOR PROHIBITION ON DWAN GOLF COURSE

One of the City of Bloomington's legislative requests this year is for the state legislature to adopt special legislation to allow the City of Bloomington to serve alcohol at the Dwan Golf Course. Currently, the golf course is only authorized to sell 3.2 beer.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Bloomington is seeking authorization to sell intoxicating liquor at the Dwan Golf Course. Under state law, cities are not specifically authorized to issue an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to golf courses. State law authorizes cities to issue golf courses an intoxicating liquor license if they meet the statutory definitions of either a restaurant or club. Cities are authorized to issue a 3.2% malt liquor license to golf courses.



If a golf course does not have a restaurant or is not a club, as defined in state law, they are not permitted to sell intoxicating liquor. The state legislature has approved similar authorizations for other municipal golf courses to sell intoxicating liquor, such as the Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course.

QUESTIONS

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Director Ann Kattreh at akattreh@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8876.



Request for Council Action

Originator City Manager's Office	Item Additional Attachments
Agenda Section ATTACHMENTS	Date December 15, 2025

Requested Action:

Item created by: Priyanka Rai, City Manager's Office

Description:

Additional Attachments for 12.15.25

Attachments:

[12_15_25.pdf](#)

From: [Walker, Zach](#)
Cc: [Berggren, Kim](#); [Behrendt, Tim](#); [Larson, Kim](#); [Rai, Priyanka](#); [Hedin, Kathy](#); [Tolzmann, Elizabeth](#); [Economy-Scholler, Lori](#); [Carlson, Kari](#); [Barrett, Steven](#)
Subject: 12/15/25 City Council Agenda Q & A
Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 2:36:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor and City Council,

Below are the answers provided by City staff to the questions we received for tonight's agenda. Councilmember Dallessandro has the Consent Agenda this evening. Please let me know if you have anything you'd like to hold so we can alert staff.

3.1 Resolution Approving 2026 Recreation Facility Enterprise Fund Budgets

Have we adopted an enterprise fund policy that sets cost-recovery goals and a reserve standard? Are our recreation enterprise funds on a sustainable path given the 2026 outlook, and what immediate risks should Council be most concerned about?

Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer: Enterprise funds are used for services that operate in a business-like manner, where costs are recovered in part through user fees rather than entirely through property taxes. They are not required to achieve 100% cost recovery in all cases. The City balances financial sustainability with affordability, access, and overall community benefit when determining the appropriate level of tax support for recreation facilities. Overall, the recreation enterprise funds are on a sustainable path for 2026, though sustainability varies by facility:

- **Golf:** Fully self-supporting; no property tax support for operations.
- **Ice Garden:** Limited tax support in 2026; trending toward full cost recovery post-renovation.
- **Center for the Arts:** Not expected to reach full cost recovery due to civic and nonprofit use; revenue and cost-efficiency study underway.
- **Aquatics:** Most financially challenged due to seasonality, aging infrastructure, and capital needs; will continue to require tax support. Indoor and outdoor pools serve different but complementary roles, with the outdoor pool meeting high-volume summer demand, providing heat relief, and preserving a type of recreational experience that an indoor facility cannot fully replace.
- The **Solid Waste Fund** is fully supported by user fees and requires no property tax support

Key risks to monitor include long-term capital reinvestment and revenue volatility tied to weather and participation. Staff will continue to monitor performance. The City does not have a separate enterprise fund policy specific to recreation facilities.

3.3 Approve First Amendment – 9E.2 Painting for the Bloomington Ice Garden

Why? Where are we at overall on the budget/contingency for the project? Do we have a good idea on where it will come in at? Why didn't the temporary chillers get paid from the project budget?

Tim Behrendt, Maintenance Superintendent: Some wall materials had to be changed, which increased preparation and painting needs. Overall, the renovation project remains under budget and is expected to be completed within the approved budget. Temporary chillers are coming out of BIG's operating budget. If funds are available at the close of the project those funds will be used instead of BIG's operating budget.

3.8 Resolution Approving the 2026 Final HRA Levy

For those partnership agreements, do we have contractual safeguards or contingency clauses (termination rights, scope reductions, or funding-trigger language), and if not, can staff recommend standard contract language or operational triggers we could use if federal funding is reduced?

Sarah Abe, HRA Administrator: Each contract contains a clause that the HRA may immediately terminate the agreement without penalty if State or Federal funding is reduced or removed.

4.1 Resolutions – 2026 Property Tax Levy and General Fund Budget

As reduction to 6.9 are made, will there be any impacts to the quality of the services we provide?

- Public Safety (Fire) Impact
- Public Safety: Policy/Public Health/Public Works
- Programs and Access Impact
- Project Delivery/Maintenance Impact

Please comment if there are additional changes to responses to this given the move down: We started this year with a preliminary budget increase of 17.9% and landed at a final 7.4%. If we move forward with this final budget, what does the outlook look like for 2027 or even 2028? Are we setting ourselves up for another significant increase in the next year or two, or do you see things stabilizing?

Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer: The reductions that lowered the levy to 6.96% were achieved through one-time adjustments, updated revenue assumptions, debt service savings, Priority-Based Budgeting alignment, and targeted use of levy stabilization. No significant impacts to service levels are anticipated in 2026.

- **Public Safety (Fire):** No impacts to emergency response or core fire services. Adjustments reflect updated staffing assumptions and increased Fire State Aid.
- **Public Safety, Public Health, and Public Works:** No reductions to frontline services. Changes were focused on efficiencies and alignment, not service cuts.
- **Programs and Access:** Community programs and access remain intact with no reductions in service availability.
- **Project Delivery and Maintenance:** Capital and debt planning adjustments reflect timing and financing decisions, not canceled projects.

Looking ahead, current projections show an estimated starting-point levy increase of approximately 8% for both 2027 and 2028. While these figures will continue to be refined, they indicate a stabilizing trend rather than a return to double-digit increases.

Does the budget include the 4% step increase plus 2% COLA, providing a 6% pay increase for staff? If not, what is included and the average increase?

Kari Carlson, Deputy Finance Officer: The 2026 budget includes the new compensation plan, with a 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective January 1, 2026, and 4% step increases that occur on individual employee anniversary dates throughout the year. Because step increases are phased in over the course of the year, this does not result in a 6% increase for the full year. When modeled across active employees, the combined impact in 2026 is closer to an average 4% payroll increase.



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City Manager

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Context | Developer | Empathy | Positivity | Adaptability

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