



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

November 10, 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: City Manager Erik Thorvig; Interim Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Director of Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Assistant Finance Director Kyle Stasica; City Attorneys Eric Larson and Lida Bannink; Economic Development Specialist Ruth Tucker; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2025-246 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03 Subd. (1)(b) - Labor Negotiations Update
Sponsors: Scott Johnson, Director of Administrative Services

After a motion and second the council moved to a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03 Subd. (1)(b) to receive a labor negotiations update.

- 3.2.** 2025-247 Federal Lobbyist Proposal

City Manager Thorvig stated a workshop discussion occurred on July 14, 2025, to determine how to proceed in 2026 for federal lobbying services. The council directed staff to prepare a request for proposals. Staff commented on the RFP that was received from The Ferguson Group's (TFG) for federal lobbying services for the city of Blaine. It was noted TFG provided the only response to the request for proposal (RFP) for federal lobbying services by the 12 noon October 17, 2025, deadline. The city originally issued an RFP for federal lobbying services in 2022. After reviewing proposals and conducting interviews with finalist firms, TFG was selected as the city's federal lobbying team. Their contract expires at the end of the year.

Mr. Thorvig reported at the federal level, staff continue to work closely with TFG on the city's FY26 earmark requests. This year, TFG staff once again assisted with the writing and preparation of the city's federal earmark requests. Senator Smith and Senator Klobuchar forwarded the city's request for a mobile command vehicle. Staff also submitted a request to Congressman Emmer's office for some trail projects. That request was not forwarded for consideration. TFG lobbyists are regularly in contact with our Congressional and Senate offices. The Ferguson Group contract is current and runs through the end of the calendar year. TFG meets with city staff every two weeks for a federal briefing, updates on our earmark requests, and information on federal grant programs. They also send out regular e-mail updates regarding federal activity, as well as special alerts and special reports. They send a weekly grants update, and grant alerts when new grants are announced. TFG staff meet with individual departments at least once annually, to review grant and earmark opportunities, and identify legislation to monitor.

Mr. Thorvig explained the city retained the services of a second federal lobbying firm in April 2022. The original goal for hiring this firm was to take advantage of the access they had to congressional offices through former Congressman Rick Nolan, and the benefits that could provide while we were seeking funding for TH65 improvements. The original contract was with Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson & Halloran, P.C. in 2023. In 2024, our main lobbyist, Reid LeBeau, notified the city that the Jacobson Law Group's Government Relations Division had separated from the firm, and they now operate as Capitol Hill Associates. The city's agreement with Capitol Hill Associates expired March 30, 2025. No proposal was received from Capitol Hill Associates.

Mr. Thorvig indicated the TFG proposal calls for no increase on the amount paid by the city of Blaine for the existing agreement in 2025. The total amount proposed for lobbying services in the RFP for 2026 is \$63,000. He noted TFG was in attendance to discuss with the city council what has been accomplished so far and what they forecast for 2026. Staff recommends proceeding with only one federal lobbyist at this time. The proposed 2026 budget allocates dollars for one state lobbyist (LGN currently under contract) and two federal lobbyists. Since a second lobbyist is not recommended, the budget could either be reduced or those funds could be reserved for targeted lobbying efforts by other state firms, as the city's requests at the state level are of higher importance than the federal level currently.

David Hoover, TFG, presented their federal lobbyist proposal and discussed the services TFG

could provide to the city of Blaine. He commented on the success TFG has had with Blaine noting \$28 million has been awarded to the city for the TH65 improvement project since April of 2022. He stated it has been a pleasure working with city staff and congressional staff on this project. He discussed the requests that would be considered in 2026, which included a mobile command vehicle. He reviewed the federal grants and policy tracker TFG had created for the city. He reported in 2026 he would be working with city departments on earmark requests to address priority issues. He stated he appreciated being able to provide an overview of TFG's lobbying plan for 2026 and asked if there were any comments or questions from the council.

Mr. Thorvig explained staff engaged in a federal lobbying contract four years ago to assist in identifying funding for TH65. He reported there were other earmarks and grants TFG has assisted the city in pursuing. He stated if the council were to move forward with a contract with TFG, infrastructure and police related projects would be the primary focus. He noted this list would be updated based on the needs of the public works and police departments. He indicated funding was included in the 2026 budget for two federal lobbyists but only one proposal was received. Staff would recommend proceeding with the contract with TFG for two years. He stated if the council supported moving forward in this manner, staff would bring this contract forward for council consideration on December 1.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he would like to see the city pursuing federal funding for the new fire station in Blaine. Mr. Hoover stated there were some funding opportunities for the construction of fire stations and related equipment. Mike Miller, TFG, added that in the past, similarly situated cities have found it challenging to pursue this type of funding. He explained it would be interesting to see how this administration addresses infrastructure and FEMA funding.

Councilmember Newland inquired if the city had any relationship with a federal lobbyist prior to four years ago. Mayor Sanders reported the city began its relationship with a federal lobbyist four years with TFG.

Councilmember Newland encouraged the city to consider pursuing funding for the Bunker Lake Boulevard interchange even though this project was still 10 years out. Mr. Hoover stated there were grants that could be considered for this project, given the time horizon. Mr. Miller indicated 10 years may seem like a long time, but this time passed quickly and it was important to keep these projects on the agenda.

Councilmember Newland explained he supported approving a two-year contract with TFG.

Councilmember Robertson asked if the city should be reconsidering its priorities in order to pursue new grants that had not been considered in the past. Mr. Hoover stated he and Mr. Miller do consider the legislative trends and passed along this information to city staff when it comes to grant funding. Mr. Miller reported one of the great things about the relationship TFG has with the city was the frequent meetings held with staff, which gives TFG the opportunity to understand the priorities in the city. He indicated staff was doing a great job keeping TFG informed of the community's needs.

Councilmember Ford supported the city pursuing dollars for the fire station for the SBM Fire Department. He inquired if this funding would be earmarked for Blaine or the overall

department. Mr. Hoover indicated he understood this was a priority for the city and he would investigate funding sources for this project. He stated he could pursue different avenues to ensure the asset was there for the city. Mr. Miller commented on a broader level, he could advocate for authorizations for new funding opportunities for the fire station. He reported Blaine was not alone in needing new public safety infrastructure.

Mr. Thorvig reported he would bring the TFG contract back to the council at the December 1 meeting for consideration.

3.3. 2025-248 Municipal Cannabis Retail Request for Professional Services – Evaluation Results and Operator Selection
Sponsors: Ruth Tucker, Economic Development Specialist

Economic Development Specialist Tucker stated based on council direction, staff submitted an application for a municipal cannabis retailer license to the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) during the application period in March. Although the state has not yet issued the municipal license, the city has received preliminary approval from OCM and is on track to receive the license within the 18-month timeframe allowed by statute. In anticipation of the license being awarded, the city issued a request for professional services (RFP) – municipal cannabis store operator in early June to organizations that had previously expressed interest in partnering with the city under the municipal cannabis program. Proposals were due by June 27, 2025. The city received three submissions which council reviewed and interviewed on August 25. From those interviews, council selected one applicant, Voyageurs Cannabis to move forward to a second round of interviews while the city sought interest from additional parties. Twisted Hat Cannabis emerged and submitted a proposal for consideration.

Ms. Tucker reported each group will be allowed time to present information about their company and the potential partnership. Council will be allowed time to ask each business questions. After both presentations have been made, the council will have an opportunity to discuss and determine if/who to proceed in discussions with further. If the council chooses a partner, various agreements would need to be drafted prior to moving forward. This would occur prior to the end of the year.

Matt Khalili, Twisted Hat Cannabis, introduced himself to the council noting he has been in the cannabis industry for the past 14 years. He commented on the history of his business experience noting he was now an operator of a family-oriented cannabis business in New Jersey.

Peter Benincasa, real estate agent, explained he was a partner with Scott Uran on the storage building and commented on how the property next to the storage building was being considered for a cannabis retail shop.

Mr. Khalili reviewed the application process he followed in New Jersey and commented on the revenues he would see in the first year of operation. He discussed how Blaine was an ideal community for him given its density and location. He commented on how he would brand his cannabis shop and described how safety would be paramount to him in this

facility. He indicated he would be interested in giving back to the community if allowed to operate in Blaine. He reported his bud tenders and staff members would be well paid and educated in the healthy use of cannabis. He explained he would work diligently to bring together a good team in order to carry out his vision for this cannabis shop. He discussed how it would be difficult to gain access to flower initially but noted he would gain access over time then shared his proposal in detail.

Councilmember Newland stated much of the Twisted Hat's proposal was based on New Jersey assumptions. He asked what other operations were considered to blend forecasts. Mr. Khalili stated every market had to be evaluated as some were more difficult to operate in than others. He reported Blaine had a dense population and a limited number of licenses. He noted most profits would happen in the first two years and pro formas have to be local. He indicated he has done a lot of projections and feels very good about the proposed numbers. He commented further on the experience he has in the cannabis industry and stated he has worked on more than 200+ cannabis licenses all over the country.

Councilmember Newland asked if the proposal could be further negotiated. Mr. Khalili stated if the city was concerned about the initial seed money he would be happy to repay this principal first ahead of his investment. He reported at the end of the day he would be relocating and investing in the community as well. He explained he would love to make something work.

Councilmember Newland questioned when payouts would be made. Mr. Khalili indicated the payout distributions would be made on a quarterly basis.

Councilmember Larson asked if Mr. Khalili's license would be the license used for the city's municipal cannabis dispensary. Mr. Khalili reported it was his understanding the city would still need to pursue a municipal license with the state of Minnesota. He indicated he pursued a micro license with the state as a sign of his interest to operate in this market.

Councilmember Ford stated he appreciated that Mr. Khalili already had a security plan in place. He asked if online sales would be offered at the proposed facility in Blaine. Mr. Khalili reported online sales would be allowed through a POS system called Dutchie. He explained he would not be delivering but could order cannabis products online for pickup at the store. He noted an ID would have to be reviewed before the online order could be picked up.

Councilmember Ford inquired what the growing environment would be for flowers in Minnesota. Mr. Khalili anticipated the plants would be grown in greenhouses indoors in Minnesota. He provided further comment on the timing needed for growers stating he believed the timing would be perfect for this business opportunity.

Mayor Sanders stated if the city were to agree to quarterly distributions, would Twisted Hat be willing to provide full transparency to their financials. Mr. Khalili stated he would be agreeable to this and would offer full transparency to the city.

Councilmember Fleming commended Mr. Khalili for his detailed and professional presentation. She appreciated that an excess burden would not be placed on staff and that Twisted Hat already had a Blaine property in mind. Mr. Khalili indicated he was not trying to over promise, but rather was trying to be realistic on what he could deliver for the city.

Councilmember Larson asked how long Mr. Khalili was committed to running this operation. Mr. Khalili stated this would remain fluid and would depend on operations noting the property would have to stabilize before he considered moving away from Blaine.

Councilmember Massoglia questioned what the value of the city's license was to Mr. Khalili. Mr. Khalili stated he would have to consider this further and could get back to the council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Robertson asked where the proposed cannabis retail shop would be located. Mr. Khalili reported the shop would be located in the Scott Uram's Farmer's Insurance building.

Mayor Sanders thanked Mr. Khalili for his presentation.

Mr. Thorvig stated the next presentation would be made by representatives from Voyageur's Cannabis.

Patrick Hurley, Voyageurs Cannabis representative, discussed his proposal for the city of Blaine noting Voyageur Cannabis was a Minnesota based company. He stated he lived here and knew the market, which he believed was important. He explained Voyageur would be offering a full service management team with full site and real estate management. He discussed the canopy space that would be necessary to grow the cannabis necessary for the Minnesota market noting supply would be a concern for the next several years. He described the unique opportunities of having a municipal cannabis dispensary when it came to tax benefits. He provided a visual of the tax benefits noting private dispensaries were not able to deduct private expenses, while municipal dispensaries would have an inherent advantage. He highlighted the offerings that Voyageur would be offering which included day to day operations, management, security and tech. He stated instead of offering a flat fee he would be proposing to revenue model that was compliant with the OCM.

Mr. Thorvig asked if the city would be responsible for up front costs for building a retail space. Mr. Hurley stated Voyageur would be responsible for the real estate acquisition and build out. He understood municipalities only get one cannabis retail license and explained the location of this shop would be important.

Mr. Hurley reviewed projections for sales at the Blaine municipal dispensary noting this would depend upon when the dispensary opened. He stated Blaine was a growing community which would greatly benefit the city. He reiterated the Voyageur only works with municipal dispensaries, which meant this type of partnership was their specialty. He noted only 13 cities in Minnesota applied for a municipal dispensary license.

Councilmember Newland stated the projections presented to the council this evening were similar to the previous projections. He indicated the supply chain concerns were more notable within this presentation. He asked when year one would start. Mr. Hurley anticipated it would take him six months to get a store operational if a space was identified by the city for the municipal cannabis store.

Councilmember Newland inquired where the city's municipal dispensary should be located.

Mr. Hurley supported having the dispensary located along Highway 65 near 109th Avenue or along Highway 10 and I-35. He stated access pointed would be very important along with adequate parking for the store location.

Councilmember Massoglia clarified Voyageur's proposal in detail. Mr. Hurley reported this was the case and thanked the council for their time and consideration.

Mayor Sanders asked that the council take some time to debrief and ask questions or make comments regarding the two proposals the council received regarding the municipal cannabis retailer.

Councilmember Larson questioned who would be operating the municipal cannabis dispensary if Voyageur were selected. Mr. Thorvig reported Voyageur personnel would be operating the dispensary.

Councilmember Newland stated he was far more comfortable with Voyageur's projections than the projections from Twisted Hat. He explained he greatly appreciated how familiar Voyageur was with the cannabis market and tax laws in Minnesota. He noted the city of Osseo just signed a contract with Voyageur's for a municipal dispensary in downtown Osseo. He indicated he had a greater comfort level with Voyageur's presentation and the knowledge they have regarding municipal cannabis dispensaries.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he liked the Twisted Hat's presentation more and expressed concern with the proposed revenue share from Voyageur stating it appeared to be too good to be true. However, he also understood Voyageur had the knowledge and background in this market to provide a presentation that was almost too good to be true. He stated he did not have a lot of risk in going with the Voyageur proposal.

Councilmember Robertson explained she did not have full confidence in either candidate. She stated the city would be putting its name on this dispensary and she was having a difficult time with moving forward with this. She understood both proposals had merit but she did not want to force this forward without taking the time to thoroughly think it through.

Councilmember Larson asked what the city's options would be to fire a contractor in order to go with someone else. City Attorney Larson reported this would have to be negotiated within the professional services agreement. He noted the city would have the license and the vendor would be managing it. He indicated the city would need to have reasons for discharging the management services.

Councilmember Larson stated knowing that this agreement would not be forever, she was comfortable moving forward with Voyageur.

Mr. Thorvig reported the city would have 18 months, or the end of next year to activate the municipal cannabis license.

Councilmember Newland explained he also supported the city moving forward with Voyageur's and suggested conversations be pursued with this organization for the municipal cannabis dispensary.

Councilmember Robertson indicated she was curious to learn more about how the other 12 municipal license holders were moving forward and what their conversations with Voyageur were like.

Councilmember Massoglia stated this would be valuable information, but noted there would be risks involved in pursuing alternative revenues streams for the city. He indicated he supported moving forward with an agreement with Voyageur.

Further discussion ensued regarding the conversations several councilmembers have had with Lake Leaf regarding supply.

Councilmember Robertson explained she had a personal contact with Lake Leaf and had invited them to participate in the RFP process.

Mayor Sanders clarified that Lake Leaf had not submitted a proposal to the city and was not being considered as a potential partner. He was of the opinion Twisted Hat provided the council with a very good presentation, but noted this organization was coming from out of state. He indicated Voyageur would be located in the state and noted his main concern was with the actual upfront costs for a building and where the municipal shop would be located. He was surprised that Voyageur had no leads on this. He stated he felt very confident that City Attorney Larson would work diligently to protect the city in whatever professional services agreement was pursued.

Councilmember Fleming stated on paper it appears that Voyageur was a good option, but if she had to go with her gut she would choose Twisted Hat. She appreciated the fact that Mr. Khalili had experience running a dispensary, had a building in mind and a more solid plan in place. In addition, Mr. Khalili was willing to negotiate with the city.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he would like to see if Twisted Hat would match Voyageur's offer.

Councilmember Newland reported he would like to see the city move forward with Voyageur. He wanted to see the city working with an expert in this industry and noted a site for the shop could then be located based on their recommendations.

Mayor Sanders asked what staff's thoughts were at this time. Mr. Thorvig was of the opinion the meeting on Thursday would be insightful to learn more about how the City of Anoka worked to launch their dispensary. He supported having more of a conversation with Voyageur regarding what the real estate side of the proposal would look like. He recommended additional information be gathered by staff and that this topic be brought back to the council on December 1. The council supported this recommendation.

3.4. 2025-249 Broadband Franchise Fees
 Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

Mr. Thorvig stated in early 2025, the city council was presented with information on

alternative revenue sources to reduce the burden on property taxpayers in the city of Blaine. One of the options discussed was franchise fees. The council directed staff to explore franchise fees further. Over the last six months, the city manager and finance director have been focusing research on utility franchise fees. In that same timeframe, the topic of broadband franchise fees has been a topic that has been discussed by North Metro TV (NMTV) and other metropolitan cities. Historically, phone, cable and internet providers have been considered a telecommunications service. Minnesota state law allows for local media operators to charge a "PEG" fee to these providers, which is paid by cable subscribers. PEG stands for Public, Educational and Governmental access programming. PEG fees have continued to decline as subscribers are canceling cable service and utilizing broadband and streaming services for television and internet. Additionally, Minnesota State law explicitly allows for cities and/or local media providers to franchise telecommunication providers and collect a fee based on a percentage of revenue. PEG and cable franchise fees are the primary funding source for local media operations like North Metro TV.

Mr. Thorvig explained earlier this year, the U.S. Court of Appeals held that broadband is not a telecommunications service. This decision has caused cities in Minnesota to reevaluate where broadband-only providers fall under state law as it relates to PEG and franchise fees. Since broadband is not a telecommunications service under federal law, it is similarly not likely to be under state law. This has resulted in local programming providers and cities exploring franchise fees in an effort to collect revenue and have more control over broadband companies. The South Washington County Telecommunications Commission adopted the first broadband franchise in Minnesota earlier this year. A broadband franchise, unlike a permit, addresses multiple issues that benefit residents and consumers, such as buildout standards, customer service standards, senior and disabled person discounts, system performance standards, consideration for use of public property, and many other public benefits".

Mr. Thorvig commented throughout the summer, the city of Blaine experienced an influx of broadband companies installing fiber infrastructure. Two companies completed work in 2025, Lumen and Gateway Fiber. Fiber companies are required to obtain a right-of-way permit from the city of Blaine for operating and installing infrastructure within the right-of-way. To date in 2025, Lumen has obtained 79 permits and Gateway has obtained 63 permits. Permit cost is \$500/permit. The work has caused major disruptions for staff and residents. If franchising is put into place in Blaine prior to 2026, the city may have additional authority over the activity of broadband companies and collect revenue from franchise fees. Staff estimates that approximately 1/3 of the city has had broadband infrastructure installed.

Mr. Thorvig indicated NMTV staff and the NMTV cable commission have discussed franchise fees. NMTV will continue to experience a reduction in revenue due to declining PEG and cable franchise fee collection. Broadband franchise fees, running through NMTV would provide an additional revenue stream to support NMTV operations. If franchise fees are explored, they can either be managed and run through NMTV or done by the city independently. If they are managed by NMTV, NMTV would collect a portion of the revenue and distribute the remainder to member cities. Further discussion would need to occur about financial equitability. For example, currently, PEG and cable franchise fees are collected by NMTV and funds are distributed to all member cities based on subscriber numbers. In 2024, NMTV collected \$1,774,95 in PEG and cable franchise fees and distributed

\$82,257 to the city of Blaine from PEG and cable franchise fee revenue. Discussion would need to occur on the distribution of broadband franchise fees, including how much would be retained by NMTV and how fees would be disbursed amongst member cities. Alternatively, the city could explore broadband franchising on their own and retain 100% of the proceeds. City Attorney, Eric Larson will be providing information to council separately weighing the pros and cons to both approaches.

Mr. Thorvig reported given ongoing discussions by NMTV on exploring franchise fees and the desire to have more control over broadband companies entering the 2026 construction season, staff is seeking feedback from the city council whether to consider broadband franchise fees and whether to work jointly with NMTV or explore the endeavor on our own. He suggested something be put in place by the spring of 2026 if the parties are agreeable.

Mr. Larson discussed the pros and cons of pursuing broadband franchise fees. He explained the city of Cottage Grove pursued broadband franchise fees and offered an exclusive franchise to Gateway. He reported Intrepid initiated a lawsuit which led Cottage Grove to open it up and the lawsuit went away. He indicated the major player in the market at this time was Lumen which was formerly Century Link. He noted the other major player in the market was AT&T. He discussed how future fiber optic infrastructure would continue to be installed in the community and discussed how fiber optic services differed from telephone services. He stated he liked the idea of North Metro TV taking lead as they would then be responsible for any lawsuits along with the distribution of franchise fees.

Councilmember Robertson asked what kind of revenues could be generated from a broadband franchise fee. Mr. Thorvig stated he was uncertain what the revenues would be.

Councilmember Robertson explained she was frustrated with the current broadband installation system noting there was too much disruption happening in rights of way throughout the city for Blaine residents. She indicated she wanted to see the city having more control over this situation.

Councilmember Massoglia commented in 2024 North Metro collected \$1.7 million from Comcast subscribers and 52% of this was collected from Blaine residents. He stated this was \$900,000 in cable fees. He anticipated even more residents in Blaine had broadband services which meant the revenues could be in the millions.

Councilmember Ford questioned what the five percent would cost the individual consumer in Blaine.

Councilmember Massoglia explained the 5% would be on top of the \$90 bill for broadband services.

Councilmember Newland asked if NMTV opted to not pursue franchising. Mr. Thorvig stated he would need clarity on this topic.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated all of the cities within the cable commission voted not to pursue franchise fees for broadband services.

Eric Houston and Danika Peterson, North Metro Television (NMTV) reported at the July cable

commission meeting four of the five member cities in attendance voted to look at the potential of broadband franchise fees.

Councilmember Newland stated this meant franchise fees were on the table and could potentially be pursued by NMTV. He explained he liked the idea of a hybrid fee as proposed by Councilmember Robertson because the current situation was untenable.

Councilmember Massoglia commented he recalled from the July meeting that both Lino Lakes and Ham Lake voted no on franchise fees. Ms. Peterson explained Ham Lakes supported moving forward along with Lino Lakes.

Councilmember Newland inquired when the cable commission would be meeting again. Mr. Houston stated this would occur in December.

Councilmember Newland suggested clarity be pursued at this meeting and if NMTV wanted to carry this topic forward he would recommended the city pursue this option.

Councilmember Ford asked if broadband fees would apply to residents and businesses. Mr. Thorvig reported this was the case.

Councilmember Larson indicated she supported NMTV pursuing a 5% franchise fee for broadband services.

Councilmember Fleming questioned why NMTV should take this on for the city instead of the city pursuing the broadband fees.

Councilmember Robertson expressed concern again with the fact the city doesn't know what amount of money could be gained by pursuing broadband franchise fees. She indicated she wanted the broadband companies to feel it when they started digging into Blaine right of way in the coming year, especially given how this past year went.

Councilmember Massoglia reiterated that the funds generated by a broadband franchise fee would be substantial. He stated he believed there was value in Blaine being in the driver's seat when it comes to this topic and noted these funds could assist with offsetting increases in the tax levy. Mr. Houston reported he would be offering his expertise in franchising and could assist the city with negotiating a franchise that would benefit the city of Blaine. He reiterated that Blaine would be paid for the percentage of broadband users within the city and this would not be spread out among the NMTV member cities.

Mr. Laron reported one of the benefits of NMTV taking the lead would be all the legal drafting would fall on the NMTV attorney, Mike Bradley. He indicated he would review this documentation and would negotiate on behalf of the city what the distribution level should be.

Councilmember Ford feared that the proposed franchise fee would be viewed as another tax on the public and noted residents were hurting at this time.

Mayor Sanders stated this was another tax that could also be viewed as a user fee for broadband services that could be used to assist with managing the overall property taxes

for Blaine residents.

Councilmember Fleming commented on how renters do not pay property taxes and the proposed broadband fee would be a way to have renters contributing to the city.

Councilmember Massoglia indicated he would rather have the city in control of the broadband fees versus paying NMTV a certain percentage for administering the broadband fees.

Mr. Houston reported he would be willing to negotiate with the city on the franchise.

Mayor Sanders recommended this topic be brought back to the council with a proposal from NMTV in order to assist the council with making a decision on how to proceed with broadband franchise fees.

3.5. 2025-250 3M Open Partnership Discussion
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

Mr. Thorvig explained he would forward information on the partnership contract between the 3M Open and the city of Blaine for years 2026-2030 to the council for review and consideration.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 8:50PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk