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CITY OF BLUE LAKE CALIFORNIA

111 Greenwood Road
P.O. Box 458
Blue Lake, CA 95525

Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2025-City Council Special Meeting
Skinner Store Building ~ 111 Greenwood Rd., Blue Lake ~ Behind City Hall

1. Called to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Quorum Established: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro-Tem Elise Scafani, Councilmember Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Councilmember Kathryn Napier

Absent: Councilmember Christopher Firor

Staff Present: City Manager Mager

Public Present: Lin Glen, Alex Ricca, Bobbi Ricca, Mardi Granger, Beckie Thornton, Salina Rain, Maria Mahegan, Roxanne Rothery, Julie Christie, Erica Dykehouse, Brian Corse, James, Brenda, Christa Christie

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Move item 9 above 8 and 11 and 12 after 7.

Motion by: Mayor Pro-Tem Scafani

Seconded by: Councilmember Napier

No Public Comment

Motion Summary: Consensus

4. Public Comment

Lin Glen: States that she will be applying for the Public Safety Commission.

Beckie Thornton: States that she had a good experience at City Hall with her public records request.

Julie Christie: Comments on animal control and community involvement. Also comments on lack of Public Safety Commission noticing/agenda and Sheriff's contract with animal control.

Mayor Pro-Tem Scafani: States that there are problems with the website; believes that staff posted the agendas appropriately.

5. Review Fiscal Year 24-25 Staffing Level, Wages, Benefits and Salaries

Mayor Sawatzky introduces the item; the Council reviews the report provided by City staff; Council questions current staffing levels, costs for contract personnel and changes to job descriptions.

Councilmember Napier requests that staff provide a report with employee names, employment status and wage rate. Discussion by Council and staff regarding each department in Public Works, Parks, and Recreation. Additional questions include how benefits are budgeted and why call-outs and rounds are going up in the Public Works Department.

1 Staff provides answers to the Council's questions and explains that Public Works has been impacted this
2 fiscal year by storms and system interruptions that have required additional inspections and call-outs. Staff
3 explains that benefits are budgeted separately and that the City has an actuarial that provides liability
4 projections related to benefits. Discussion on department revenues (specifically Park revenue and Recreation
5 revenue).
6

7 **Public Comment:**

8 **Beckie Thornton:** Comments on her Public Record Act request and provides a hand-out to the Council on
9 current contracted services for the City

10 **Councilmember Napier** requests detailed employee status report including FTE, benefits, and hours in an
11 easy-to-read format.

12 **Public Comment Closed.**

13 **6. Prasch Hall and Clemence Snack Bar Facility Upgrades Project Review**

14 **Mayor Sawatzky** introduces the item.

15 **Parks and Recreation Director Emily Wood** makes a presentation, including an overview and review of
16 the improvements to all of the City recreation facilities and their funding sources.

17 Council asks how projects were prioritized; staff explains that major improvements that the City couldn't
18 afford were prioritized, including installation of the new roof and electrical at Prasch Hall. These are
19 projects that are long-term improvements and extend the life of the facilities. Other improvements were
20 prioritized based upon benefit and ability to generate additional revenue for the parks program.

21 Questions from Council included details on rented facilities, funding sources, amounts left in funds and
22 grants listed in the presentation, process for renting facilities through the Park department and Recreation
23 department.

24 **Public Comment:**

25 **Alex Ricca:** States that the fields are draining the best that they have in 40 years; asks if the sound baffling
26 was installed in Prasch Hall.

27 **Beckie Thornton:** Thanks Emily for the presentation; states that she is still tracking the projects. States is
28 still missing receipts for over \$60,000 for project 56 (Prasch Hall) and over \$15,000 for project 57, and that
29 staff has explained that information will come later.

30 **Marianne:** Thanks Emily for the presentation; asks about bathrooms in the park and the status of the
31 commercial kitchen permits.

32 **Julie Christie:** Thanks Emily for the presentation; thanks public and council for being more involved in
33 fiscal conversations regarding Parks and Recreation departments; comments on the permitting for the Dog
34 House.

35 **Public Comment Closed.**

36 **7. Transparency Ad-Hoc Discussion**

37 **Mayor Sawatzky** introduces the item. **Mayor Pro-Tem Scafani** asked that this item be placed on the
38 agenda; she explains that the ad-hoc is to improve trust and transparency between City Hall and the
39 community. **Mayor Sawatzky** states that he's concerned because the Council is the oversight and he's not
40 sure what this ad-hoc would be doing; adding another layer of review could be a problem.

41 Council discusses the use of the website to provide information to the community and the development of a

1 newsletter; Council expresses concern that there are no clear goals and objectives for this ad-hoc. **Mayor**
2 **Pro-Tem Scafani** states that the goal is to build community and trust but she's not in a place to narrow the
3 scope down at this time.

5 **Public Comment:**

6 **Alex Ricca:** Comments on the Brown Act; this is what forces transparency and going around the Brown Act
7 is a problem.

8 **Lin Glen:** States her support of a newsletter.

9 **Julie Christie:** Supports a public resource commission rather than an arts and heritage commission.

10 **Beckie Thornton:** Comments on transparency.

11 **Public Comment Closed.**

13 Council discusses the formation of an ad-hoc to work on this issue; **Councilmembers Lewis-Lusso and**
14 **Napier** decline to serve on the ad-hoc; **Mayor Sawatzky** forms the ad-hoc with **Mayor Pro-Tem Scafani**
15 and himself, and will report out findings, scope, and needs of committee.

17 **8. Council Correspondence:** No correspondence

19 **9. Future Agenda Items**

21 • Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget
22 • Appointment of Councilmembers to negotiating committees

23 **Public Comment on Future Agenda Items:**

24 **Julie Christie:** Would like to move forward with ideas with Public Relations ad hoc Committee
25 rather than Transparency ad hoc.

27 **10. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation**

29 **Public Comment**

30 **Alex Ricca:** Requests a report out of closed session.

31 **Julie Christie:** Comments on the evaluation.

32 **Public Comment Closed**

34 **Motion:** To enter into closed session

35 **Motion by:** Mayor Pro-Tem Scafani

36 **Seconded by:** Councilmember Napier

37 **Motion Summary:** Consensus

39 **Council entered the open session at 11:04pm.**

41 **Report:** No reportable action was taken.

43 **Meeting adjourned at 11:04p.m.**