

City of Bloomfield City Council Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

6:30 p.m.

A regular scheduled City of Bloomfield City Council meeting was held Monday, July 20, 2026 at the Northeast Nelson Fire Department 130 Perry Street Bloomfield Kentucky.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Dudgeon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

Mayor Dudgeon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Presiding Officer: Mayor Dudgeon

Council Members: Todd Sweazy

John Hammond

Tina Long

Laura Barnett

Scott Stevenson

Ken Lemoine

City Attorney: Audrey Haydon-Blackmon

City Clerk: Toni Burton

Approval of the June 15, 2026 meeting minutes:

Laura made the motion to approve the June 15, 2026 meeting minutes with the following corrections made: Change Jacobs family to Jenkins family.

John Hammond asked the last name Greenwell be added to John under public comment. Scott Stevenson second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the June 2026 Financial Statements:

Tina Long made the motion to approve the 2026 financial statements.

Second by John Hammond. Motion carried unanimously.

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Water Co. Report:

Mayor Dudgeon shared that Derrick Hagan has resigned as Public Works Superintendent and provided each council member a copy of the resignation letter. Mayor Dudgeon went on to say recently Derrick has faced serious health issues, the stress of the job, and the lack of community support Derrick felt it was in his best interest to take another job. Mayor Dudgeon continued to say Ricky Jewell who come out of retirement to help the city has also left due to harassment. Thomas is still out on workers comp. So, right now Lane is the only person working in maintenance.

Police Department Report:

Chief Whitworth reported on the following topics:

- Activity is up. The number of accidents and domestics have increased.
- On Thursday night Chief Whitworth along with some law firms will be hosting an event at the park for the elderly community. It starts at 5:30p.m.
- Lastly, Chief Whitworth shared statistics about the Flock Camera System. How it works, the number of crimes it has help get solved, and the vital role it plays for law enforcement.

Laura Barnett asked Chief Whitworth if he had any statistics on how the cameras solved cases for Bloomfield or the people who live in Bloomfield. Chief Whitworth explained he does not due to other law enforcement agencies also have access to the camera system. KSP, Sherrif Department, Drug Task Force, Bardstown City PD have access to the cameras too. If one of those agencies are investigating a crime Chief Whitworth would not know about it.

Laura Barnett asked how many cases Chief Whitworth has worked and the cameras help solve crimes. Chief Whitworth shared that recently he worked several stolen vehicle cases, stolen license plates and track the 2 escaped inmates

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Ken Lemoine asked Chief Whitworth would it be possible if he could give a written report for the last 12 months that detailed the number of actionable alerts generated specific to Bloomfield, and is there an Indemnification Clause protecting the city from claims for being misread. This would show a return on investment. Mayor Dudgeon said that himself and Chief Whitworth had this discussion; this is a tool law enforcement uses to do their job. So, each time Chief Whitworth uses his gun or taser he is not going to report it; the Flock cameras are no different.

Laura said that new legislation passed that Flock Cameras now have a 90 days retention schedule and asked why. Chief Whitworth said that our contract says the retention schedule is for 30 days and it cannot be sold to third parties. Audrey said there are other camera vendors and they had longer retention schedules. The new legislation says you can contract for as many days as you want, but cannot exceed 90 days.

Ordinance 2026-05 Repealing the Entirety Chapter 92 of the City of Bloomfield Code of Ordinances:

Ken Lemoine made the motion to have the first reading. Second by John Hammond. Audrey read the first reading of the ordinance.

Laura Barnett asked how does the impact a noise issues? Who would they call? Audrey said the county wide noise ordinance. If somebody was having an issue with loud noise, they would call dispatch and they would send out law enforcement.

Todd said we have an ordinance on this and the county also has an ordinance. The county ordinance supersedes unless the city's is more stringent. Audrey said that is correct, and the city's is lenient. Todd said, so the county ordinance supersedes ours anyways. Audrey said yes.

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Ordinance 2026-05 Repealing the Entirety Chapter 92 of the City of Bloomfield Code of Ordinances Continued:

Mayor Dudgeon said in talking with Judge Executive Tim Hutchins they are looking to redo their ordinance to add some other stuff to it. Ken said it makes sense to let Nelson County have it because that's where the enforcement is. Ken continued to say the problem is it's been a year since he has noticed a public hazard on Goodloe and it still not addressed. Todd asked Ken to clarify what the safety hazard is on Goodloe. Nothing over 3feet tall or 20feet radius can grow at intersection. So, when you are pulling out of driveway on to the street your view would not be obstructed. Todd said we are talking about your personal property correct? Ken said it's a property line he shared with a neighbor. Todd said the county already has this in their ordinance and the county supersedes the city's ordinance; then Ken should take this up with the county. Ken said he did, and they sent him to Bloomfield. So, if we repeal this it will go back to the county. Todd said he understands.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Dudgeon shared Rumpke will start picking up trash in August. Laura asked when is Rumpke's first day to pick up. Mayor Dudgeon said August 3rd. John asked when is the last day to request a tote. Tina Long said July 27th.

Council Members Report:

John Hammond shared information about water fountains at the park. The cost for the one in the picture is \$1249 dollars. John said we do not need to make a decision tonight, but wanted to look at purchasing one in the near future. Mayor Dudgeon said Toni and I can look at the budget and see where we are with the park budget.

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Council Members Report Continues:

Ken asked if everybody received information about the Whistle Blower Act. Ken continued to say currently if an employee wants to bring something forward there is no clear way for them to do it. Audrey said you always have the common law remedies or causes for action for certain terminations. Audrey went on to say that you have to have facts to support your complaint. So, when there is a motion to move for summary judgement, that means the court has to take in all the facts and review them in most favorable to the party who did not move for summary judgement. Meaning the court assumes all facts are true and look at the facts in most favorable to the non-moving party. The court has to find some genuine fact to submit to jury before the court can grant summary judgement. Ken said that makes sense and that would be a good thing. Ken then asked wouldn't a whistle blower act be good for our town. Doesn't the whistle blower act protect people if they have a problem. Todd said he has done a little research into the Whistle Blower Act and there are a lot of legalities that have to be considered and he is concerned about the legal ramifications. Todd continued to say he has talked to city employees and not one of them felt this ordinance was necessary. Todd said he is open to discuss this further. Mayor Dudgeon said that him and Toni had a discussion about this. You all may remember we updated the employee handbook back in 2024. The old handbook had an appeal process employees could go through if terminated. They would appeal and go before city council. The new handbook does not have it, but the mayor wants to look into having it added back in. Mayor Dudgeon continued to say the previous city clerk had the opportunity appeal she did not do it. Ken said, that he is looking at something to protect a person who believes there is fraud. Ken said the mayor has the right to fire somebody. However, if a person believes there is theft and they have evidence to prove it; they should be protected. Audrey said, if there is a genuine issue of fact then a jury would make that decision. Todd said we just went through that and the decision was made. Todd said he doesn't understand where Ken is coming

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Council Members Report Continues:

from. Ken said the facts were never brought forward for the case. Todd said he could not supersede why the judge made his determination, but that he had to trust his ruling. Ken said the decision was made without facts being brought to the case. Todd said they had legal avenue, they took it and it did not go in their favor. Mayor Dudgeon said he wanted to clarify, the summary judgement like Audrey just explained. All the facts were presented. Mayor Dudgeon continued to say Karen Beiderman filed a claim against the city and the mayor himself. When she filed, she had to provide facts to support her claim. Those facts were provided to the attorney representing the city and the mayor. The city then had to provide facts/evidence to dispute those claims. It's all submitted to the judge. The judge then has to review all facts/evidence and he made his final decision. Mayor Dudgeon asked Audrey if he said that correctly. Audrey agreed. Mayor Dudgeon said all facts were presented and the judge made his decision.

Ken said he had another topic he would like to talk about. Ken then read a letter about how flock cameras are no good. Again, Ken said he would like to see a report on how the flock cameras specific to Bloomfield solved cases.

Todd asked for an update on the pumps at the pump station. Mayor Dudgeon said he had talked to Lane and the parts are supposed to be here in July. Toni said, the parts are supposed to be here mid-July, once they get here the company is going to put the pumps together and install them. Todd said he wanted to clarify; that were over here worried about \$10,000 dollars a year on cameras and these pumps have cost us \$128,000 dollars over the last year. Todd said there are things we need to be focusing on, like following our current ordinances. We owe the citizens of Bloomfield how to get these things (pumps) fixed. These are going to continue to be an issue. Ken said these Flock cameras are 2.5% of our city budget.

Scott said, now that we have Rumpke; it's too late to rescind the vote. Scott continued to say Tina has admitted she would not change her vote, and Todd or John neither one said yea or nay. Tina put out on social media that the county resident's opinion does not matter and just because the county put a bid in does

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Council Members Report Continues:

not mean the city has to accept it. Scott said the county has helped the city in a lot of different ways like the inmate program, funds for the park, and other ways. Scott asked why you were so quick to vote for Rumpke then you were staying local. We would have got more from the county then we will for Rumpke. Mayor Dudgeon said we talked about it that night. The bid from the county was more money in the long run than it was with Rumpke. Mayor Dudgeon said he had talked to the county about letting us doing the billing and collecting the service pay. Mayor Dudgeon asked why give Salt River the service pay when the city is going be taking those calls. Scott accused Mayor Dudgeon would rather go with a big company then keep it local. Mayor Dudgeon said it was cheaper to go with Rumpke and keep the billing in house. Scott said you would rather let the money go to them instead of it going back in to our community. Mayor Dudgeon said that he would also like to clarify there has been a lot of social media post about this. The citizens of Bloomfield also pay county property taxes, so the county is supposed to offer tax payer dollars to us. Mayor Dudgeon continues to say he agreed the county gave us ARPA funds for the park, but those were not tax payer dollars. The services they provide to us are services they are supposed to provide. Scott accused Mayor Dudgeon he did not want to keep things local. Mayor Dudgeon said he had to do what was best for the citizens. Scott said if you wanted to do what was best for the citizens you should have went with the county. Mayor Dudgeon said I did what was best for the citizens he did not do what Scott wanted him to do. Todd said if we rescind the vote, do you know what's going to happened. Todd continued to say that Rumpke will come back and say you all signed the contract and now you all need to pay us our money. Todd asked Scott if he wanted to rescind the vote, pay the Rumpke contract out, and then go with the county. Scott said yes.

Tina and Laura had nothing to report.

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Public Comment:

Lonnie Noel introduced himself and said he is running for city council. Lonnie asked if we get a water fountain at the park will it have a water filter. Who will be responsible for changing it out. Mayor Dudgeon said we don't do Q&A. We will talk with you after the meeting.

Jaren Culver introduced himself and said he is running for Nelson County Sheriff. Provided some personal information about himself.

Angie Keeling said she took her granddaughter to the park and got burnt on the slide. Angie said she is not going to sue the city; she wanted to make people aware. Angie continues to say that she does not have an issue with the flock cameras. She felt like they were being appropriately used, but the cost of \$10,000 dollars for a small city. She does not understand why the city has to pay if the contract is with the county.

Alpacino Jones introduced himself and said he is running for city council. He looks forward to working and serving to make Bloomfield a better community.

Leslie Snow said she brought up the garbage can at a previous meeting. Then it disappeared. Leslie said she did her research and it looks like business owners have been emptying these cans for years. Which is her point. She said the city needs to come get their bench. Leslie then said the JD Shelburne concert is coming up and if you are planning to use Tony's property you need to talk to him. Leslie said she does not have a problem with the Flock cameras, but she does not understand why the city has to pay if the county has the contract. Leslie also said With Rumpke the Monday through Friday 8 to 4 who is going to take those calls.

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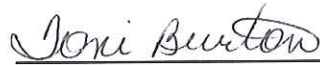
Adjourn:

Tina Long made the motion to adjourn. Second by John Hammond.
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting minutes approved on August 17, 2026



Christopher Dudgeon, Mayor



Toni Burton, City Clerk