



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

March 2, 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, 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 Attorneys Eric Larson and Lida Bannick; Public Works Director Nick Fleishhacker; Communications Manager Ben Hayle; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3. New Business

- 3.1.** 2026-56 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 city council met in a closed session pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.03 Subd. (1)(b) to receive a labor negotiations update.

- 3.2.** 2026-57 Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) Presentation
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, City Manager

Public Affairs Manager Alex Larson, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), highlighted their 2025 key activities, reviewed the results in the city of Blaine and provided an organization overview, collaboration efforts, and discussed the upcoming activities that would occur in 2026. He commented on how the MMCD would be increasing the size of its drone program in order to address medium size wetlands. He described the tire collection events that would be held and noted residents were always encouraged to call MMCD with any concerns they may have regarding the level of mosquitoes or black flies in their neighborhoods. Further discussion ensued regarding insect repellent and West Nile Disease symptoms.

- 3.3.** 2026-58 Trunk Highway 65 Update
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Director of Engineering Schluender provided the city council with an update on the TH65 project. He reviewed the project timeline, noted the groundbreaking ceremony would be held on May 27, commented on the local street speed limit reductions that would be in place during construction and discussed the agency cooperative agreements that will be coming to council for consideration and approval. He explained updates would continue for the council on a monthly basis as this project moves forward.

Mayor Sanders inquired when construction would begin on the west side frontage road. Mr. Schluender reported this work would begin this summer.

Mr. Thorvig encouraged the city council to visit the Highway 10 corridor from Anoka to Elk River in order to get a visual of how the TH65 corridor will look in Blaine once completed.

Mayor Sanders asked if the council would be able to further discuss the bridge aesthetics. He asked that more substantial improvements be made to the bridges around 105th Avenue. Mr. Schluender explained this topic was discussed by the council approximately 12 to 18 months ago and the plans were already incorporated into the project, but noted he could speak with MNDOT regarding this matter.

Councilmember Robertson agreed with Mayor Sanders noting she would like to see this portion of the corridor elevated.

4. Other Business

City Manager Thorvig provided the council with a legislative update regarding some proposed bills and letters of opposition being drafted by staff regarding housing density and the 105th taxing bill.

Mayor Sanders commented further on the testimony he provided to the house tax committee last Wednesday regarding the 105th taxing bill. He explained he had several members of the

house reach out to him after the hearing and was pleased there was no strong opposition to the request.

Councilmember Larson requested the council remain transparent when it comes to this topic.

Councilmember Robertson stated she understood there was a need for transparency, but noted the state may not pass a bill for the 105th taxing district for another three years, if at all.

Mayor Sanders reported the city was exploring the taxing district, but noted the city was uncertain if a bill would be considered or passed. He explained if the state passes a bill, the city council will have to discuss and pass the taxing district. Mr. Thorvig indicated he would continue to keep the council apprised on this topic.

5. Adjourment

The workshop adjourned at 6:59PM.



Signed by

Tim Sanders, President

Signed by

Catherine M. Sorensen, City Clerk