City of Blaine
City Council

November 3, 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 7:02PM 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, Chris Massoglia, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Erik Thorvig; 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

Councilmember Robertson thanked all who were involved in the recent citizens academy and inquired about the city's junior citizens academy. Safety Services Director/Police Chief Podany reported the city held the junior citizens academy this year over the MEA break. He was pleased to report the city received a grant to cover the expense of the junior citizens academy.

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, 4101 99th Avenue NE, shared continued concerns regarding the location of the electrical box at 99th and Lexington Avenue and expressed concern with the lack of council's response to his recent email.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:13PM.

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 Massoglia, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved.

Councilmember Massoglia requested all credit card statements and employee reimbursements be included on the schedule of bills paid going forward as approved by the council by motion in July.

Councilmember Newland said he would be abstaining from voting on the October 6 bills paid due to a conflict of interest.

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

7.1. 2025-241 Schedule of Bills Paid
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2025-242 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.3. 2025-243 Motion to Approve a Tobacco and Tobacco Products License for Aquila Stores, Inc. dba Blaine Fastrip, 9850 Polk Street NE
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.4. RES 25-176 Resolution to Award a Contract to Keys Well Drilling Company in the amount of $242,980.00 for the inspection of Well 5 and Well 17 and repair as needed.

Sponsors: Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director, Kristian Gaasland, Public Works Supervisor - Water

7.5. ORD 25-2586 Second Reading
Ordinance Adopting and Enacting a New Code for the City of Blaine, Minnesota; Providing for the Repeal of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing a Penalty for the Violation Thereof; Providing for the Manner of Amending Such Code; and Providing When Such Code and this Ordinance Shall Become Effective

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.6. RES 25-174 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to Approve an LRIP Application for Funding for the Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard Project

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.7. RES 25-175 Resolution Authorizing City of Blaine Staff to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure City of Blaine Participation in the Multistate Settlements Relating to Opioid Supply Chain Participants, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.8. RES 25-38 Resolution Accepting a Bid from Veit & Company, Inc. in the Amount of $91,372 for the 2025 Storm Sewer Lining Project, Improvement Project No. U2517 (25-16)

Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.9. 2025-244 Motion to Authorize Mayor and City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) for Professional Engineering Services for the Public Works Fuel Station Reconstruction Project, Improvement Project No. F2501.

Sponsors: Scott Johnson, Director of Administrative Services, Stefan Higgins, Assistant City Engineer

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

8.1. 2025-245 Motion to Consider Approval of a Wine and 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor On-Sale Licenses for Gilberto's Mexican Taco Shop located at 2331 108th Lane NE, Suite 150

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated council has been asked to approve a wine and 3.2 percent on-sale licenses for Gilberto's Mexican Taco Shop located at 2331 108th Lane NE, Suite 150, Blaine to allow the ability to serve intoxicating spirits, beer and wine. A public hearing is required prior to the approval of wine and 3.2 percent malt liquor on-sale licenses in the city. Wendy Cisneros and Gabino Coconi-Alvarez, applicants, submitted a wine and 3.2 percent on-sale liquor license applications. The applicants included the required license fees, forms and documents. The background investigation was conducted by the Blaine Police Department with no concerns found. The wine and 3.2 percent malt liquor licenses, if approved, would be active through June 30, 2026, and run concurrent with annual liquor license renewals. All required information will be submitted to the state's alcohol and gambling enforcement division upon approval of the licenses by the council.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:17PM.

There being no public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:17PM.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Massoglia, to approve a Wine and 3.2 Percent Malt Liquor On-Sale Licenses for Gilberto's Mexican Taco Shop located at 2331 108th Lane NE, Suite 150.

Motion adopted unanimously.

8.2. ORD 25-2590 First Reading

An Ordinance Amending Sec. 2.07. Salaries of the Blaine City Charter

Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

Ms. Sorensen stated council is asked to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed charter amendment and then hold first reading of the proposed ordinance regarding salaries of mayor and councilmembers.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:19PM.

There being no public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:19PM.

Declared by Mayor Sanders that Ordinance No. 25-2590, “An Ordinance Amending Sec. 2.07. Salaries of the Blaine City Charter,” be introduced and placed on file for second reading at the November 17, 2025 Council meeting.

9. Development Business

None.

10. Administration

10.1. RES 25-179 Authorizing the Sale of General Obligation Improvement and Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2025A, Subject to Certain Parameters; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for Their Payment

Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Finance Director Zimmerman stated council is requested to authorize the competitive negotiated sale of General Obligation Improvement and Utility Revenue Bonds in order to finance various utility infrastructure activities, pavement management projects, and the acquisition of capital equipment, consistent with the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. He reported Council has provided guidance to staff to prioritize refunding capital equipment and easing the use of bonding going forward while continuing to invest in essential infrastructure. The short term result would mean increases to the tax levy to build up funds for capital expenses and the long term result would benefit taxpayers by saving on borrowing costs and interest expenses. Staff provided further comment on the debt financing the city has pursued over the past three years and recommended the council approve the Series 2025A revenue bonds.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Larson, to authorize the Sale of General Obligation Improvement and Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2025A, Subject to Certain Parameters; Fixing Their Form and Specifications; Directing Their Execution and Delivery; and Providing for Their Payment.

Councilmember Robertson reported she would not be supporting this bond sale because she had not previously voted for the capital improvement plan. She explained she did not support using unreserved funds to purchase capital but rather recommended paying off the city's debt before purchasing new capital. She discussed how the request from staff has been so great in the last few years and she appreciated how staff has worked to address her numerous questions.

Councilmember Massoglia stated he did not support the capital improvements plan last year either and indicated he would be voting no on this item was well.

Motion adopted 5-2 (Councilmembers Massoglia and Robertson opposed).

11. Other Business

City Manager Thorvig shared a statement regarding the open forum process and explained how responses are provided to residents regarding their concerns.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adjourn the

meeting at 7:31PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Signed by _____
Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by _____
Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk