



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

September 25, 2023 | 4:00 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 at 5:00 PM by Mayor Sanders followed by Roll Call.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Sanders, Councilmember Tom Newland, Councilmember Lori Saroya (arrived at 4:48PM), Councilmember Terra Fleming, Councilmember Chris Massoglia, Councilmember Leslie Larson

ABSENT: Councilmember Jess Robertson.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Finance Analyst Jenna Trittin; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; Senior Park & Recreation Manager Jerome Krieger; Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker; and City Clerk Cathy Sorensen

3. New Business

3.1. 2023-443 Public Safety Funds

Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

Police Chief Podany shared the recent Public Safety Aid law signed with the 2023 Omnibus Tax Bill that provides \$300 million in Fiscal Year 2024 to townships, cities, counties, and tribal governments for public safety purposes. The commissioner must certify to each entity the amount to be paid by August 1, 2023, and the full payment must be made by December 26, 2023. He shared the Blaine Police Department will receive \$3.1 million of these funds then outlined allowable uses of the funds that must be used to provide public safety for community violence prevention and intervention programs, community engagement, mental health crisis responses, victim services, training programs, first responder wellness, or to pay other personnel or equipment costs. He shared how funds cannot be used for

purchase of an armored or tactical vehicles, tear gas, remodeling uses, and others. He shared proposed uses for the Blaine Police Department in detail and asked for council input.

- 3.2.** 2023-450 Special Revenue, Parks Capital, and Facilities Funds 2024 Budgets
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Staff reviewed in detail several funds as proposed for 2024, including Special Revenue, Parks Capital, and Facilities Funds 2024 Budgets. Council provided feedback and asked questions.

- 3.3.** 2023-455 2024 Capital Equipment
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Chief Podany shared an update on how the department addresses those experiencing homelessness with the goal to provide individuals with resources while acknowledging many do not wish to take advantage of those resources. He shared a heat map that outlined areas in the city where unsheltered individuals typically go and reasons for these locations then asked council if there would be support for bringing the median safety ordinance forward again for consideration that would allow the city to address individuals in the median who may be panhandling as well as selling items or advertising for a company, all with the goal to address safety of individuals.

Staff outlined how Capital Equipment and Projects Fund are used to account for the city's general capital equipment and projects. Capitalized equipment and projects are defined as items over \$10,000 and with a useful life of more than one year. As of 2024, any capitalizable Facilities Fund projects and equipment will also be accounted for in the Capital Equipment and Projects Fund. The change is to align with accounting rules as the Facilities Fund cannot own assets as an internal service fund. The facilities capital will be funded by transfers from the Facilities Fund. Capital equipment requests were submitted by departments in the second quarter of 2023 and were vetted by Finance in the second and third quarter of 2023. Staff outlined processes used to guide replacement timing requests, revenues and expenditures, then summarized the CIP and projects fund equipment list in detail. They reviewed SBM Fire capital equipment and projects fund list and council provided feedback.

- 3.4.** 2023-456 EDA Fund Balances
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Thorvig stated the City of Blaine established an Economic Development Authority (EDA) in 1988 then outlined goals of the EDA and powers as allowed by Statute. He reviewed the existing funds, balances, and uses in detail that included redevelopment pooled TIF, housing pooled TIF, EDA wetland bank, general EDA capital fund and operating fund. He noted the EDA also owns 30 different properties in the city that total approximately \$10.6 million in land assets.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:25PM.