



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

COUNCIL RULES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026, 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Sheila Niezgodski, Canneth Lee

Committee Members Absent:

Troy Warner

Other Council Present:

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Dr. Oliver Davis, Rachel Tomas Morgan, Sharon McBride, Karen L White

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Matthew Neal, Jasmine Jackson, Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Canneth Lee

Agenda:

Bill No. 01-26 - 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

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=0,0,0,0,0&mediaid=404640>

Council President Canneth Lee called to order the Council Rules Committee meeting at 5:32 P.M.

Bill No. 01-26 - 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

Council President Lee presented the bill. He said the South Bend Common Council's complaint process conflicts with the Indiana Open Door Law and is not aligned with other municipalities in the state. He said the current process is vulnerable to abuse, and the high volume of meritless complaints use up public resources. He spoke about due process concerns and listed alternative

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Jasmine Jackson
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK / CHIEF OF STAFF

Matthew Neal
DEPUTY CITY CLERK / DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Veronica Pitt-Payne
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

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avenues for residents to seek redress. He invited Council Attorney Bob Palmer to share any comments.

Bob Palmer, Council Attorney, with offices on the third (3rd) floor of City Hall, South Bend, IN 46601, spoke about alternative remedies for complaints against Councilmembers.

Councilmember Bolden-Simpson spoke about previous changes to privilege of the floor. She said she believes that privilege of the floor should not be restricted any further to ensure residents have a voice.

Council President Lee said that privilege of the floor will not change.

Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers spoke in favor of the changes to the complaint process. She said reviewing complaints internally can introduce bias.

Council President Lee spoke about the complaint process in other municipalities. He said the change is necessary because the language of the current ordinance conflicts with the requirements of the Indiana Open Door Law.

Councilmember Karen L. White asked Council President Lee to confirm whether residents would still be able to file complaints through other means.

Council President Lee confirmed that is correct.

Attorney Palmer spoke about the various statutory remedies that are in place for residents to file complaints.

Councilmember White asked Attorney Palmer to provide a list of those statutes to the Council.

Councilmember Rachel Tomas Morgan some about the strength of the City of South Bend's transparency relative to other municipalities.

Councilmember Gooden-Rodgers asked Attorney Palmer to present a full list of statutory remedies at the 7:00 P.M. Council meeting.

Council President Lee held the public hearing, and nobody spoke.

Council Vice President Niezgodski moved to send Bill No. 01-26 to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council President Lee and carried by a vote of two (2) ayes with one (1) Committee member absent.

Council President Canneth Lee – <i>Aye</i>	Council Vice President Sheila Niezgodski – <i>Aye</i>
Committee Member Troy Warner – <i>Absent</i>	

With no further business, Council President Lee adjourned the Council Rules Committee meeting at 5:55 P.M.



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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Canneth Lee".

Canneth Lee, Committee Chair

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