



City of Blaine

City Council

November 13, 2024 | 5:25 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order by the Mayor

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Terra Fleming and Lori Saroya.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Tom Loonan; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

4. Awards - Presentations - Organizational Business

5. Communications

6. Open Forum

Open Forum is an opportunity for the public to present an issue or concern to City Council. There is a maximum of fifteen minutes set aside for open forum. Each presentation should be limited to no more than three minutes. If your item needs follow-up from the City, staff will arrange for that follow-up and will contact you to let you know what is being done. Thank you for coming this evening.

5. Adoption of Agenda

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

All items listed under the "Consent Agenda" are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

6. 7:00 PM - Public Hearing and Items Published for a Certain Time

10. Development Business

3. Administration

- 3.1.** 2024-529 Canvass of the November 5, 2024, General Election
 Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen provided a summary of the 2024 City general election results for the office of Mayor and Councilmembers for Ward 1, 2 and 3. She reported Tim Sanders won the Office of Mayor. She explained Ward 1 was won by Chris Ford, Ward 2 was won by Leslie Larson, and Ward 3 won by Chris Massoglia. She commented on how two excess ballots were fed into the Ward 1 Precinct 2 ballot box by mail in voters in error which resulted in corrections from the attached summary report. She reported 88.02% of Blaine voters turned out to vote and almost 3,500 new voters were registered. She thanked staff and all City Hall employees for stepping up and assisting with the election. Staff asked that the Council approve the canvass of the results of the November 5, 2024, city general election.

Moved by Mayor Sanders, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to approve the Canvass results of the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Mayor Sanders thanked the entire City Clerk team and all election judges for their efforts in the election.

Councilmember Larson asked about the delay in reporting results by Anoka County. Ms. Sorensen reported the County does not upload precinct results until all absentee ballots are counted so accurate results are posted and not changed after absentee ballots are processed. She indicated this takes time and noted Blaine's ballots were not picked up until 9PM.

Mayor Sanders commented on the State law that changed that allows cities to accept absentee ballots until 8PM on election day. He noted there were 650 absentee ballots dropped off for all cities at Anoka County which took five hours for the County to process. He discussed how important it was to count all ballots before reporting the outcome of an election.

Councilmember Massoglia asked if Blaine received 650 absentee ballots on election day. Ms.

Sorensen indicated only six ballots were dropped off later in the day in Blaine on election day, but a total of 650 were dropped off from throughout the County.

Mayor Sanders indicated a couple of cities held all of their dropped off ballots until 8PM on election day.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he would like to know which cities did this because this caused a major delay in getting the election results. Ms. Sorensen indicated they had arranged for Blaine's ballots to be dropped off at the County at 3PM with the remainder sent to the County after 8PM.

Mayor Sanders stated he appreciated the County's policy to wait for absentee ballots as it assured all votes were being counted before the results were published. However, the issue that could be addressed between the State and the County would be how to expedite the process to get the results sooner. He indicated the city could take the position to advocate to change the 8PM deadline to 3PM or 5PM.

City Manager Wolfe thanked City Clerk Sorensen and her entire staff for their patience and diligence while going through this year's election cycle and for working tirelessly given the number of early voters that visited city hall this election season.

Motion adopted unanimously.

8. Other Business

4. Adjournment

The special city council meeting was adjourned at 5:44PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk