



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Stephen Lucas, Council Administrator/Attorney

Date: February 23, 2024

Re: [Resolution 2024-02](#) - To Amend [Resolution 23-22](#), Which Approved 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 (To Reconcile Two Versions of The Agreement)

Synopsis

This resolution amends [Resolution 23-22](#) to reconcile two versions of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and the County for mutual and collaborative support of an expanded Convention Center, 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. This resolution adopts the version of the agreement approved by Monroe County in February 2024.

Relevant Materials

- [Resolution 2024-02](#)
- Revised 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
- County Commissioner Ordinance 2023-24

Summary

[Resolution 2024-02](#) approves of an interlocal agreement between Monroe County and the City of Bloomington. The agreement details the arrangements between those two parties with respect to the 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 Bloomington Common 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 a food and beverage 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 (I.C. 6-9-41-15(a)).



City of Bloomington Indiana

City Hall | 401 N. Morton St. | Post Office Box 100 | Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Office of the Common Council | (812) 349-3409 | Fax: (812) 349-3570 | email: council@bloomington.in.gov

Under state law (I.C. 6-9-41-15(b)), the city is required to develop a written plan before December 1 each year and submit that plan to the state with the following information:

1. Proposed use of food and beverage tax funds for the upcoming calendar year;
2. Detailed use of funds in the current and prior calendar years; and
3. Fund balance as of January 1 of the current calendar year.

State law (I.C. 6-9-41-15(c)) requires that the city spend its food and beverage tax receipts according to this written plan. If the county and the city fail to spend money from their respective food and beverage tax receipts funds in accordance with these written plans before July 1, 2025, the ordinance establishing the food and beverage tax becomes void and no new revenue would be collected. (I.C. 6-9-41-15.5)

Since 2017, both city and county officials have met at various times to advance the Convention Center expansion project. In 2023, 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 (see County Commissioner Ordinance 2023-24, included herein). Later in 2023, the city adopted [Resolution 23-22](#), which approved of an interlocal agreement detailing city and county responsibilities with respect to the Convention Center expansion project as well as the membership and funding of the CIB and CVC.

Most recently, both the County Council and County Commissioners have adopted a revised version of this interlocal agreement, which is why city action is needed to reconcile the two versions. Under the revised agreement, the five appointments to the CVC would occur as called for under state law, with appointments split between the County Council and County Commissioners. Under the terms of the initial interlocal agreement, the City Council was to provide recommendations for the three CVC seats appointed by the County Council. The revised interlocal agreement also includes several non-substantive updates to reflect how the CVC appointments would now be handled, to update names and dates, and to reference/attach County Commissioner Ordinance 2023-24.

Contact

Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, margie.rice@bloomington.in.gov, (812) 349-3426