



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

January 21, 2026 | 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, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson (participating remotely).

ABSENT: Councilmember Chris Massoglia.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Erik Thorvig; Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; Director of Engineering Dan Schluender; City Attorney Eric Larson; Water Resources Coordinator Megan Hedstrom; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2026-028 Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05 Subd. (3)(c) to Consider Acquisition of Property Within the 105th Redevelopment Project
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

After a motion and second, the council moved to a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd 3(c) to consider the acquisition of property within the 105th Redevelopment Project.

Councilmember Robertson left the workshop meeting at 7:00PM.

Mayor Sanders recessed the workshop meeting at 7:00PM to move to the regular city council meeting.

Mayor Sanders reconvened the workshop meeting at 7:44PM.

3.2. 2026-020 Site 7 - Wetland Banking
 Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Water Resources Coordinator Megan Hedstrom reported information on existing wetland banks was presented to the city council on November 17, 2025. Discussion occurred about the current status of Site 7. Staff provided a brief overview of the 2025 Monitoring Report and discussed the upcoming 2026 Maintenance and Restoration Plan within the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary (BWS) Site 7. It was noted the 2025 Monitoring Report has been filed with state agencies and is currently in their review process. She discussed the maintenance that was proposed for the coming spring. Maintenance and restoration contracts will be finalized by the consultant and city staff over the winter and spring for competitive bidding and implementation over the 2026 growing season. Staff noted the city council had set aside \$100,000 for maintenance and monitoring work on the BWS for the coming year. Preliminary recommendations and costs for these plans will be presented for feedback from Council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Newland asked if the reed canary grass was a good or bad plant. Ms. Hedstrom explained the reed canary grass was deemed an invasive species within the BWS.

Director of Engineering Schluender reported staff would bring award of contracts back to the council for consideration later this winter or early spring. He explained staff would be stepping up its communication with the neighbors surrounding the BWS given the fact a controlled burn was planned for the BWS site.

3.3. 2026-027 Open Forum Procedure
 Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

This item was postponed to a future worksession meeting to allow for full council discussion.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 8:02PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk