City of Blaine
City Council

August 18, 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 7:08PM 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: 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 Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Eric Larson; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

4. Awards - Presentations - Organizational Business

None.

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 7:09PM.

Bruce Manthei, 4010 99th Avenue NE, explained he had sight line concerns due to the large electrical box that was located at the intersection of 99th/Lexington Avenue.

Scott Coggins, resident of Andover and member of ACEIT, expressed concerns regarding the use of electronic poll pads noting they felt this was overreach of Anoka County. He recommended cities be allowed to make a decision on how to run their elections and that this not be delegated or mandated by Anoka County. He stated this was an important topic and he wanted the city to have a say in this matter.

Cindy Holzinger, 12065 Duke Drive NE, asked that the carpet be repaired in the elevator at city hall then shared concerns regarding EAB and requested the city pursue grants for use by residents with Carr's Tree Service and possible tax credits or rebates to offset the costs of tree removal. She complained about the helicopters that were running late at night noting she was also concerned about the possibility of satellites being deployed. Lastly, she stated she had concerns with the high chlorine levels in the city's water.

Dana Carlson, 287 117th Avenue NE, shared various concerns regarding his family and requested that a detective speak with himself and his mother.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:24PM.

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.

Councilmember Newland stated he would be abstaining from voting on Item 7.1 due to a conflict of interest with the schedule of bills paid.

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

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

7.1. 2025-186 Schedule of Bills Paid

Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2025-187 Approval of Minutes

Sponsors:

7.3. RES 25-128 Resolution to Receive Petition and Order Public Hearing for Vacation of Drainage and Utility Easements, Outlot B, Lexington Crossing according to the recorded plat thereof, Anoka County, Minnesota; Vacation No. V25-03

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.4. RES 25-136 Resolution Adopting a Written Statement of Denial for a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in a Single-Family Residential (R-1) Zoning District at 1684 132nd Avenue NE. Alex Pepin (Case File No. 25-0023/ACK)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Interim Community Development Director

7.5. RES 25-141 Resolution to Support Anoka County Submittal of a FY29-30 Minnesota Highway Freight Program (MNHFP) Funding Application for the TH65 and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Blvd) Improvement Project

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.6. RES 25-142 Resolution to Support Anoka County Submittal of FY27-28 Transportation Economic Development (TED) Program and the Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure (TEDI) Program Funding Applications for the TH65 and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Blvd) Improvement Project

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

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

8.1. RES 25-117 Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit for a Billboard up to 65 Feet in Height in a Planned Business District (PBD) Zoning District at 4202 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE. Outfront Media (Case File No. 25-0030/EES)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Interim Community Development Director

Assistant Community Development Director Sellman stated the applicant is requesting a conditional use permit (CUP) for a 65-foot tall billboard to allow the billboard (proposed for the existing Walgreens site) to be seen over the Lexington Avenue bridge. Staff recommends approval of the CUP.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:27PM.

There being no public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:27PM.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adopt a Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit for a Billboard up to 65 Feet in Height in a

Planned Business District (PBD) Zoning District at 4202 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE.

Motion adopted unanimously.

9. Development Business

None.

10. Administration

10.1. 2025-188 Motion to authorize the Director of Engineering to execute the purchase agreement with West Rondeau Lake Drive LLC, in the amount of $130,572.99 for wetland banking credits for the Zest Street Construction project, Improvement Project No. T2504.
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Director of Engineering Schluender stated council is requested to approve the purchase agreement with West Rondeau Lake Drive LLC in the amount of $130,572.99 for 1.0152 acres of wetland from the Butterfly Marsh Wetland Bank, Bank #1762. The 2025 Zest Street Construction Project involves constructing a new portion of Zest Street NE and Lakes Parkway NE west of Lexington Avenue. As part of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) permitting process, impacts to existing wetlands must be avoided, minimized, and then replaced. It has been determined that 1.0152 acres need to be mitigated/replaced. Mitigation of wetlands is a process that requires providing land that can sustain a newly created wetland, constructing the wetland, and then maintaining and monitoring the wetland for a minimum of 5 years until it receives all appropriate agency approvals (BWSR and Army Corps). As this is a long and expensive process, it is the preference to purchase appropriate wetland bank credits for the wetland impacts. Wetland banking is a way to offset the ecological loss of a development project by mitigating wetland losses through the creation, preservation and restoration of wetlands elsewhere. The goal is to protect and restore the ecological functions of the landscape, reduce the impact of development, and account for inevitable wetland losses resulting from development.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to authorize the Director of Engineering to execute the purchase agreement with West Rondeau Lake Drive LLC, in the amount of $130,572.99 for wetland banking credits for the Zest Street Construction project, Improvement Project No. T2504.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.2. RES 25-144 Resolution Accepting a Bid and Award a Contract to New Look Contracting, Inc. in the Amount of $286,685.00 for the Sunrise Pond Park Courts and Irrigation Project, Improvement Project No. 24-41, and Associated Budget Amendments.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger requested the council accept a bid for the Sunrise Pond Park courts and irrigation project at Sunrise Pond Park, Improvement Project No. 24-41 and award a contract in the amount of $286,685 to New Look Contracting, Inc. as well as make the necessary budget amendments associated with the project. The parks department has worked with New Look Contracting, Inc. on previous contracts. Staff recommends that the low bid be accepted, and a contract entered into with New Look Contracting, Inc. City council is also asked to approve a 10% contingency to bring the total project budget to $315,353.50. The funding source for this project is the Parks CIP Funds. The budget requires amendment to have sufficient funds to cover these costs.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Ford, to adopt a Resolution Accepting a Bid and Award a Contract to New Look Contracting, Inc. in the Amount of $286,685.00 for the Sunrise Pond Park Courts and Irrigation Project, Improvement Project No. 24-41, and Associated Budget Amendments.

Motion adopted unanimously.

10.3. 2025-189 2025 Park Advisory Board Mayoral Appointment
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated a vacancy was created on the Park Advisory Board when Commissioner Kris Paulseth accepted the position to serve as the City Forester. This term expires March 31, 2028. After advertising the vacancy, council reviewed applications from Zachary Arco, Julie Fearing, Alexander Moe, and Paul Perez, and staff is recommending that council consider an appointment at this time. Should the council wish to proceed, the mayor should announce the proposed appointment, after which the full council should confirm by motion, second, and vote. Council is asked to make an appointment to the current Park Advisory Board vacancy.

Mayor Sanders thanked all applicants for their interest in serving the city and announced the appointment of Paul Perez.

Moved by Mayor Sanders, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to approve the 2025 Park Advisory Board Mayoral Appointment of Paul Perez for a term to end December 31, 2028.

Motion adopted unanimously.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Ford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.