



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

November 3, 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 5:33PM.

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: City Manager Erik Thorvig; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Deputy Police Chief Joe Gerhard; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker; City Attorney Eric Larson; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

3.1. 2025-239 Delegation Update - Senator Kreun
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

City Manager Thorvig stated Senator Kreun was in attendance to present council with a legislative recap and look-ahead. Staff will also seek to have Representatives Norris and West present before the end of the year.

Senator Michael Kreun thanked the council for their time and provided the council with a recap from the legislature. He commented on the committees he serves on and described the work that was done on the budget for this year. He explained there was an 8% decrease in the approved budget. He discussed the structural imbalance that was in place within the budget noting the state was currently spending more than it was taking in and the state would have to address this concern. He noted education was the largest portion of the state's budget increases. He provided further comment on how he was working to enact a bill that would combat fraud. It was his hope this bill would pass in 2026. He feared that the amount of fraud that was occurring in the state government was enough that people would begin losing faith in the government, which was a dangerous place to be. He wanted to see faith restored in state government. He expressed frustration with the fact \$250 million has been spent on the Blue Line extension and construction hasn't even started. He indicated the estimate from the Met Council to complete the Blue Line was \$3.2 billion. He explained cannabis would be taxed at a rate of 22.875% in Anoka County which would greatly impact revenues for cities. He encouraged the city to reach out to him with their comments and concerns on the proposed cannabis laws.

Mayor Sanders stated the state's rollout of the cannabis requirements has been a concern and frustration for the city. He anticipated there were geopolitical fights at the state level that were becoming more difficult than the bipartisan fights. He encouraged the state to allow cities to have local control over the zoning and housing projects that come to each city. He reported housing and development projects can not have a one-size fits all oversight. Senator Kreun reported the housing/local control matter was coming from a place of good intentions and he anticipated housing would continue to be a matter that would be considered at the state level.

Councilmember Larson asked if backstops could be put in place to address the fraud concerns, given how Minnesota was now being viewed by all states on a national level regarding fraud. Senator Kreun stated it was his understanding Minnesota was the nationwide leader when it comes to fraud.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Senator Kreun for his presentation and noted she would be reaching out to him to further discuss transportation issues.

Mayor Sanders thanked Senator Kreun for his presentation and for taking the time to attend this meeting.

3.2. 2025-240 2026 Budget; Truth-in-Taxation Preview
 Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Finance Director Zimmerman reviewed the budget timeline in detail with the council. He stated upon certification to the county auditor, the proposed levy will be used to prepare the proposed property tax notice, also known as the Truth-in-Taxation (TNT) Notice. This notice is required to be mailed to property owners between November 11 and November 24 of each year and includes parcel-specific estimated property taxes payable in the following year, should each taxing jurisdiction approve their levies as proposed. Notices are provided for real and personal property, but not manufactured home property taxed as

personal property. Manufactured home property taxed as personal property is not included since it is assessed and taxed in the same year. He spoke to how Blaine was the economic engine for Anoka County and described how property taxes have increased over the past 10 years. He discussed how the median value home in Blaine would be impacted by the proposed budget and tax levy.

Councilmember Larson asked if a levy increase close to 10% would be the norm going forward. Mr. Zimmerman stated this would be determined by the council and the council's policy decisions. He explained the council would have further discussions regarding franchise fees at an upcoming workshop meeting.

Mayor Sanders thanked staff for the detailed presentation and encouraged the council to reach out to staff with any comments or questions regarding the proposed budget.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 6:58PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk