



City of Blaine

City Council

January 21, 2026 | 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 7:08PM 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, and Tom Newland.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Jess Robertson and Chris Massoglia.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Erik Thorvig; Community Development Director Sheila Sellman; 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; Community Development Specialist Elizabeth Showalter; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

4. **Awards - Presentations - Organizational Business**

None.

5. **Communications**

Councilmember Ford commented on the great programs and services that were being offered by Family Promise of Anoka County.

Chief Podany addressed the council regarding the federal law enforcement efforts that were happening in the community and explained the Blaine Police Department was not involved in

immigration enforcement activities, nor has the Blaine Police Department been asked to be involved in these actions. He reported the federal agents were investigating immigration law and do not notify local law enforcement when they come or go from the community. He stated he could not provide legal guidance but encouraged local businesses to consult with their legal counsel for guidance and encouraged residents to research concerns they may have when it comes to federal immigration laws. He indicated the police department was currently working with the schools to ensure the safety of the youth in the community that want to exercise their first amendment rights. He stated if the department observes or becomes aware of something that appears to be misconduct or a civil rights violation, he will report this to the appropriate authorities. He reiterated that as a municipality, local law enforcement does not have jurisdiction over federal law enforcement. He reported if residents observe federal activity that they believe is concerning they are encouraged to contact himself, the Department of Homeland Security, or ICE. He encouraged residents with comments or questions to reach out to him noting the Blaine Police Department cares deeply for the residents of Blaine.

6. Open Forum

Open Forum is an opportunity for the public to present an issue or concern to City Council. There is a maximum of fifteen minutes set aside for open forum. Each presentation should be limited to no more than three minutes. If your item needs follow-up from the City, staff will arrange for that follow-up and will contact you to let you know what is being done. Thank you for coming this evening.

Mayor Sanders opened the Open Forum at 7:14PM.

Bruce Manthei, 4101 99th Avenue NE, shared continued frustrations with the placement of an electrical box at 99th Avenue and Lexington Avenue. He reported this electrical box was four feet nine inches high and was a visual obstruction at this intersection. He commented on how this was a city of Blaine issue. He requested the mayor, city council and staff properly address his concern.

Nicole Mertens-Maxson, 11340 Terrace Road, asked if surveillance or other data would be shared with federal authorities if requested. She reported the residents of Blaine felt the attacks from recent federal immigration enforcement and asked that the city do all they can to keep the residents of Blaine safe.

Marie Gardner, 11325 Yancy Circle, asked about surveillance or other data and questioned if this information would be shared with federal authorities, if requested.

City Manager Thorvig explained questions raised during open forum were not discussed back and forth but rather staff responds to individual speakers after the meeting.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:20PM.

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 Newland, seconded by Councilmember Larson, that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

Motion adopted 4-0-1 (Councilmember Newland abstained).

- 7.1.** 2026-021 Schedule of Bills Paid
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director
- 7.2.** 2026-022 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors: Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk
- 7.3.** 2026-023 Motion to Approve Payment to Intuitive Municipal Solutions for Software Licensing, Cloud Hosting, Technical Support and Maintenance
Sponsors: Paul Grosse, IT Manager
- 7.4.** RES 26-21 Resolution Authorizing 2025 Budget Transfers and Amendments for Police Vehicles
Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief
- 7.5.** RES 26-24 Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of a K9 Dog Washing Station Utilizing K9 Donations Funds
Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief
- 7.6.** 2026-025 Motion to Authorize a Three-Year Contract With Jimmy's Johnny's/LRS Recycling Systems for Portable Restroom Services in City Parks
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Park and Recreation Director
- 7.7.** RES 26-19 Resolution to Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. C0011862 with Anoka County for Signal Reconstruction and ADA Improvements on Anoka County CSAH 32/Ramsey County CSAH 1 (85th Avenue/County Road J) at Anoka County CSAH 17/Ramsey County CSAH 51 (Lexington Avenue), Project T2610
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

- 7.8.** RES 26-20 Resolution Authorizing Applications for the Community Development Block Grant Program
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Park and Recreation Director

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

- 8.1.** RES 26-13 Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Fitness Center in a Light Industrial (I-1) Zoning District at 1630 91st Avenue NE #108. Thumos LLC (Case File No. 25-0061/ACK)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Sellman stated the applicant is requesting a conditional use permit (CUP) to operate a fitness center in a Light Industrial (I-1) zoning district. Staff commented further on the request and recommended approval with conditions.

Mayor Sanders opened the public hearing at 7:23PM.

The applicant discussed how he was working to incorporate faith and fitness into his fitness center. He commented on his proposal further and thanked the council for consideration of his request.

There being no additional public input, Mayor Sanders closed the public hearing at 7:25PM.

Moved by Councilmember Larson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adopt a Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Fitness Center in a Light Industrial (I-1) Zoning District at 1630 91st Avenue NE #108.

Councilmember Newland asked how many fitness centers were located in the city's industrial parks. Ms. Sellman explained the city has had a handful of requests in recent years, noting the space within the industrial parks was conducive for fitness centers or gyms.

Councilmember Larson stated she supported the proposed faith and fitness center.

Motion adopted unanimously.

9. Development Business

None.

10. Administration

None.

11. Other Business

Councilmember Ford discussed how the current immigration enforcement activities were impacting the students in the community. He encouraged residents to find a way to help their neighbors and friends to get through this difficult time.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Ford, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk