



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

May 15, 2023 | 5:30 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter, a Council Workshop meeting is scheduled for the following purpose:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sanders at 5:30PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Sanders, Councilmembers Terra Fleming, Leslie Larson, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, Jess Robertson and Lori Saroya.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Joe Huss; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Tom Loonan; Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker; Deputy Finance Director Ali Bong; Finance Analyst Jenna Tritten; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ann Lenczewski and Angie Huss, Lockridge Grindal Nauen; Corey Burstad, Elevage Development; Robb Bader, Bader Development

2. New Business

- 2.1.** 2023-179 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05(3)(c)(3) - Property Acquisitions Related to 105th Avenue Development Area
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

This item was heard second in the agenda.

Motion by Mayor Sanders, second by Councilmember Newland to move to closed session at 5:57PM. Motion passed.

2.2. 2023-188 State Lobbyist Update
Sponsors: Michelle Wolfe, City Manager

This item was heard first on the agenda.

City Manager Wolfe reported Lockridge Grindal Nauen had an update for the council on their lobbying efforts.

Ann Lenczewski, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, provided the council with an update on the Highway 65 funding, bonding, and transportation bill. She reported the legislative session would be ending on Monday, May 22. She was hopeful the city would receive \$25 million or more from the transportation bill.

Angie Huss, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, discussed the delegates and MNDOT representatives she has met with during the legislative session.

Councilmember Newland asked if there was anything the council could be doing at this time. Ms. Lenczewski reported the council has been instrumental in assisting her with lobbying efforts by offering testimonies. She noted the public portion of the lobbying efforts was now complete and now her team would continue to work with delegates to secure funding. Ms. Huss stated once results are in, the council will be asked to find opportunities to thank the delegation for their advocacy.

Councilmember Saroya thanked the lobbyists for all of their efforts on behalf of the community. She questioned if the lobbyists had taken the time to collect community experiences or stories from people who have been directly impacted by this dangerous highway. Ms. Lenczewski reported city staff has done a very good job gathering this information and this has been passed along to delegates, along with crash site data.

The Council thanked the team for their efforts and offered their assistance going forward.

3. Other Business

Council reconvened the closed portion of the workshop at 7:50 PM to continue discussion of Item 2.1, Property Acquisitions for the 105th Avenue Development Area. The Council then reopened the workshop to review schedules for the upcoming Council retreat and Fire Board interviews. City Manager Wolfe then provided a brief summary of Robert Tenoff's concerns shared during open forum earlier in the evening.

4. Adjournment

Council adjourned the workshop at 9:40 PM.