

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

**1. Establish a quorum:**

Commissioners Present:

- Commissioner Nava
- Commissioner Dickinson
- Commissioner Cruz
- Commissioner Warvi

**2. Motion to approve agenda as presented**

Commissioner Nava motioned  
Commissioner Warvi 2nd

**Approved by consensus.**

**3. Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatzky: States that Mexico has better law enforcement than Blue Lake.

John Gamin: Does not feel threatened normally; today on Chartin Road, a Blue Lake garbage truck was noted driving the wrong way. Asks that new laws be enforced.

City Manager Mager: Comments that Blue Lake Garbage is a private company and is not a City department.

Julie Christie: Thanks Justin for his work; thanks Kim for joining the Commission. Requests that street lights be installed along Blue Lake Boulevard above the school.

**4. Introduction of new Commissioners**

The Commissioners welcome Kim Warvi and acknowledge that Dan Flores is not in attendance due to a work conflict.

**5. Review Meeting Minutes from November 2023**

Elise Scarfani: Notes corrections to November meeting minutes on page 2.

Commissioner Nava: motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 2023 with corrections.

Commissioner Dickinson: 2nd

**Approved by consensus.**

**6. City of Blue Lake Truck Route Draft Plan Review – Discussion/Recommendation**

City Manager Mager provides an overview of the Truck Route project and introduces City Engineer, Mike Foget, who will provide technical details and answer questions. Mike Foget presents the project and explains that the design is over 60% complete; the City plans to bid the project in the Spring of

2024 with a construction date of Summer 2024. The City has been meeting with special interest groups for a number of years, including the industrial users, the Fire Department, and the school; the City has also conducted several community meetings and is in the process of presenting the designs to the City commissions for additional feedback. Greenwood presents many constraints, including limited right-of-way, power pole locations, school frontage and designation as industrial truck route. The goal of the project is to slow down traffic, improve ADA accessibility and improve safety for all users.

**Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatzky: Notes Speeders will always speed. Disagrees with some elements of plan.

Scott Farley: Does the current project just fund improvements to Greenwood?

Peggy Ashcom: There are a lot of pedestrians on the route.

Mike Foget: Funding doesn't allow for improvements to the school's drop off location; that is something the school is pursuing.

Kat Napier: Requested clarification on plans for Greenwood. Likes idea of a stop sign on Greenwood & Railroad (2 way stop) & asks Commission to review this option.

Mike Foget: We had a design expert, Dan Burden, review the stop sign issue; he steered us away as traditionally stop signs are limited in their effectiveness.

Julie Christie: Notes that a stop sign at this location was requested previously. Concerned about public outreach; concerned that the truck route does not meet the needs of truck drivers/businesses & the school. Would like to see a lighted crosswalk installed.

Scott Farley: Notes 10-12 times/year they drive oversized trucks down Greenwood which requires use of both lanes. Notes the Blue Lake Blvd/Greenwood intersection would be tight as designed and asks for additional room. Intersection near City Hall will be tight as designed. Notes intersection on Hatchery and Taylor would be tight as designed; offers to load trucks and demo the issues discussed.

Elise Scafani: Agrees with notion of Stop sign at Greenwood intersection by City Hall.

John Sawatzky: Notes Greenwood Avenue will be main artery for future development projects.

**7. I & H Street Neighborhood Discussion Regarding Traffic Calming and Parking Options - Discussion/Recommendations**

City Manager Mager: Provides an overview of the City's work to improve safety by evaluating and implementing traffic calming measures. I Street and H Street present concerns due to the density of the development in the area, along with the street size and configuration. The City has developed a Local Road Safety Plan that identified areas of concern and traffic calming options; the City is reaching out to the residents and the greater community to gain additional feedback and to plan for feature installations.

**Public Comment:**

Peggy Ashcom: The blind corner at 4<sup>th</sup> & H Street is an issue. Suggests no parking and 1 way street designation.

Kent Sawatzky: Notes 4<sup>th</sup> & H Street is an issue; he prefers wide streets and traffic enforcement over stop signs.

Rueben Ladesma: Believes the roundabout was ineffective; it slowed down a lot of drivers but not everyone. Suggests speed limit signs and the installation of a four way stop.

Teresa Sawatzky: Feels roundabouts are ineffective and will impact parking. Likes the idea of speed limit signs and stop sign installation.

Andy Jones: As a cyclist & a driver, the ability to react is important. Suggests red curbs on intersections on I street. Likes the idea of speed signs. Advocate of diagonal parking.

Scott Farley: Likes one way street on 4th & H Street; I street stop sign seems reasonable. Questions if diagonal parking is a good idea - may increase accidents.

Elise Scafani: Read letter from Lori & Dave Ponte; agrees with the idea of more stop signs and random enforcement from the Sheriff.

Rueben Ladesma: People aren't using the roundabout correctly.

Scott Farley: If we have no posted speed limits, we have no speed limit. Advocates for speed limit signs around town.

Anne Lawlor: Like's stop sign on I street as a better option than roundabout. On H street, preschool is an area of concern.

Kim Johnson: Haven't had any safety concerns around preschool and traffic on H Street.

Anna Brown: Sees speed issues on H but less traffic than on I. Advocates for multiple solutions on I street and H street; willing to try new ideas to see what works.

Erica Dykehouse: Advocates for flashing pedestrian signage.

## **8. Humboldt County Sheriff Contract Update and Call Data Review**

City Manager Mager updates the Commission on the status of the contract; the Sheriff has reached out to the City to start negotiations and to look for cost saving options. The City is working with the County on multiple levels to review costs and come up with viable solutions. The goal is to reduce costs, while preserving our contract agreement for the provision of law enforcement services.

### **Public Comments:**

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on grant money and other income received from the State to pay for the contract; the City needs qualified law enforcement and supports the contract with the Sheriff.

Dennis Whitcomb: Asks if the Sheriff even wants to provide services to Blue Lake; agrees with multiple solutions (lighting, patrols, etc). The City could implement a tax on the residents to pay for the contract increase.

## **9. Powers Creek Updates**

City Manager Mager provides an update on the development in the Powers Creek District.

The construction of the bike park is underway; work will continue as long as the weather holds; after that the site will be winterized and work will continue in the Spring. Work continues on the Powers Creek Restoration project; we are in the design and permitting phase with work slated for Summer 2024. The Baduwa't Community project is moving through the permitting process; the project will be presented to the Planning Commission for consideration in the next few months.

**Public Comments:**

Dennis Whitcomb: Requests pea gravel on the trail next to the bike park area.

Kent Sawatzky: The bike park will be an attractive nuisance and will need security; doesn't believe that development will take place in the district; he has zoning concerns.

**10: Agency check in**

**Blue Lake Fire:** Jason Crews provides an update: The Fire Department is always recruiting; the department has been conducting fundraising activities.

**Call Data for the month:**

- 3 mutual aid calls
- 19 medical calls
- 8 traffic collisions

**Public Comment:**

Kent Sawatzky: How many calls were outside of the City?

Jason Crews – Does not know the exact number.

**11. Reports from Public Safety Commission Liaison/Staff**

PSC Liaison not present

**12. Future Agenda Items and Announcements:**

I Street stop sign follow up

Sheriff Ad Hoc update

**13. Motion to Adjourn:**

Commissioner Dickinson motioned

Commissioner Nava Second

**Motion passed by consensus.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.**