City of Blaine
City Council

February 3, 2025 | 7:00 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 at 7:04PM by Mayor Sanders followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Roll Call.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Assistant Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Deputy Police Chief Joe Gerhard; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Finance Analyst Nikki Beckers; Acting City Manager/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

4.1. 2025-40 Recognition of Blaine Area Non-Profit Organizations
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director, Michelle Wolfe, City Manager

Finance Director Zimmerman stated each year, the Blaine city council awards donations to several Blaine area non-profit organizations. The source of this funding is charitable gambling proceeds; organizations that run legal gambling operations, such as pull-tabs, within Blaine are required by state law to submit 10 percent of their net proceeds to the city.

This year, the Blaine city council is proud to be able to award $192,500 in grants to a dozen different community organizations. He reported the 2025 recipients are as follows:

- Alexandra House
- Anoka County Composite Squadron - Civil Air Patrol
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Blaine
- Family Promise in Anoka County
- Hope for the Community Food Shelf
- Hope 4 Youth
- Impact Services
- Minnesota 100 Club
- Salvation Army Food Shelf - Blaine
- SBM Fire
- Stepping Stone Emergency Housing
- Way of the Lord Food Shelf

Mayor Sanders thanked each of these organizations for their support of the Blaine community. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Mayor Sanders recognized former Mayor Tom Ryan and thanked him for his long-time service to the city.

5. Communications

None.

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.

Mayor Sanders opened the Open Forum at 7:10PM.

There being no input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:10PM.

7. 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.

Councilmember Robertson requested the removal of Consent Agenda items 7.2 and 7.9.

Councilmember Newland noted he would be abstaining from voting on Item 7.1 due to a potential conflict of interest.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended removing Items 7.2 and 7.9.

Motion adopted 6-0-1 (Councilmember Newland abstained).

7.1. 2025-41 Schedule of Bills Paid
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2025-48 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Councilmember Robertson noted a correction was needed to reflect her nay vote on the Walter's CUP item at the January 22 meeting.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, council meeting as amended.

Motion adopted unanimously.

7.3. 2025-42 Motion to Approve Payment to Core & Main for Sensus Analytics and RNI SAAS Annual License Renewal
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.4. 2025-43 Motion to Approve Payment to Intuitive Municipal Solutions for Software Licensing, Cloud Hosting, Technical Support and Maintenance
Sponsors: Paul Grosse, IT Manager

7.5. 2025-44 Approve Renewal of Labor Attorney Contract with Eckberg Lammers
Sponsors: Scott Johnson, Director of Administrative Services

7.6. RES 25-18 Resolution Granting Final Plat Approval to Subdivide 1.39 Acres into Two Lots, to be Known as McNeil Addition at 4324 117th Avenue NE. Dave McNeil (Case File No. 25-0001/ACK)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

7.7. RES 25-28 Resolution Approving a Joint Powers Agreement with Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) for Implementation of Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Wells

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.8. RES 25-24 Resolution to Abate Assessment Installment Payments on Parcel 33-31-23-32-0131, 8771 Hastings Circle NE

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.9. RES 25-25 Resolution to Abate Assessments on Parcels 29-31-23-43-0014 and 29-31-23-43-0015 with regards to Cloverleaf Parkway Area Street Reconstruction (I/P 18-18), Levy Fund Number 85584

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Councilmember Robertson asked questions regarding the proposed abatements and requested further information on which properties qualified. Director of Engineering Schluender explained in the past, the city has assessed all properties within project areas, which meant the county and state have been assessed. He reported the language does not allow the city to assess federal properties, which was an oversight on staff's part.

Councilmember Robertson stated she looked forward to the council further discussing the city's pavement management plan as part of the budget process in 2025.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adopt a Resolution to Abate Assessments on Parcels 29-31-23-43-0014 and 29-31-23-43-0015 with regard to Cloverleaf Parkway Area Street Reconstruction (I/P 18-18), Levy Fund Number 85584.

Motion adopted unanimously.

7.10. RES 25-26 Resolution to Receive Feasibility Report and Order Public Hearing for the 2025 Zest Street Construction, Project T2504 (I/P 25-04)

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.11. 2025-45 Motion to Allow Modified Work Hours on the One Hundred Fifth Redevelopment Project

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.12. RES 25-27 Resolution to Receive Petition and Order Public Hearing for Vacation of Drainage and Utility Easements, Lot 1, Block 1, Larson's Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Anoka County, Minnesota; Vacation No. V25-01

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.13. RES 25-30 Resolution to Receive Feasibility Report and Order Public Hearing for the 2025 Street Rehabilitation Project, Improvement Project No. 25-05
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.14. RES 25-29 Resolution to Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. C0011342 with Anoka County for Signal Reconstruction and ADA Improvements at CSAH 12 (Northdale Blvd NE/109th Ave NE) at CSAH 51 (University Ave NE/University Ave NE)
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.15. RES 25-19 Resolution of Support for MACTA Efforts to Modernize Public, Education, And Government (PEG) Programming/Public Access Funding
Sponsors: Ben Hayle, Communications Manager

7.16. RES 25-20 Resolution Approving a Premise Permit for Lawful Gambling Activity for Centennial High School Football Boosters
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.17. RES 25-21 Summary Resolution for Publication of Ordinance 25-2572 Approving Amendments to the City of Blaine Zoning Ordinance Related to Regulations for Cannabis. City of Blaine (Case File No. 24-0069/SLK)
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.18. RES 25-22 Summary Resolution for Publication of Ordinance 25-2573 Approving Ordinance Adopting Chapter 7 Regulating Adult Use Cannabis Businesses
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

8. 7:00 PM - Public Hearing and Items Published for a Certain Time

None.

9. Development Business

None.

10. Administration

10.1. RES 25-31 Resolution accepting a Bid from Minger Construction Companies, Inc. in the Amount of $4,974,991.25 for the Lift Station13 Force Main-Phase 2 Project, Improvement Project No. 23-30

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Mr. Schluender stated this item would approve a contract with Minger Construction Companies, Inc. for $4,974,991.25 for the Lift Station 13 Force Main - Phase 2 project. This project will replace 2,700 feet of force main and replace the existing Lift Station 13. It was noted bids were received electronically at 10:00AM, January 28, 2025, for Project No. 23-30. A total of 2 bids were received, ranging from $4,974,991.25 to $8,136,022.64. The bids have been checked and tabulated, and it has been determined that Minger Construction Companies, Inc. of Jordan, Minnesota is the lowest bidder. The engineering department has worked with Minger Construction Companies, Inc. on previous contracts and recommends that the low bid be accepted, and a contract entered into with Minger Construction Companies, Inc. The council was also asked to approve a 10% contingency to bring the total project budget to $5,472,490.38.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt a Resolution accepting a Bid from Minger Construction Companies, Inc. in the Amount of $4,974,991.25 for the Lift Station13 Force Main-Phase 2 Project, Improvement Project No. 23-30.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.2. 2024-47 Approve an Agreement with Verizon Wireless for Cellular Products and Services

Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

Deputy Police Chief Gerhard stated the city is seeking approval to switch cell phone carriers from AT&T FirstNet to Verizon Wireless for cellular service for employee work cell phones. He provided background information noting Verizon reached out to city staff late in 2024 with a proposal for service. This led staff to reach out to AT&T and T-Mobile in order to receive proposals from these organizations as well. After reviewing all three of the proposals, staff was recommending a switch to Verizon Wireless.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for working to achieve cost savings and requested staff review the current cell phone issuance policy to see if further savings could be realized should city cell phones no longer be needed for some employees.

Mayor Sanders asked if Verizon had a special network for first responders. Deputy Chief Gerhard explained Verizon had an uplifting all the time for first responders.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to approve an Agreement with Verizon Wireless for Cellular Products and Services.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.3. ORD 25-2574 First Reading
Ordinance Amending Appendix C - Franchises Article II. - Cable Television Franchise
Sponsors: Ben Hayle, Communications Manager

Communications Manager Hayle stated the council is asked to review and introduce the city's cable franchise ordinance, extending the city’s current Comcast Cable Franchise for five years. This ordinance preserves all of the provisions of the current franchise, as well as:

- The January 29, 1996, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- The 1997 Resolution Transferring Community Television Programming Responsibilities from Group W of the North Central Suburbs, d/b/a Meredith Cable to the North Central
- The Franchise Settlement Agreement dated December 17, 2014

Mr. Hayle reported the ordinance was drafted by North Metro Telecommunications Commission Attorney Mike Bradley. Comcast has already reviewed and approved this ordinance. Since the current cable franchise was granted by an ordinance, the North Metro Telecommunications Commission is recommending that the extension also be granted by ordinance.

Declared by Mayor Sanders that Ordinance No. 25-2574, “Ordinance Amending Appendix C - Franchises Article II. - Cable Television Franchise,” be introduced and placed on file for second reading at the February 19, 2025 Council meeting.

11. Other Business

Councilmember Larson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming made a motion to suspend the rules in order to reconsider the National Market Village signage amendment from the January 22 city council meeting.

Motion failed 2-5, (Mayor Sanders, Councilmembers Ford, Massoglia, Newland and Robertson opposed).

12. Adjournment

Signed by ______________________________
Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.