City of Blaine
City Council

November 17, 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 7:05PM 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; Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Parks and Recreation Director Jerome Krieger; Finance Director Jason Zimmerman; Director of Administrative Services Scott Johnson; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Tom Loonan; Public Works Director Nick Fleishhacker; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

4. Awards - Presentations - Organizational Business

4.1. 2025-259 Proclamation Honoring the Blaine High School Boys Cross Country Team
Sponsors: City Council

Mayor Sanders read a proclamation in full for the record recognizing the 2025 AAA State Champion Blaine High School Boys Cross Country Team and congratulated them on an amazing season. A standing ovation and round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Coach Everson thanked the council for this recognition, stating it was truly humbling and monumental for the Blaine Boys Cross Country Team to win state. He introduced his team to the city council and congratulated them on a tremendous season.

Alaric Burrows, senior captain, stated he was extremely grateful to be able to run for this community and with this team and was proud that they were able to bring home the State Championship.

5. Communications

Mayor Sanders noted that the Spring Lake Park Panther football team was currently undefeated and wished them good luck this weekend.

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 7:17PM.

Dana Carlson, 287 117th Avenue NE, shared comments with the council regarding concerns he was having and noted people were being exposed.

Bruce Manthei, 4101 99th Avenue, shared continued concerns with the electrical box location at 99th and Lexington Avenues and expressed concern regarding the council's lack of response. He stated he spoke with the police department regarding his concerns and asked that the city work with the Anoka County Highway Department to address this concern.

Owen Bonneville, Centennial High School student, explained he was in attendance at the council meeting as part of his class.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:27PM.

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 explained he would be abstaining from voting on Item 7.1 due to a potential conflict of interest.

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. 2025-253 Schedule of Bills Paid
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2025-254 Acknowledge Receipt of Employee Reimbursements and Credit Card Transactions
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.3. 2025-255 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

7.4. RES 25-188 Resolution Submitting a Recommendation to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners to Reappoint Jess Robertson to the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

7.5. RES 25-180 Resolution to Approve Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Ham Lake for Implementation of Groundwater Monitoring Wells
Sponsors: Stefan Higgins, Assistant City Engineer

7.6. RES 25-197 Resolution to Certify 2025 Delinquent Utility Accounts to Anoka County
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director, Kyle Howard, Utility Billing Supervisor

7.7. 2025-257 Motion to Approve the Surplussing of Previously Used Police Department Mustang Water Rescue Suits
Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

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

8.1. RES 25-189 Resolution Certifying Delinquent Special Charges
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director, Kyle Howard, Utility Billing Supervisor

Finance Director Zimmerman requested the council consider conducting a public hearing

for unpaid special charges and other municipal services, to be certified to property taxes for collection in 2026. Each year, the City of Blaine encounters unpaid charges for municipal services, including abatement of weeds and trees, false alarms, rental licenses, and other related charges. These outstanding balances represent a financial obligation to the city, and according to state statutes, the City has the authority to assess unpaid charges against the property through a certification process. These charges, when unpaid for a significant period, may affect the city's ability to provide continuous services efficiently. To ensure proper revenue collection and avoid disruption in services, unpaid balances are proposed to be certified to the respective property taxes for recovery. A list of properties with unpaid charges has been compiled, and notices have been sent to the affected property owners. The public hearing provides an opportunity for the Council to review any objections or concerns from property owners regarding their unpaid balances. After consideration, the Council may decide to adjust, reduce, or certify the full amount of these charges.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:31PM.

There being no public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:31PM.

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adopt Resolution Certifying Delinquent Special Charges.

Motion adopted unanimously.

8.2. 2025-258 Approve Renewal of Currency Exchange Licenses
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

City Clerk Sorensen stated council is asked to hold a public hearing to consider approval of currency exchange license renewals. Staff has received the attached correspondence regarding currency exchange license renewals from the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the following locations:

AL'$ Check Cashing LLC, 1434 93rd Lane NE, Blaine, MN
SJB Enterprises Inc., d/b/a/ Your Exchange, 10545 University Avenue NE, Blaine, MN

Ms. Sorensen explained the renewal requests were forwarded to the Police Department for review; no items of concern were raised with either location.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:33PM.

There being no additional public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:33PM.

Moved by Councilmember Fleming, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to recommend approval of the Renewal of Currency Exchange Licenses.

Motion adopted unanimously.

9. Development Business

None.

10. Administration

10.1. ORD 25-2591 First Reading
Amending City Code to Repeal Sec. 70-2. Sidewalk Snow Removal
Sponsors: Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Director

Public Works Director Fleischhacker stated council is asked to hold first reading of a proposed ordinance amending removing the sidewalk snow removal section from city code.

Declared by Mayor Sanders that Ordinance No. 25-2591, "Amending City Code to Repeal Sec. 70-2. Sidewalk Snow Removal," be introduced and placed on file for second reading at the December 1, 2025 Council meeting.

10.2. ORD 25-2590 Second 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 second reading and adopt the proposed charter amendment regarding salaries of mayor and councilmembers. Second reading of this proposed charter amendment was scheduled for second reading on October 6 but with one member absent and the requirement of a unanimous vote of the full city council, it was recommended that the process begin again with a new first reading and public hearing, which was held on November 3 with no comments during the hearing. It should be noted that any proposed increase is only a proposal; any actual increase would need to be adopted by a majority vote of the council as a separate ordinance as required in Sec. 2-31.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Larson, to adopt the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-2590, Amending Sec. 2.07. Salaries of the Blaine City Charter.

Motion adopted unanimously.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Signed by _____
Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by _____
Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk