

**REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON MINUTES**

**TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND:**

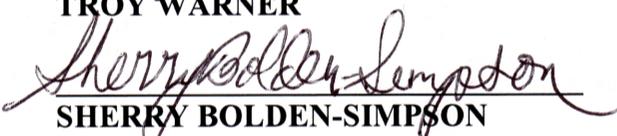
**THE SUB-COMMITTEE HAS INSPECTED THE MINUTES OF THE**

**DATE: 01-12-2026**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AND FOUND THEM TO BE CORRECT.**

**THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THE SAME BE APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**TROY WARNER**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SHERRY BOLDEN-SIMPSON**

**APPROVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL ON: 01-26-2026**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK**

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of South Bend, Indiana, met in person on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. Council President Canneth Lee called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by President Lee, and the Pledge to the Flag was given.

**Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:**

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=403205>

**Council meetings are also available at Michiana Access Channel on both their website and their Facebook page.**

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Canneth Lee	1st District, President
Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers	2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Sharon L. McBride	3 <sup>rd</sup> District
Troy Warner	4 <sup>th</sup> District, Committee of the Whole
Sherry Bolden-Simpson	5 <sup>th</sup> District
Sheila Niezgodski	6 <sup>th</sup> District, Vice President
Karen L. White	At-Large
Dr. Oliver Davis	At-Large
Rachel Tomas Morgan	At-Large

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Bianca Tirado	City Clerk
Jasmine Jackson	Chief Deputy City Clerk
Matthew Neal	Deputy Director of Policy
Veronica Pitt-Payne	Director of Special Projects
Bob Palmer	Council Attorney

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

SUB-COMMITTEE ON MINUTES:

December 8, 2025; January 5, 2026

Council President Lee requested reports from the Sub-Committee on Minutes.

City Clerk Bianca Tirado stated that the Sub-Committee on Minutes inspected the December 8, 2025 and January 5, 2026 Common Council meeting minutes and recommend they be approved.

Councilmember Troy Warner moved to approve the December 8, 2025 and January 5, 2026 Common Council meeting minutes, which was seconded by Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers and carried via a vote by voice.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Council President Lee announced the induction of the 2026 Youth Advisory Council cohort.

Councilmember Karen L. White gave opening remarks.

Clerk Tirado administered the oath to new Youth Advisory Council members.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICES

None.

RESOLVE INTO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Councilmember Warner moved to resolve into the Committee of the Whole, which was seconded by Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson and carried via a vote by voice.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BILL NO.

78-25

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 15, SECTION 14-175 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF SOUTH BEND POLICE OFFICER TIME INCLUDED AS AN ABSORBED EXPENSE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT

Clerk Tirado read the bill to the Council for its second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading.

After the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading, Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan stated that Bill No. 78-25 went before the Health and Public Safety Committee and comes with a favorable recommendation.

Michael Schmidt, Assistant City Attorney, with offices on the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, presented the bill. He said the bill provides eight (8) additional hours of police staffing at special events.

Councilmember Warner held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Councilmember Warner addressed comments that were made about the bill during the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting. He clarified that the bill does not pertain to protests and demonstrations, and it does not impede free speech.

Michael Schmidt said the special event process is content neutral and non-discriminatory. He stated that no revenue is generated from special event fees.

Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis asked about an email the Council received regarding the bill.

Bob Palmer, Council Attorney, with offices on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, said he reviewed the email. He said he is not concerned about the bill's constitutionality.

Michael Schmidt said he provided a letter to Council supporting his legal opinion on the bill.

Council President Lee moved to send Bill No. 78-25 to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Councilmember White and carried by a vote of nine (9) ayes.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Aye</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>	

80-25

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE SOUTH BEND MUNICIPAL CODE TO MAKE MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES FOR CLARIFICATION AND CONSISTENCY TO SIMPLIFY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TO ACHIEVE HIGHER QUALITY DEVELOPMENT  
**(THIRD SUBSTITUTE)**

Clerk Tirado read the bill to the Council for its second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading.

After the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) reading, Councilmember Dr. Davis stated that Substitute Bill No. 80-25 went before the Zoning and Annexation Committee and comes with a favorable recommendation.

Councilmember Warner entertained a motion to accept the substitute bill. Councilmember Dr. Davis moved to accept Substitute Bill No. 80-25, which was seconded by Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski and carried via a vote by voice.

Michael Divita, Assistant Director of Planning, with offices on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, presented the bill. He gave an overview of the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance and spoke about why the updates are necessary.

Mark Dellostritto, Zoning Specialist, with offices on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, continued the presentation. He highlighted key changes, including that gas stations, smoke shops, and liquor stores will require special exceptions where previously allowed by-right. The bill comes with favorable recommendations from the Plan Commission and the Zoning and Annexation Committee.

Councilmember Tomas Morgan asked which version of the bill was heard by the Plan Commission.

Michael Divita said the Plan Commission heard the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) substitute. He said the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) substitute will return to the Plan Commission for approval if it is passed by the Council.

Councilmember Dr. Davis asked about the frequency of future updates to the zoning ordinance.

Michael Divita said the ordinance will be updated every six (6) to twelve (12) months.

Council President Lee voiced support for the bill and its changes to gas station zoning.

Councilmember Warner held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Council President Lee moved to send Substitute Bill *No. 80-25* to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Councilmember Sharon McBride and carried by a vote of nine (9) ayes.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Aye</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>	

RISE AND REPORT

Councilmember Gooden-Rodgers moved to rise from the Committee of the Whole and report back to the Full Council, which was seconded by Councilmember Dr. Davis and carried via a vote by voice.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED

Council President Lee stated that the Full Council is now back in session. This portion of the meeting is where bills are given a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading and action is taken regarding bills that were heard during the Committee of the Whole.

BILLS ON THE THIRD READING

BILL NO.

78-25

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Clerk Tirado read the bill to the Council for its third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading.

After the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading, Council President Lee requested a committee report.

Councilmember Warner stated that Bill *No. 78-25* was heard in the Committee of the Whole and comes to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation.

Council Vice President Niezgodski moved for the passage of Bill No. 78-25, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolden-Simpson and carried by a vote of nine (9) ayes.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Aye</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>	

80-25

PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE SOUTH BEND MUNICIPAL CODE TO MAKE MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES FOR CLARIFICATION AND CONSISTENCY TO SIMPLIFY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TO ACHIEVE HIGHER QUALITY DEVELOPMENT  
(THIRD SUBSTITUTE)

Clerk Tirado read the bill to the Council for its third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading.

After the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading, Council President Lee requested a committee report.

Councilmember Warner stated that Substitute Bill No. 80-25 was heard in the Committee of the Whole and comes to the Full Council with a favorable recommendation.

Councilmember Tomas Morgan moved for the passage of Substitute Bill No. 80-25, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolden-Simpson and carried by a vote of nine (9) ayes.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Aye</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Troy Warner – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>	

RESOLUTIONS

BILL NO.

25-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, CALLING FOR RELIEF FROM THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF SENATE ENROLLED ACT 1 ON THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES WITHIN THE STATE OF INDIANA

Council President Lee stated that the petitioners have requested to table Bill No. 25-47 indefinitely.

Councilmember Gooden-Rodgers moved to table Bill No. 25-47 indefinitely, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolden-Simpson and carried via a vote by voice.

BILLS ON THE FIRST READING

BILL NO.

01-26

FIRST READING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, REPEALING, SUPERSEDING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 2-10.1 BY ESTABLISHING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMON

COUNCIL RULES COMMITTEE AND  
ELIMINATING THE PROCESS AND  
PROCEDURES FOR FILING COMPLAINTS  
AGAINST COUNCIL MEMBERS

Clerk Tirado read the bill to the Council for its first (1<sup>st</sup>) reading.

Council President Lee entertained a motion to send Bill No. 01-26 to the Rules Committee for public hearing and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading on January 26, 2026.

Councilmember Dr. Davis moved to send Bill No. 01-26 back to its sponsors for further clarification, which was seconded by Councilmember Bolden-Simpson and carried by a vote of five (5) ayes and four (4) nays.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Nay</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Nay</i>
Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers – <i>Aye</i>	Councilmember Sharon McBride – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Troy Warner – <i>Nay</i>	Councilmember Sherry Bolden-Simpson – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan – <i>Nay</i>	Councilmember Dr. Oliver Davis – <i>Aye</i>
Councilmember Karen L. White – <i>Aye</i>	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Vice President Niezgodski announced that there will be a meeting on January 29, 2026 for public input on the Rum Village Park master plan.

Councilmember Dr. Davis announced that there is an upcoming town hall meeting for the Lafayette Falls neighborhood.

Councilmember Bolden-Simpson said the Lafayette Falls town hall meeting will be at 6:30 P.M. on January 22, 2026. It will be held at Marshall Traditional School.

Council President Lee spoke about violence in the City and called for Councilmembers to work together to make the City safer.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Council President Lee held privilege of the floor, and nobody spoke.

Council President Lee made closing remarks and thanked Councilmember Tomas Morgan for her service as Council Vice President in 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:50 P.M.