



# City of Blaine

## City Council Workshop

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March 17, 2025 | 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 Pro Tem Robertson at 5:30PM.

#### 2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Robertson, Councilmembers Terra Fleming, Chris Ford, Chris Massoglia, and Tom Newland.

ABSENT: Mayor Tim Sanders and Councilmember Leslie Larson.

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 Administration Scott Johnson; City Attorneys Lida Bannick and Eric Larson; Public Works Director Nick Fleishhacker; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

#### 3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2025-53      Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03 Subd. (1)(b) 2025 Bargaining Strategy Discussion  
*Sponsors: Scott Johnson, Director of Administrative Services*

After motion and second, the council moved into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 Subd. (1)(b) to discuss the 2025 bargaining strategy.

- 3.2.** 2025-54 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05(3)(c)(3) - Discuss Potential Purchase of Portions of Land Identified as PIDs 11-31-23-12-0003 and 11-31-23-11-0001 Located at the Southwest Corner of 125th Avenue and Lexington Avenue  
*Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director*

After motion and second, the council moved into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. (3)(c) to discuss the potential purchase of portions of land located at the southwest corner of 125th Avenue and Lexington Avenue.

- 3.3.** 2025-55 Municipal Cannabis Update  
*Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk*

City Clerk Sorensen shared that staff has been working with Voyageur Cannabis Services to assist in completing the municipal cannabis application which was submitted on March 14 and explained staff hoped for an update on license status by August, if not sooner. She reported if the city receives a cannabis retail license, the council could then revisit the idea of municipal cannabis and discuss if a partnership should be pursued.

Safety Services Director/Police Chief Podany provided an update on the possible impacts to HIDTA funding as a result of the city having a municipal cannabis license and reported the impact would be less than originally anticipated.

Community Development Director Thorvig asked if the council supported staff reviewing proposals for possible municipal cannabis partnerships. The consensus of council was to direct staff to begin reviewing proposals for possible municipal cannabis partnerships this spring.

#### **4. Other Business**

Council reviewed the rankings and possible appointments for the board and commission appointments scheduled for approval at the regular council meeting. The council supported there being equal representation from the wards on the city's boards and commissions.

Director of Administration Johnson provided an update on the city manager recruitment process noting meetings will be scheduled with councilmembers regarding what they were looking for in the next city manager.

Councilmember Massoglia requested a meeting be held with council and City Attorney Loonan prior to meeting with the recruiter in order to better understand the council and city manager's roles.

City Manager Wolfe provided an update on a recent lateral sanitary sewer break and described the new logo that would be painted onto Water Tower 2.

## 5. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 6:55PM.



Signed by

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Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

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Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk