



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

August 18, 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 Sanders at 5:30PM.

2. 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: 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.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2025-182 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3(b) Lexington Water Litigation
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

After a motion and second, the council met in closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(b) to receive an update on the Lexington water litigation.

3.2. 2025-183 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd. (3)(d) Security Briefing
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

After a motion and second, the council met in closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(d) to receive a security briefing.

3.3. 2025-18 Trunk Highway 65 Update
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Director of Engineering Schluender presented an update on the TH 65 project and reviewed items such as a sign ordinance amendment and speed limit reduction during construction that will be coming to council for consideration and approval. He reviewed graphics that were presented by MNDOT and commented on where MNDOT was with their public outreach. He noted the location of the pedestrian bridge at 113th Avenue and reported the graphics will be posted on MNDOT's website very soon. He commented on the project schedule, noting details would be expanded as more information is made available. He reported a signage ordinance would be coming to the planning commission in September and the city council in October to allow businesses to have pylons during construction.

Mayor Sanders stated he was disappointed to see that project completion will now be fall of 2029. Mr. Schluender stated MNDOT's budget was tight and this project has been pushed out to the fall of 2029 but noted he would bring this feedback to MNDOT.

Councilmember Larson asked what would happen if this project came in over budget. Mr. Schluender explained this would be discussed in a few weeks between the city, Anoka County, and MNDOT. He indicated MNDOT would like to have a contingency fund of \$9 million to cover overages.

Councilmember Newland inquired if the project would be done in phases or would all bridges be opened at the same time. Mr. Schluender reported the bridges would be done in four stages and there would be a significant lane shifting as the project progresses.

3.4. 2025-185 Council Subcommittee Updates
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

Interim City Manager/Community Development Director Thorvig stated annually, there are mayoral appointments to external boards that city council members participate on. He reviewed the 2025 appointments and said in an effort to inform the full council about activity on these boards, he suggested brief updates from the representatives, adding he envisioned this being a quarterly update going forward with updates on different boards at each meeting.

Councilmember Newland provided the council with an update from the Blaine Airport Advisory Commission. He reviewed the members that served on the commission. He discussed how this group worked diligently to address noise issues. He stated he was

pleased to see an Aviation Academy with a mechanics school being provided at the Blaine Airport in order to get students into the trade. He reported a small open house would be held at the airport on June 13, 2026.

Councilmember Robertson provided the council with an update from the Fogerty Arena Board of Directors. She explained this board was formed in the late 1980s. She indicated Fogerty was built by the community and was named after a former mayor. She noted the board was made up of members of the youth hockey associations in Blaine and Spring Lake Park, a member from the curling club, along with a member from the county and city. She discussed the unique events that were held at Fogerty, stating this organization does great things in the community on a very limited budget.

4. Other Business

City Clerk Sorensen discussed potential interview dates for the city manager candidates.

5. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 6:59PM.



Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Sanders".

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine M. Sorensen".

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk