



# OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

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## HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Troy Warner, Sharon McBride\*, Dr. Oliver Davis, Savino Rivera Jr.

Committee Members Absent:

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Sheila Niezgodski

Other Council Present:

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers\*, Sherry Bolden-Simpson\*, Karen L. White, Canneth Lee

Others Present:

Jasmine Jackson, Matthew Neal, Lari'onna Green, Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Canneth Lee

Agenda:

Bill No. 25-48 - Resolution on Behalf of the South Bend Common Council Consenting to the Renewal or Continuance of a Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency Until Any Order or Proclamation Lawfully Terminates the Local Disaster Emergency or the Passage of a Resolution by the Common Council Revoking This Consent

Members marked with an asterisk (\*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=401426>

Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner called to order the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:00 P.M.

**Bill No. 25-48 - Resolution on Behalf of the South Bend Common Council Consenting to the Renewal or Continuance of a Declaration of a Local Disaster Emergency Until Any Order or Proclamation Lawfully Terminates the Local Disaster Emergency or the Passage of a Resolution by the Common Council Revoking This Consent**

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Jasmine Jackson  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK / CHIEF OF STAFF

Matthew Neal  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Margaret Gotsch  
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Council President Canneth Lee presented the bill. He said the bill allows the Council to extend the current emergency declaration until the next Council meeting.

Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis asked when Council will revisit the extension.

Attorney Bob Palmer, Council Attorney, with offices on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, said Council will revisit the extension every two (2) weeks during Council meetings. He explained that executive orders are only valid for seven (7) days, unless extended by the Council.

Committee Member Dr. Davis asked how this applies to the four (4) week break from December to January.

Attorney Palmer clarified that the extension lasts between Council meetings, even if the interim is longer than two (2) weeks. He said organizational meetings do not count as Council meetings.

Citizen Member Savino Rivera Jr. asked about the process for allocating additional funds during the ongoing emergency.

Attorney Palmer said the bill pertains to the establishment of a local disaster, not appropriation of funds. He said any additional funds would come through an executive order or Council action.

Committee Vice Chair Warner clarified that the bill allows the moratorium on utility shutoffs to continue.

Council President Lee added that the moratorium only applies to residents enrolled in the Utility Assistance Program (UAP).

Councilmember Karen L. White clarified that residents will still owe their unpaid utility bills when the moratorium is over.

Citizen Member Rivera, Committee Member Dr. Davis, and Council President Lee discussed misconceptions in the community about the utility shutoff moratorium.

Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson asked about residents who qualify for UAP but are not enrolled.

Darryl Scott, Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office, with offices on the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, said the moratorium will apply to these residents once they are enrolled in the program. He said he would present more information at the full Council meeting.

Councilmember Bolden-Simpson spoke about the role of the Utilities Committee regarding this issue. She said the bill should have been brought before the Utilities Committee in a joint hearing.

Committee Member Dr. Davis asked if the Utilities Committee will be involved in future discussions about the emergency declaration.

Council President Lee affirmed this.

Committee Vice Chair Warner opened the public hearing.





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Jordan Giger, 302 South Falcon Street, South Bend, IN 46619, spoke in favor of the bill. He said the public still needs more information about UAP and called for another hearing.

Henry Davis Jr., 5117 Idlewood Drive, South Bend, IN 46619, spoke in favor of the bill. He suggested further actions the City can take to help residents in need.

Committee Vice Chair Warner closed the public hearing.

Committee Member Dr. Davis moved to send Bill No. 25-48 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Warner and carried by a vote of four (4) ayes with two (2) Committee Members absent.

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Absent</i>	Committee Member Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>	Citizen Member Savino Rivera Jr. – <i>Aye</i>

With no further business, Committee Vice Chair Warner adjourned the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy Warner, Committee Vice Chair

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