City of Blaine
City Council

July 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 7:12PM 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 Chris Ford, Leslie Larson, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

ABSENT: Councilmember Terra Fleming.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim City Manager/Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; Assistant Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Eric Larson; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; Public Works Director Nick Fleishhacker; City Forester Kris Paulseth; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

4. Awards - Presentations - Organizational Business

None.

5. Communications

Councilmember Larson reported the USA Cup soccer tournament was held last week at the National Sports Center and was looking forward to the 3M Open golf tournament being held this week in Blaine.

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 7:14PM.

Andrew Eisenzimmer, 8873 Fraizer Street NE, explained he was the president of the Weston Woods Homeowners Association. He spoke to the council about the proposed housing development at Flowerfield Road. He shared support of the development but expressed concerns regarding the need to upgrade and widen Flowerfield Road should this development or any other development proceed. He explained he had concerns regarding pedestrian safety, vehicle speed, and traffic volume. He also shared that Weston Woods includes private streets that were only to be used by Weston Woods residents and guests. He reported outside traffic was already present and will likely increase should this development move forward.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:19PM.

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. 2025-167 Schedule of Bills Paid

Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2025-168 Approval of Minutes

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.3. 2025-169 Motion to Approve a Temporary On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for St. Timothy's Annual Carnival, 707 89th Avenue NE

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.4. 2025-170 Motion to Authorize Temporary Removal of Parking Restrictions on 91st Avenue, 92nd Avenue, 92nd Lane and Baltimore Street to Accommodate Lettermen Sports Tent Sales on July 28, 2025 through August 3, 2025

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.5. RES 25-118 Resolution to Approve Replacement of Police Department CSO Truck 5335 (Chevrolet Silverado 1500)

Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

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

8.1. RES 25-110 Resolution Adopting Assessment for Sanburnol Drive/85th Avenue Improvements, Improvement Project No. 23-14

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Director of Engineering Schluender stated Improvement Project No. 23-14 was ordered by the city council on December 4, 2023 with Resolution 23-194. This was a joint project between the city of Spring Lake Park and Blaine. The city did concur with the city of Spring Lake Park in accepting a bid and entering into a construction contract with North Valley, Inc. by the city council on March 18, 2024 with Resolution No. 24-29 and construction was completed in the summer of 2024. The total project cost indicated in the feasibility report was $1,171,600. The estimated cost split indicated in the feasibility report was $446,575 for the city of Blaine and $722,025 for the city of Spring Lake Park. The assessment roll has been prepared consistent with the feasibility report. Of the total cost, the amount to be assessed is $82,937.05. The city's pavement management program funds will contribute $257,109.53 and the city's municipal state aid funds will contribute $344,243.44.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:22PM.

There being no public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:22PM.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to adopt a Resolution Adopting Assessment for Sanburnol Drive/85th Avenue Improvements, Improvement Project No. 23-14.

Councilmember Newland stated he spoke with staff regarding this street improvement project and explained the value of this improvement was exceptional. He thanked staff for working with the city of Spring Lake Park on this project.

Councilmember Robertson reported the assessment roll included mostly commercial properties.

Motion adopted unanimously.

9. Development Business

9.1. RES 25-98 Resolution Granting Preliminary Plat Approval to Create Four Lots and Two Outlots to be Known as Lexington Crossing Second Addition at the Southwest Corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Avenue NE. HJ Development LLP. (Case File No. 25-0029/SAS)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

Assistant Community Development Director Sellman stated the proposed plat creates four lots and two outlots for future commercial development at the southwest corner of Main Street and Lexington Avenue. Staff commented further on the request and reported the planning commission recommended approval with conditions.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt a Resolution Granting Preliminary Plat Approval to Create Four Lots and Two Outlots to be Known as Lexington Crossing Second Addition at the Southwest Corner of Lexington Avenue and 125th Avenue NE.

Motion adopted unanimously.

9.2. ORD 25-2581 Second Reading
Approving Ordinance Amendments to Section 33.10 Home Occupations. City of Blaine (Case File No. 25-0019/ACK)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

Ms. Sellman requested the council hold the second reading approving amendments to Section 33.10 Home Occupations. Staff further discussed the proposed changes within the ordinance and reported the planning commission recommended approval of the ordinance amendments.

Moved by Councilmember Larson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-2581, Amending Section 33.10 Home Occupations.

Councilmember Massoglia recommended the Residential Estate (RE) zoning district with properties that are greater than three acres in size be added into this ordinance in the same places as Farm Residential (FR).

Councilmember Robertson asked if Residential Flex (RF) properties that were more than three acres should also be included. Ms. Sellman stated Residential Flex properties are governed by conditional use permits, which would clarify what types of home occupations were allowed within the RF zoning district.

Motion amendment moved by Councilmember Massoglia, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, adding Residential Estate (RE) properties into the ordinance that are equal to or greater than three (3) acres in size.

Amendment motion adopted unanimously.

Amended motion adopted unanimously.

9.3. ORD 25-2582 Second Reading

Approving Ordinance Amendments to Section 34.04 Prohibited Signs and Section 34.13 Administrative Permit. City of Blaine (Case File No. 25-0020/ACK)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Assistant Community Development Director

Ms. Sellman requested the council hold the second reading approving ordinance amendments to Section 34.04 Prohibited Signs and Section 34.13 Administrative Permit. Staff commented further on the request and recommended approval.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adopt the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-2582, amending Section 34.04 Prohibited Signs and Section 34.13 Administrative Permit.

Councilmember Robertson inquired if the sign ordinance would continue to be complaint based. Ms. Sellman reported this was the case.

Councilmember Newland inquired when the ordinance would go into effect. Ms. Sellman explained the ordinance would go into effect 30 days after council approval.

Councilmember Newland requested staff share the ordinance amendment with current business owners. Ms. Sellman stated postcards would be sent to all property owners that have businesses in the city of Blaine, along with sign companies in the community. She indicated the postcard would have a QR code that business owners could scan that would direct them to the city's website for further information regarding the changes that were made to the sign code.

Councilmember Massoglia thanked staff for their time on this ordinance amendment.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10. Administration

10.1. RES 25-120 Resolution Accepting a Bid from Carr's Tree Service, Inc. for Tree Removal Services and Authorizing Execution of an Agreement

Sponsors: Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director, Kristofer Paulseth, City Forester

City Forester Paulseth stated bids to remove a portion of the estimated 1,200 diseased and hazard boulevard trees were received electronically until 10AM on July 8, 2025 for the 2025 tree removal contract. Bids were received on July 8, 2025, from four contractors, including Carr's Tree Service, Upper Cut Tree Service, Andover Tree Care, and Precision Landscape and Tree. The bids were checked for completeness, and it was determined that Carr's Tree

Service, Inc. was the lowest of the bidders that met all the necessary requirements. The City has worked with Carr's in the past and recommends that Carr's bid be accepted and the Mayor and Interim City Manager be authorized to enter into an agreement. The agreement amount will be set not to exceed $150,000, which is what was allocated in the 2025 budget.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Bid from Carr's Tree Service, Inc. for Tree Removal Services and Authorizing Execution of an Agreement.

Interim City Manager Community Development Director Thorvig explained Emerald Ash borer (EAB) has been a topic that many councilmembers have received questions about and asked Mr. Paulseth to provide the council with further information on how the city would be addressing EAB.

Mr. Paulseth reported the city had an estimated 1,200 diseased or dying ash trees on boulevards. He indicated there were more within the city's parks as well as on private property. He anticipated it would take eight to ten years to remove all the dead standing trees. He explained the city was proposing to remove 200 EAB trees in 2025.

Councilmember Robertson welcomed City Forester Paulseth and thanked him for his service to the city of Blaine. She discussed how the city was trying to balance the needs of the community and explained $150,000 would only take down 200 trees this year. She reported the city would continue to have to set aside funds each year for the next 10 years to address the EAB concern.

Councilmember Massoglia questioned how many boulevard trees city staff would get to this year. Mr. Paulseth explained city staff would be removing three trees a day or 15 trees a week, along with their other duties.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.2. 2025-171 Motion to Accept a Quote from Dresel Contracting in the Amount of $66,154.93 for 2025 Miscellaneous Sanitary Sewer Repairs Project, Improvement Project No's. 25-07.

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Mr. Schluender stated city staff have identified various sanitary sewer issues in need of repair. The city has requested quotes for sanitary sewer repairs in two separate locations within the city. Quotes were sent to 3 contractors to bid on the project plans and specification requirements for city improvement project numbers U2507 & U2526. Quotes were due electronically by 4:00 PM, July 8, 2025, for Project No's. 25-07 & 25-26. A total of 1 quote was received in the amount of $66,154.93. Quotes have been checked and tabulated, and it has been determined that Dresel Contracting, Inc. of Chisago City, Minnesota is the lowest bidder. The engineering department has worked with Dresel Contracting on previous contracts and recommends that the low bid be accepted, and a contract entered into with Dresel Contracting, Inc.

Mr. Schluender explained the Location A project was budgeted for and has sufficient funds to complete this project as bid. The Location B project was not budgeted for and would need to be paid out of the sewer operating funds. Due to the higher than anticipated bid the operating funds will not be sufficient to cover this portion of the project. Staff recommends that only Location A project in the amount of $66,154.93, be awarded at this time. City council is also asked to approve a 10% contingency to bring the total project budget to $72,770.31. The funding source for this project is $80,000 from the sewer CIP fund for Project U2507. There are sufficient funds budgeted to cover these costs.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Quote from Dresel Contracting in the Amount of $66,154.93 for 2025 Miscellaneous Sanitary Sewer Repairs Project, Improvement Project No's. 25-07.

Councilmember Newland asked if staff had an understanding as to why the bid came in quite a bit higher than the engineer's estimate. Mr. Schluender reported the project requires de-watering and some other risks, which drove up costs.

Motion adopted unanimously.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Signed by ______________________________

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by ______________________________

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk