



## MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE:

**To:** Members of the Common Council

**From:** Council Office

**Date:** November 9, 2023

**Re:** [Resolution 23-22](#) - To Approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana for the Operation of the Bloomington/Monroe County Capital Improvement Board and the Convention And Visitors Commission

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### Synopsis

This resolution approves the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and the County for mutual and collaborative support of an expanded Convention Center, any related amenities, and necessary related entities, including the Capital Improvement Board (“CIB”) and Convention & Visitors Commission (“CVC”), managing the expansion project and Convention Center operations.

### Relevant Materials

- [Resolution 23-22](#)
- Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, Indiana Regarding Operation of the Bloomington/Monroe County Capital Improvement Board and the Convention And Visitors Commission

### Summary

[Resolution 23-22](#) authorizes an interlocal agreement between Monroe County and the City of Bloomington detailing the operation of the Bloomington/Monroe County Capital Improvement Board (CIB) and the Convention and Visitors Commission (CVC) as a means to further a Monroe County Convention Center (“Convention Center”) expansion project.

### Brief History

In 2017, through [Resolution 17-38](#), the Council supported the passage of a county-wide food and beverage tax to fund expansion of the Convention Center. Shortly thereafter, the Monroe County Council adopted an ordinance imposing such a tax, which has been collected since that time. The tax is authorized by state law ([Indiana Code 6-9-41](#)) and may be used only to finance, refinance, construct, operate, or maintain a convention center, a conference center, or related tourism or economic development projects.

In the years since, both city and county officials have met at various times to advance the Convention Center expansion project. Most recently, members of the Monroe County government took the step of creating a CIB to manage and direct the affairs of the Convention Center and its expansion. The creation and operation of a CIB is detailed in state law under [IC 36-10-8](#). The statute addresses board membership and appointments,



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meetings, powers, budgets and bonding, and joint and cooperative planning, among other items.

The attached interlocal agreement provides several terms defining the city’s and county’s responsibilities with respect to the Convention Center expansion project as well as the membership and funding of the CIB and CVC.

**CIB Membership**

The CIB will have seven members, pursuant to state code. The county will appoint three members, the city will appoint three members, and those six members will appoint the seventh member by a vote of at least four.

Within the three city-made appointments, two will be from the Mayor (neither of which can be from the same political party) and one appointment will be from the Council. The same appointment regime (two from the executive and one from the legislative) also applies to the county.

The appointments will have staggered terms to comply with state law, under which the appointments made by the executive branch of both the city and the county expire on January 15, 2024, and all other appointments have two-year terms starting from January 15, 2023.

**CVC Membership**

The CVC will continue to have five members, as required by state law. All of the CVC members will be appointed by the County, two by the Commissioners and three by the County Council. Two of the County Council appointees would be made after giving “good faith consideration” to a list of at least three qualifying individuals. The third County Council appointee, the only one that is not subject to statutory restrictions, would be made by the County Council from a list of four recommendations by the City Council.

**Funding**

The agreement also contains several provisions regarding the real property assets that the CIB might request from the parties to successfully complete the Convention Center expansion project, the funding and management of the Convention Center expansion project’s construction and design, the operation and management of the existing and expanded Convention Center, and the funding of the CIB and CVC through an appropriations and budgeting process.

The agreement states that, during the initial design and construction period, the CIB’s budget will be determined by the CIB subject solely to the City Council’s approval. After this initial design and construction period, the agreement contemplates a joint review process of the CIB budget, subject to both City Council and County Council review/approval.



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The agreement also provides for city involvement in the CVC annual budget process (after the project's initial design and construction period) by including joint review of that entity's budget by the City Council and the County Council. Currently, the CVC's budget is subject to approval by the County Council.

Other additional miscellaneous provisions include the process for selecting the name of the expanded Convention Center; the intention to incorporate sustainability into the design and its future operations; and cooperation with the review and approval of documents.

Generally, interlocal agreements are authorized and governed by I.C. 36-1-7-1 (and following statutes) and must include the:

- duration;
- purpose;
- manner of financing, budgeting, staffing and supplying the joint undertaking;
- method(s) for partially or completely terminating the agreement and for disposing of property in the event of a partial or complete termination;
- administration either through a separate entity or a joint board with powers as delegated by the agreement; and
- manner of acquiring, holding, and disposing of property used in the joint undertaking (when a joint board is created).
- In addition, these agreements may include any other appropriate matters.

**Contact**

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