

City of Blue Lake

Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2024

Commissioners in attendance: Jason Crews, Phil Nava, Kim Warvi

Commissioners absent: Stephanie Dickinson

Staff in attendance: Mandy Mager, City Manager

Public attendance: Kent Sawatzky, Erin McClure, Kit Mann, Lin Glen, David Glen, Karina, Justin Noydb

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:00pm

Quorum of the commission established.

2. Approval of the agenda as presented:

Motion: Commissioner Nava

2nd: Commissioner Warvi

No public comment

Vote: Consensus

Motion Summary: Motion carries.

3. Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Asks if the meeting is being recorded; states that it's probably better that it isn't.

Comments on being an educator; comments on the first amendment auditor and the City Manager's failure to protect her employees; states that he's a member of the Sinaloan Cartel in Mexico and that he's highly connected; these are "his people;" states that City Hall could be burned down; for \$500 he can have people taken out in Blue Lake.

Public comment closed.

4. Approval of meeting minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes with correction of spelling of Commissioner Crew's last name.

Motion by: Commissioner Crews

2nd by: Commissioner Nava

No public comment

Vote: Consensus

Motion summary: Motion carries.

5. January 2024 Flood Event After Action Review and Discussion.

Commission Crews opens the discussion.

Lin Glen: Comments on the flooding at Powers Creek and the impacts to her property.

Karina: Comments on the flooding at her house and the amount of water that intruded and the flow of the water.

City Manager Mager: Provides an overview of the flood event and the actions taken by the City; including contact with OES, and how the City received weather updates for the event.

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on creek flooding and historical practice of taking gravel out of the creek; gives the City an “F” on how they handled the flood event; major mistakes were made; he has more sandbags in Mexico.

Commissioner Nava: Shares that Commissioner Dickinson would like to assist in creating a stockpile of sandbags for future events.

David Glen: Comments on the creek flooding and how it affected the properties.

Karina: Asks who she should call during an event; felt that she wasn’t taken care of.

Erin McClure: States that her field was flooded by water from the County culvert.

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on communication; staff should have been called in to create a mini OES; lack of communication.

Jason Crews: Commends the PODS; the community took care of each other and helped their neighbors.

6. Humboldt County Sheriff Contract Update and Call Data Review.

City Manager Mager provides an update on the status of the Sheriff Contract; states that the City has been working in partnership with staff from the Sheriff Department to come up with a reasonable and accountable cost proposal. The City has received a revised proposal from the Sheriff; the new proposed contract amount is \$190,000; this is down from the \$315,000.00 contract increase presented in June 2023. City Manager Mager states that the City’s ad-hoc team has been working really well with the Sheriff staff and she appreciates their efforts to come up with a cost methodology that is accountable and can be used for future negotiations. The City will be submitting a small Measure Z funding request to offset first year cost increases. The contract proposal will go to the Board of Supervisors in the near future.

Public Comment:

Lin Glen: In the past, the Sheriff would not negotiate with the City; I’m very pleased to see the change and this is moving in the right direction.

Kent Sawatzky: The Sheriff is very reasonable; there is potential litigation if the City doesn’t have animal control; anything to lower costs is a benefit.

Erin McClure: Glad that the City decided to work with the Sheriff; Blue Lake is getting less safe; she respects law enforcement.

7. Greenwood Avenue Project Update:

City Manager Mager provides a status update; the City has submitted their plans to the CTC for approval; the plan is to replace the water laterals along Greenwood in May and then start construction in June on the road and sidewalk improvements.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comments that the lateral project should happen at the same time as the road improvements; a major concern of his is using the sidewalks as a bike lane; SHN Engineering is getting over 50% of contract amount.

8. Red Cross Update:

City Manager Mager explains that the Red Cross has new staff; they will be reaching out to the City once they become situated.

9. Sheriff and Fire Department Update:

There are no representatives from the Fire Department or the Sheriff Department; Commissioner Crews provides an update on recruitment for the Fire Department.

Public Comment:

Erin McClure: Asks how the fire department is doing; she has seen the former fire chief in town.

Jason Crews: Comments that the department has a number of new recruits that will be going through the academy this year.

10. Reports of Staff:

City Manager Mager provides an update on various projects taking place in the City; including the bike park, and the creek restoration project.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on the retirement of Hal Burris; commends him for his service to the City.

11. Future Agenda Items:

- Annual Meeting Discussion