



City of Blaine

City Council

April 21, 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 7:00PM 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, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

ABSENT: Councilmember Chris Massoglia.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Michelle Wolfe; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Assistant Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Deputy Police Chief Joe Gerhard; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Administration 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. 2025-91 Special Olympics Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Guardians of the Flame Award

Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

Safety Services Manager/Police Chief Podany stated the Special Olympics Minnesota Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Guardians of the Flame Award recognizes outstanding law enforcement agencies that have significantly contributed to the statewide success of the LETR for Special Olympics Minnesota, with one police department and one sheriff's office

receiving the award annually. The award aims to acknowledge and celebrate the dedication of law enforcement agencies to the LETR and its mission of supporting Special Olympics Minnesota. The LETR is a global grassroots fundraising and public awareness program for Special Olympics, with law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carrying the "Flame of Hope" into opening ceremonies of local competitions. The flame symbolizes courage, celebration of diversity, and the inclusion of all people around the world. The Blaine Police Department is receiving this award for all the things they do with Special Olympics such as participating in all the events, taking initiative in planning and coordinating events, and fundraising to help support the program. The Blaine Police Department participates in three LETR events: The Torch Run, the Polar Plunge and Tip a Cop events. Blaine's involvement has grown to the point that they have three liaisons for Special Olympics which included Officer Jennah Justen, Officer Pete Noll, and Detective Orin Christensen.

Molly Eagan, representative from Special Olympics Minnesota, presented Police Chief Podany with the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) "Guardians of the Flame" Award to the Blaine Police Department. She explained this award recognizes outstanding law enforcement agencies that have significantly contributed to the statewide success of the LETR for Special Olympics Minnesota. She shared how participation doubled and raised over \$100,000 more than last year. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Police Chief Podany recognized Detective Orin Christensen, Officer Jennah Justen and Officer Pete Noll for their efforts on behalf of the Special Olympics.

4.2. 2025-92 Recognition of McDonough K9 for Donation of Police K9 and Training
 Sponsors:

Police Chief Podany stated Mark McDonough is a former police officer who worked for the Anoka Police Department and the Coon Rapids Police Department for a combined total of 32 years. Throughout his law enforcement career, 22 years were spent training K9s and working with multiple K9s himself, which led him to start his own business in 2000 - McDonough K9. Mr. McDonough retired from the Coon Rapids Police Department in 2015 but continued growing his career with McDonough K9, training hundreds of K9s yearly and producing elite working dogs to this day. In July 2024, McDonough K-9 donated a 17-month-old purebred German Shepherd to the Blaine Police Department along with training. The canine was imported from Germany and partnered with Officer Kelly Jahnke who, with the approval of the Chief, named him Vinny. They began the 3-month basic training program at McDonough K9 immediately and graduated on November 22, 2024. Officer Jahnke and K9 Vinny have worked very hard with great success in maintaining the elite reputation among the K9 handlers at the Blaine Police Department. Chief Podany presented Mr. McDonough with an award of appreciation for this donation, which saved the City of Blaine an estimated cost of \$15,000. He said the City and department was very grateful for Mr. McDonough's compassion and generosity. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

4.3. 2025-93 Police Department Swearing-in Ceremony

Police Chief Podany stated when new officers successfully complete the field training program and advance to solo patrol, a swearing-in ceremony is performed in front of the city council. Also, when sworn staff receive promotions, a swearing-in ceremony is performed in front of the city council. This is a special time for sworn staff and their families to celebrate their accomplishments and be recognized in front of the mayor, city council members, city manager, Police Chief Podany, fellow police staff, and the public. He shared backgrounds on Officer Abbie Lamberty, Sergeant Nick Traffie, Sergeant Samantha Klimisch, and Captain Zachary Johnson. City Clerk Sorensen administered the oath of office, badges were pinned on and a round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

5. Communications

None.

6. Open Forum

Open Forum is an opportunity for the public to share comments, concerns, or input on other items. While open forum is not intended to provide for response or discussion opportunities, if follow-up is needed, city staff will work to contact the speaker(s) outside of the meeting to arrange for that follow-up. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes with a maximum of 15 minutes set aside for open forum.

Mayor Sanders opened the Open Forum at 7:32PM.

Dana Carlson, 287 117th Avenue NE, shared concerns regarding possible crimes against his family, illegal RV parking and interlock devices, and other concerns regarding his mental health. He requested records from the Blaine Police Department to support his research.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:37PM.

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 so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Robertson that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved.

Motion adopted unanimously.

7.1. 2025-94 Schedule of Bills Paid

Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

- 7.2.** 2025-95 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk
- 7.3.** 2025-96 Motion to Approve Carnival License for Amusement Attractions at Northtown Mall
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk
- 7.4.** RES 25-68 Resolution Declaring Surplus Property And Authorizing Sale, Donation, or Disposal
Sponsors: Chad Miers, Fleet Manager, Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director
- 7.5.** 2025-97 Motion to Authorize Replacement of Public Works Unit #3431 Vehicle
Sponsors: Chad Miers, Fleet Manager, Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director
- 7.6.** 2025-98 Motion to Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Bolton & Menk for Construction Services for Lift Station 13 Force Main Project - Phase 2, Improvement Project No. U2330 (23-30)
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

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

None.

9. Development Business

- 9.1.** RES 25-53 Resolution Granting Preliminary Plat Approval to Create Two Outlots and Right-of-Way Dedication for the Zest Street Extension on the Southwest Corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Avenue NE. Lexington Crossing (Case File No. 25-0010/SAS)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

Assistant Community Development Director Sellman stated the applicant is requesting to plat two outlots and right-of-way dedication for the Zest Street extension on the southwest corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Avenue NE to be known as Lexington Crossing. No development is proposed at this time.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adopt a

Resolution Granting Preliminary Plat Approval to Create Two Outlots and Right-of-Way Dedication for the Zest Street Extension on the Southwest Corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Avenue NE.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10. Administration

- 10.1.** RES 25-52 Resolution Accepting a Bid from Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC in the Amount of \$106,644 for the 2025 Pavement Markings Project, Improvement Project No. 25-03

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Director of Engineering Schluender requested the council accept a bid for the 2025 pavement markings project on various streets, Improvement Project No. 25-03 and award a contract in the amount of \$106,644 to Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC. This is an annual project that the city contracts to keep the pavement markings in a highly visible condition to meet the current reflectivity standards. City council is also asked to approve a 5% contingency to bring the total project budget to \$111,976.20. The funding source for this project is listed in the street maintenance portion of the general fund and there was \$100,000 identified in the 2025 budget. An amendment will need to happen in this portion of the street maintenance that will shift \$12,000 from contractual to the striping line item. There are funds available for this transfer.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Bid from Sir Lines-A-Lot, LLC in the Amount of \$106,644 for the 2025 Pavement Markings Project, Improvement Project No. 25-03 as well as the proposed budget amendment.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 10.2.** RES 25-57 Resolution Accepting a Bid from Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC in the Amount of \$2,994,658.32 for the 2025 Southwest Area Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project No. 25-06.

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Mr. Schluender stated bids were received electronically at 10:00 AM, April 15, 2025, for Project No. 25-06. A total of seven bids were received ranging from \$2,994,658.32 to \$3,717,028.19. The three lowest bidders and engineer's estimate were reviewed by staff. It was noted bids have been checked and tabulated, and it has been determined that Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC of Mora, Minnesota is the lowest bidder. The engineering department has worked with Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC on previous contracts and recommends that the low bid be accepted, and a contract entered into with Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC. City council is also asked to approve a 10% contingency to bring the total project budget to \$3,294,124.15. The funding sources for this project are the pavement

management funds, public utility funds and special assessments and there are sufficient funds budgeted to cover these costs.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Bid from Douglas-Kerr Underground, LLC in the Amount of \$2,994,658.32 with a 10% contingency for the 2025 Southwest Area Street Reconstruction, Improvement Project No. 25-06.

Mayor Sanders thanked staff for all of their efforts on this project and stated he was happy to see this project came in under the engineer's estimate.

Councilmember Newland questioned when this project would begin. Mr. Schluender reported this project would begin this summer and would be coordinated with the 89th Avenue project.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.3. RES 25-69 Resolution Approving a Purchase Agreement for 2170 106th Lane NE.
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Thorvig shared a background report to approve the purchase agreement for 2170 106th Lane NE which is the last property to be acquired within the 105th Avenue redevelopment area. Staff commented on the terms of the purchase agreement and recommended approval.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adopt a Resolution to approve the purchase agreement for 2170 106th Avenue NE in the amount of \$600,000.

Mayor Sanders congratulated Mr. Thorvig and City Attorney Loonan for their tremendous leadership and dedicated work on completing all of the property acquisitions in order to move the 105th Avenue redevelopment project forward.

Motion adopted unanimously.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk