



City of Blaine

City Council

February 2, 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 7:11PM 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; 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

4.1. Recognition of Blaine Area Non-Profit Organizations *Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director*

Finance Director Zimmerman stated all organizations receiving a City of Blaine charitable gambling grant have been invited to be recognized by the Blaine City Council. Each year, the council awards donations to several Blaine area non-profit organizations. The source of this funding is charitable gambling proceeds; organizations that run legal gambling operations, such as pull-tabs, within Blaine are required by State law to submit 10 percent of their net

proceeds to the city. This year, the Blaine City Council is proud to be able to award \$193,500 in grants to 15 different community organizations to the following recipients:

- Alexandra House
- Anoka County Brotherhood Council Inc. - ACBC Food Shelf
- Anoka County Composite Squadron - Civil Air Patrol
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Blaine
- Blaine Area Little League
- Blaine Police Federation
- Family Promise in Anoka County
- Hope for the Community Food Shelf
- Hope 4 Youth
- Minnesota 100 Club
- Robert-Wilma Burbach Bike Foundation DBA Bikes4Kids
- Salvation Army Food Shelf - Blaine
- SBM Fire
- Stepping Stone Emergency Housing
- Way of the Lord Food Shelf

Councilmember Robertson reported the council goes through this process each year and awards charitable gambling dollars to local organizations. She indicated she was overwhelmed by how the community acts through community by serving Blaine residents.

Councilmember Massoglia thanked all the non-profits that serve the community, especially the food shelves and shelters.

Mayor Sanders shared his great appreciation for the 2026 recipients and thanked each organization for their great work in the community. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

5. Communications

None.

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 7:20PM.

Bruce Manthei, 4101 99th Avenue NE, addressed the council regarding his continued safety concerns regarding the location of the electrical box at 99th Avenue and Lexington Avenue. He commented on the videos he sent to the city councilmembers of the intersection and requested the city take action to address the safety concerns stemming from the electrical box.

Carlos Mostek, 12084 Waconia Street NE, reported he and his wife have lived in Blaine for the past 26 years. He shared concerns he and his neighbors' have, along with growing fear due to the fact federal agents were currently conducting immigration enforcement activities in the community. He discussed how he felt safe when the Blaine Police Department was present. He was of the opinion this moment of fear was an opportunity for the Blaine Police Department and the city to show they are trustworthy and that they are on the side of residents. He asked that the city work together with the police and residents to ensure Blaine residents feel safe in the community.

Collette Adkins, 8640 Coral Sea Street, reported she has lived in Blaine for the past 20 years. She shared comments about current immigration activities in her neighborhood and asked that the police department promptly respond to calls regarding unmarked vehicles and masked individuals to help deter unlawful acts. She asked that the city not allow city-owned areas, such as parks, to be used for immigration enforcement operations. She discussed how officers could serve to keep the peace and serve as witnesses to the behavior of the federal agents. She suggested a separation ordinance be considered by the city to ensure the Blaine Police Department was not aiding federal agents. She thanked the Blaine Police Department for their presence in the community and urged the city council to get ahead of this issue because agents were not just in Minneapolis and St. Paul, they were in Blaine as well.

Jacalyn Klinzing, 8773 Fraizer Avenue NE, requested the council identify all city-owned or city-controlled parking lots, parking ramps, vacant lots or garages that could be used for staging for immigration enforcement operations. She recommended the city post clear signage stating that the space may not be used by any government entity for those purposes. She recommended the city immediately report any violation of the executive order. She suggested the city design an optional signage template for private property owners and leasers who wish to lawfully restrict immigration enforcement activities in non-public areas. She asked that water and recycling bills be put on hold to provide for emergency funds for those in need at this time.

James Nelson, 11215 Nassau Circle NE, explained he has lived in the community for the past four years. He echoed many of the comments of the previous speakers. He then shared an incident that occurred with his spouse and neighbor having observed an unknown vehicle in their neighborhood. He thanked the Blaine Police Department for showing up and speaking to the individual in the unknown vehicle. He was of the opinion that things could be done more peacefully, and he urged the city to not allow federal vehicles to loiter in public places. He asked that the city council and Blaine Police Department continue to work together to create safe neighborhoods.

Nicole Yochem, 11248 Nassau Circle NE, addressed the economic and public safety impacts that were occurring as a result of the immigration enforcement activities. She commented on how residents feel alone at this time. She asked the city council to use their voice to help address these concerns and to protect the community.

Jennifer Grassman, 11870 Jamestown Street, noted there were six youth from the community attending this meeting and that the residents were looking to the city council for leadership and guidance. She shared comments regarding the current immigration enforcement activities that were occurring in Blaine and stated there was a need to address this together as a city, as detainments were occurring in Blaine. She discussed how Blaine invites people from all over the

world for sporting events and asked how Blaine will support all families and visitors. She urged the city to provide resources and clarity during this time of uncertainty.

Becky Kelsey, 11644 Fergus Street NE, shared her experience after being approached and taken during an immigration enforcement detainment. She asked what the police department and city's role was in this and questioned how they would address this concern in order to properly protect the residents of Blaine.

There being no further input, Mayor Sanders closed the Open Forum at 7:47PM.

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 Newland, that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved.

Councilmember Newland stated he would be abstaining from voting on the bills payable because he has a conflict of interest.

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

7.1. 2026-43 Schedule of Bills Paid
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

7.2. 2026-35 Approval of Minutes
Sponsors:

7.3. RES 26-23 Resolution to Support Anoka County Submittal of a FY26 BUILD Funding Application for the Trunk Highway 65 and CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Blvd) Improvement Project
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

7.4. 2025-36 Motion to Receive Petition to Modify Flowerfield Road
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

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

None.

9. Development Business

- 9.1.** RES 26-14 Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit Amendment to Add a 10-Foot Tower Extension and 5-Foot Lightning Rod to an Existing Monopole Cell Tower in a Heavy Industrial (I-2) Zoning District at 2201 108th Lane NE. Verizon Wireless (Case File No. 25-0054/ACK)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Sellman stated the applicant was requesting a conditional use permit (CUP) amendment to add a 10-foot tower extension and 5-foot lightning rod to an existing cell tower in a Heavy Industrial (I-2) zoning district. The applicant is proposing a CUP amendment to install a 10-foot tower extension and a 5-foot lightning rod to the existing monopole cell tower. The applicant has indicated the need to install the 10-foot tower extension to provide uninterrupted service to nearby residents. The applicant states the extension will circumvent the need to construct an additional tower within the city. In addition to the tower extension, the applicant is also proposing the construction of ground-mounted equipment, which includes a generator and equipment cabinets. These will all be located within the fenced-in area. Staff commented further on the request and reported the planning commission recommended approval with conditions.

Moved by Councilmember Newland, seconded by Councilmember Fleming, to adopt a Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit Amendment to Add a 10-Foot Tower Extension and 5-Foot Lightning Rod to an Existing Monopole Cell Tower in a Heavy Industrial (I-2) Zoning District at 2201 108th Lane NE.

Motion adopted unanimously.

- 9.2.** ORD 26-2598 First Reading
Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from Single Family Residential (R-1) to Development Flex (DF) on the NE Corner of Lexington Avenue and Flowerfield Road NE. Fenway Land Company (Flowerfield) (Case File No. 25-0052/SLK)
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Community Development Director

Ms. Sellman stated the applicant is requesting a rezoning from Single Family (R-1) to Development Flex (DF) to construct 32 single family homes.

Declared by Mayor Sanders that Ordinance No. 26-2598, "Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from Single Family Residential (R-1) to Development Flex (DF) on the NE Corner of Lexington Avenue and Flowerfield Road NE," be introduced and placed on file for second reading at the February 18, 2026 Council meeting.

- 9.3.** ORD 26-2599 First Reading

Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from Farm Residential (FR) to Development Flex (DF) at 11008 Sunset Avenue NE. Enclave Companies (Sunset Woods) (Case File No. 25-0055/SLK)

Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, Community Development Director

Ms. Sellman stated the applicant is requesting a rezoning from Farm Residential (FR) to Development Flex (DF) to construct 175 townhome units.

Declared by Mayor Sanders that Ordinance No. 26-2599, "Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from Farm Residential (FR) to Development Flex (DF) at 11008 Sunset Avenue NE," be introduced and placed on file for second reading at the February 18, 2026 Council meeting.

10. Administration

None.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Robertson, seconded by Councilmember Newland, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, Mayor

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk