



Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 ~ 6:30 p.m. ~Regular Council Meeting
Skinner Store Building ~ 111 Greenwood Rd., Blue Lake ~ Behind City Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor John Sawatzky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: [0:01]

01. ESTABLISH A QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL: [0:21]

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Interim City Manager/Acting City Clerk Jill Duffy, Deputy Clerk Laura McClenagan and Videographer Justin Goad <https://www.youtube.com/@BLCNews95525>

02. AGENDA APPROVAL: [0:37]

Motion: to approve the agenda

Motion by: Council Member Kat Napier

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [0:48] None

03. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: [1:00]

Beckie Thornton Raygoza announces the Annual Blue Lake Scavenger Hunt on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Adelene Jones reports on the 16th City-wide Yard Sale, the Chamber of Commerce had a mixer at Camp Bower on September 18th, the Safe Routes to Blue Lake Rancheria Workshop held September 3, 2025, and on the Blue Lake Public Safety fair on September 20, 2025.

Kent Swatzky supports Elise Scafani

Jean reports the city hall flag needs attention.

Julie Christi mentions the medieval festival the first weekend in October.

04. CONSENT AGENDA: None [8:57]

Item a. City Council Minutes for April 8, 2025 – Special Meeting was pulled off the consent agenda so modifications could be made.



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Item b. City Council Minutes for April 22, 2025 – Regular Meeting was pulled off the consent agenda. The minutes were a copy of April 08, 2025, minutes.
c. Monthly Disbursement for Period of August 1-August 31, 2025 was pulled as council members had questions.

Motion: to continue Item A and Item B, and to accept Item C

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [0:48] Kent Sawatzky, Julie Christi

05. APPROVE PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH:
[34:24]

Motion: That the city council approve proclamation recognizing October as domestic violence awareness month.

Motion by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Second by: Council Member Kat Napier

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [37:31] Julie Christi

Motion: to re-open the Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items for the standard three minutes.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [43:20] Karina Green announced that we got permission from Fish and Wildlife to get a crew of volunteers into the creek to remove obstructive vegetation that's



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been obstructing the creeks flow and causing pretty significant flooding. Able bodied volunteers are needed.

06. CONSIDER STRUCTURING A SERIES OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT ON THE FORMER BLUE LAKE POWER PLANT SITE: [47:58]

Public Comment Received: [1:10:30] Kent Sawatzky, Adelene Jones, Julie Christi

Direction to Staff: Request Staff work with the ad hoc committee (Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani and Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso) to Investigate Cost, Scope and Funding Sources to hold Community Meeting Series for the Purpose of Soliciting Public Input on the Former Blue Lake Power Plant Site.

07. RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON BLUE LAKE TRUCK ROUTE PHASE 2 – RAILROAD AVE. TO HATCHERY ROAD PROJECT: [1:38:48]

Public Comment Received: [2:03:35] Adelene Jones, Kent Sawatzky, Brian Coarse

08. APPROVE RESOLUTION 1243 – CITY OF BLUE LAKE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE: [2:12:54]

Motion: to approve Resolution 1243 as modified by council and clarified by city manager. (page 46 under list of designated positions to add superintendent and they would still fall into the reporting category of 45; and change the date to read 23rd on page 2 of 4 of the resolution.)

Motion by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Council Member Terri Bayles

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [2:32:01] Kent Sawatzky, Adelene Jones

09. RATIFY ACCEPTANCE OF RECEIVED DONATIONS OVER \$5,000 FOR THE BLUE LAKE BIKE & SKATE PARK: [2:36:42]



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Motion: to continue this item until after council has received a proposed pathway or corrective actions on this project and with clarification on the \$20,000 combined donation.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Council Member Terri Bayles

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [2:51:36] Kent Sawatzky, Brian Coarse

10. APPROVE IN-KIND DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION FOR WINTERIZATION OF BLUE LAKE BIKE & SKATE PARK: [3:06:11]

Motion: [3:16:28] to accept the in-kind donation of hydro-seed for use at the Bike Park site.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Kat Napier

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Council Member Terri Bayles

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [2:51:36] Kent Sawatzky

Motion: to Authorize expenditures of up to \$3,000 from GL4566 (Recreation Fees) for winterization activities.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Motion carried: 4/1.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Council Member Terri Bayles

Nay: Council Member Kat Napier

Public Comment Received: [3:25:28] None

11. CITY COUNCIL BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: [3:26:15]



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Agency	Meeting Day/Time	Primary	Alternate
RREDC - Redwood Regional Economic Development 520 E St. Eureka	4th Monday 6:30 pm 445-9652	Council Member Terri Bayles	Council Member Kat Napier
HCAOG - Humboldt County Association of Governments 2nd Floor Eureka City Hall	3rd Thursday 4:00 pm 444-8208	Mayor John Sawatzky	Council Member Kat Napier
HWMA - Humboldt Waste Management Authority 2nd Floor Eureka City Hall	2nd Thursday 5:30 pm 268-8680	Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso	Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani
BL Rancheria Liaison	As Needed	Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani	Mayor John Sawatzky
RCEA - Redwood Coast Energy Authority 517 15th Street, Eureka	3rd Monday 3:30 pm 269-1700	Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani	Council Member Kat Napier
Blue Lake Chamber of Commerce Liaison	2nd Monday 5:30 pm Skinner Store	Council Member Terri Bayles	Mayor John Sawatzky
BL Public Safety Commission Sheriff's Department Liaison	1st Monday 6:00 pm Skinner Store	Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani	Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso
BL Fire Department Liaison	3rd Monday 6:30 p.m.	Council Member Terri Bayles	Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso
BL Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison	1st Wednesday 6:30 pm Skinner Store	Council Member Kat Napier	Mayor John Sawatzky
BL Economic Development Commission Liaison	2nd Tuesday 4:30 pm Skinner Store	Council Member Kat Napier	Council Member Terri Bayles
Baduwa't Watershed Council	Quarterly	Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso	Council Member Terri Bayles
League of CA Cities	Quarterly	Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso	Mayor John Sawatzky
Mayor Select Committee	As Needed	Mayor John Sawatzky	Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani
Arts and Heritage Commission	3rd Wednesday	Mayor	Mayor Pro Tem



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	6:00 pm Skinner Store Or City Hall	John Sawatzky	Elise Scafani
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Motion: to approve and accept the new table of assignments as recorded.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso,
Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Kat Napier

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [3:47:52] None

12. CITY CLERK JOB DESCRIPTION: [3:49:42]

Motion: to approve the city clerk job description as amended by including city clerk reports to city council and receives general administrative guidance from the city manager and may provide guidance to administrative support staff.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion carried: 5/0.

Aye: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso,
Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Kat Napier

Nay: None

Public Comment Received: [4:03:36] None

13. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE: [4:04:30]

14. REPORTS OF COUNCIL AND STAFF: [4:04:54]

a. Ad hoc Committee Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani reports that they (Sean and Elise) are working on the transparency ad hoc.

b. Commission Updates



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Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso attended the HWMA meeting September 11, 2025.

Mayor John Sawatzky attended the HCAOG meeting and reports that the arena allotments looks like 41 new units in the next 10 years for Blue Lake.

Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani attended RCEA and reports that the Under Sheriff actually reported that some of our calls for service are being answered by officers from the Blue Lake Rancheria.

Council Member Terri Bayles attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and reports that they were talking about their tight budget and consolidating some of the winter programs and that they have requested updates regarding the Bike Park.

c. City Manager Report

City Manager Jill Duffy reported that the pedestrian bridge got approved late this afternoon and it's now usable; the project is complete. Also, with respect to Powers Creek behind the town square and kind of moving down in that area, we've got folks in there clearing out some of the vegetation, which started yesterday and will probably be done in 3 days.

15. ADJOURNMENT: [4:23:25] Mayor John Sawatzky adjourned September 23, 2025, regular meeting at 10:54 p.m.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion Carried: 5/0

Laura McClenagan

Deputy Clerk, City of Blue Lake