



2026 COMMON COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES (Rev. 06-02-2026)

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Oversees the various activities of the Department of Community Investment. This Committee reviews all real and personal tax abatement requests and works closely with the Business Development Team.

Karen L. White, Chairperson
Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Vice-Chairperson
Thomas Gryp, *Citizen Member*

Sheila Niezgodski, Member
Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Member
Kevin Upton, *Citizen Member*

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Oversees the various activities of the Engagement and Economic Empowerment, Neighborhood Development, and Community Resources Teams within the City's Department of CI and is charged with facilitating partnerships and ongoing communications with other public and private entities operating within the City.

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Chairperson
Karen L. White, Vice-Chairperson
Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Member

Dr. Heidi Beidinger, Member
Sheila Niezgodski, Member
Alice Pickens, *Citizen Member*

COUNCIL RULES COMMITTEE

Oversees the regulations governing the overall operation of the Common Council, as well as all matters of public trust. Its duties are set forth in detail in Section 2-10.1 of the *South Bend Municipal Code*.

Canneth Lee, Member
Sheila Niezgodski, Member

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Member

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Oversees the various activities performed by the Fire and Police Departments, EMS, Department of Code Enforcement, ordinance violations, and related health and public safety matters.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Chairperson
Sharon McBride, Vice-Chairperson
Sheila Niezgodski, Member
Savino Rivera Jr., *Citizen Member*

Dr. Heidi Beidinger, Member
Dr. Oliver Davis, Member
Brittney Erp, *Citizen Member*

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Innovation

Oversees the various activities of the City's Department of Innovation, which includes the Divisions of Information Technology and 311 so that the City of South Bend remains competitive and on the cutting edge of developments in this area. Reviewing and proposing upgrades to computer systems and web sites, developing availability and access to GIS data and related technologies are just some of its many activities.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Chairperson
Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Vice-Chairperson
Sharon McBride, Member
Joshua Walters, *Citizen Member*

Dr. Heidi Beidinger, Member
Dr. Oliver Davis, Member
Maria Gibbs, *Citizen Member*

PARC COMMITTEE- Venues, Parks, and Arts (Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Entertainment)

Oversees the various activities of the Century Center, College Football Hall of Fame, Four Winds Stadium, Morris Performing Arts Center, Studebaker National Museum, South Bend Regional Museum of Art, Potawatomi Zoo, My SB Trails, DTSB relations, and the many recreational and leisure activities offered by



the Department of Venues Parks and Arts.

Sharon L. McBride, Chairperson
Karen L. White, Vice-Chairperson
Frances Schmuhl, *Citizen Member*

Ophelia Gooden-Rogers, Member
Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Member
Aaron Nichols, *Citizen Member*

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Oversees the activities performed by the Department of Administration and Finance, and reviews all proposed salaries, budgets, appropriations, and other fiscal matters, as well as personnel policies, health benefits and related matters.

Sheila Niezgodski, Chairperson
Karen L. White, Vice-Chairperson
Caz Margenau, *Citizen Member*

Ophelia Gooden-Rogers, Member
Rachel Tomas Morgan, Member

PUBLIC WORKS AND PROPERTY VACATION COMMITTEE

Oversees the various activities performed by the Building Department, the Department of Public Works and related public works and property vacation issues.

Ophelia Gooden-Rogers, Chairperson
Sheila Niezgodski, Vice-Chairperson
Abel Gonzalez, *Citizen Member*

Dr. Heidi Beidinger, Member
Dr. Oliver Davis, Member

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Oversees the various activities and issues related to neighborhood development and enhancement.

Karen L. White, Chairperson
Sheila Niezgodski, Vice-Chairperson
Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Member
Jessie Whitaker, *Citizen Member*

Ophelia Gooden-Rogers, Member
Sharon McBride, Member
Angela Smith, *Citizen Member*

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Oversees the activities of all enterprise entities including but not limited to the Bureau of Waterworks, Bureau of Sewers, and all related matters.

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Chairperson
Rachel Tomas Morgan, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Oliver Davis, Member
Joseph Mayer, *Citizen Member*

Sheila Niezgodski, Member
Ophelia Gooden-Rogers, Member
Sharon McBride, Member
Doris McEwen, *Citizen Member*

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE

Oversees the activities related to the Board of Zoning Appeals, recommendations from the Area Plan Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission, as well as all related matters addressing annexation and zoning.

Dr. Oliver Davis, Chairperson
Rachel Tomas Morgan, Vice-Chairperson
Kesha Farlow, *Citizen Member*

Dr. Heidi Beidinger, Member
Karen L. White, Member
Stacey Odom, *Citizen Member*

SUB-COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

Reviews the minutes prepared by the Office of the City Clerk of the regular, special, and informal meetings of the Common Council and makes a recommendation on their approval/modification to the Council.

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Member

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Member



2026 COMMON COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES (Rev.06-02-2026)

CANNETH LEE, 1st District Council Member

President

Council Rules Committee, Member

OPHELIA GOODEN-RODGERS, 2nd District Council Member

Committee of the Whole, Chairperson

Community Relations Committee, Chairperson

Public Works & Property Vacation Committee, Chairperson

Community Investment Committee, Vice-Chairperson

PARC Committee, Member

Residential Neighborhoods Committee, Member

Council Rules Committee, Member

Personnel & Finance Committee, Member

Utilities Committee, Member

SHARON L. MCBRIDE, 3rd District Council Member

PARC Committee, Chairperson

Health & Public Safety Committee, Vice-Chairperson

Residential Neighborhoods Committee, Member

Information & Technology Committee, Member

Utilities Committee, Member

HEIDI BEIDINGER, 4th District Council Member

Community Relations Committee, Member

Information & Technology Committee, Member

Zoning & Annexation Committee, Member

Health & Public Safety Committee, Member

Public Works & Property Vacation Committee, Member

SHERRY BOLDEN-SIMPSON, 5th District Council Member

Utilities Committee, Chairperson

Information & Technology Committee, Vice-Chairperson

PARC Committee, Member

Sub-Committee on Minutes, Member

Community Relations Committee, Member

Community Investment Committee, Member

Residential Neighborhoods Committee, Member

SHEILA NIEZGODSKI, 6th District Council Member

Vice-President

Personnel & Finance Committee, Chairperson

Community Investment Committee, Member

Health & Public Safety Committee, Member

Utilities Committee, Member

Community Relations Committee, Member

Council Rules Committee, Member

Public Works & Property Vacation, Vice-Chairperson

Residential Neighborhoods Committee, Vice-Chairperson

DR. OLIVER DAVIS, AT LARGE Council Member

Zoning & Annexation Committee, Chairperson

Information & Technology Committee, Member

Public Works & Property Vacation Committee, Member

Health & Public Safety Committee, Member

Utilities Committee, Member

RACHEL TOMAS MORGAN, AT LARGE Council Member

Health & Public Safety Committee, Chairperson

Information & Technology Committee, Chairperson

Zoning & Annexation Committee, Vice-Chairperson

Personnel & Finance Committee, Member

Utilities, Vice-Chairperson

Sub-Committee on Minutes, Member

KAREN L. WHITE, AT LARGE Council Member

Residential Neighborhoods Committee, Chairperson

Community Investment Committee, Chairperson

Personnel & Finance Committee, Vice-Chairperson

Community Relations Committee, Vice-Chairperson

PARC Committee, Vice-Chairperson

Zoning & Annexation Committee, Member