



Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, September 09, 2025 ~ 6:30 p.m. ~ Special 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 6:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: [0:37]

01. ESTABLISH A QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL: [0:55]

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, City Attorney Ryan Plotz, Deputy Clerk Laura McClenagan and Videographer Justin Goad

02. AGENDA APPROVAL: [1:07]

Motion: to approve the agenda

Motion by: Council Member Kat Napier

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0.

03. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: [3:06]

Adelene Jones talked about affordable housing in the Powers Creek District.

Kent Sawatzky talked about smaller infill projects in residential areas.

Julie Christie request updates from the HCAOG liaison and requests the Meetings Zoom ID and Password be printed on the agenda to help with accessibility.

04. CONSENT AGENDA: None [8:45]

05. DISCUSS AND SET DATE FOR SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE RECALL OF ONE COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION: [8:57]

Public Comment Received: [17:25] Nicole Goldbach, Humboldt County Elections representative, Mardi Granger, Kent Sawatzky, Julie Christie, Lyn, Rebecca Collins

Motion: [29:17] to select January 6, 2026, for the Council Member Recall Special Municipal Election.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion carried 4/1 with the following vote:



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37 **Aye:** Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Mayor Pro Tem Elise
38 Scafani, Council Member Terri Bayles

39 **Nay:** Mayor John Sawatzky

40

41 **Public Comment Received:** Adelene Jones, Kent Sawatzky, public commentor, Julie Christie

42

43 **Motion:** [43:27] to select mail-in ballot and a drop-off ballot box at Prasch Hall as the method
44 and location in which to hold the special election.

45 **Motion by:** Council Member Kat Napier

46 **Second by:** Mayor John Sawatzky

47 **Motion withdrawn,** length of time (30 days vs 1 day only) drop-off box to remain at Prasch Hall
48 needed.

49

50 **Motion:** [45:31] to select mail-in ballot and in-person ballot at Prasch Hall.

51 **Motion by:** Council Member Terri Bayles

52 **Second by:** Mayor John Sawatzky

53 **Motion failed: 2/3**

54 **Aye:** Council Member Terri Bayles, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

55 **Nay:** Mayor John Sawatzky, Council Member Kat Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

56

57 **Public Comment Received:** Lynn, Julie Christie, Kent Sawatzky,

58

59 **Motion:** [29:17] to select mail-in ballot with a drop-off ballot box at Prasch Hall as the method
60 for submitting votes.

61 **Motion by:** Council Member Kat Napier

62 **Second by:** Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso

63 **Motion carried: 4/1**

64 **Aye:** Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Mayor John Sawatzky, Council Member Kat Napier, Council
65 Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

66 **Nay:** Council Member Terri Bayles

67

68

69 **Motion:** [52:40] that the drop-off ballot box be available for one day only on the day of the
70 election at Prasch Hall. (January 6, 2026)

71 **Motion by:** Council Member Kat Napier

72 **Second by:** Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso



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73 **Motion carried: 4/1**

74 **Aye:** Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Mayor John Sawatzky, Council Member Kat Napier, Council
75 Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

76 **Nay:** Council Member Terri Bayles

77

78 **Motion:** [52:08] to approve Resolution No. 1240 calling a Special Municipal Election for
79 the Proposed Recall of Councilmember Scafani to be held on January 6, 2026, by mail-in ballot
80 or a drop-off ballot box available for one day, the day of the election at Prasch Hall.

81 **Motion by:** Council Member Kat Napier

82 **Second by:** Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

83 **Motion carried: 5/0**

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

86

87 **Public Comment Received:** [54:02] None received.

88

89 **Motion:** [54:37] to authorize use of Prasch Hall at no-charge to Humboldt County Registrar of
90 Voters for the drop-off ballot box voting location.

91 **Motion by:** Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

92 **Second by:** Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

93 **Motion carried: 5/0**

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

96

97 **Public Comment Received:** [55:18] None received.

98

99 **06. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REDWOOD COAST MOUNTAIN**
100 **BIKE ASSOCIATION:** [55:53]

101

102 **Public Comment Received:** [1:37:58] Glenn Bernald, Kent Sawatzky, Shaun Fyfe, Adelene Jones,
103 Brian Corse, Jennifer Corse, Julie Christie, Kevin Fischer

104

105 **Direction to Staff:** Bring back the redline version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
106 with the changes discussed tonight to the next or following meeting. Council will email
107 any questions or concerns to the City Attorney, Ryan Plotz, with a copy to Interim City
108 Manager Jill Duffy to assist in the language development of the MOU.



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07. CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT PROCESS: [2:10:26]

Motion: [2:53:46] to offer a salary range of \$104,000 annually – \$124,800 annually

Motion by: Council Member Kat Napier

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0

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

Public Comment Received: [2:35:34] Kent Sawatzky, Lorraine Ponte

BREAK: [2:55:50]

07. CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT PROCESS - Continued: [0:06 Part 2]

Motion: [13:28 Part 2] to amend our agreement with Tripepe Smith to include the full scope of services.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Kat Napier

Motion carried: 5/0

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

Public Comment Received: [15:33 Part 2] Julie Christie, Glenn Bernald

08. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING VENDOR OBLIGATIONS AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT: [18:46 Part 2]

Public Comment Received: [45:00 Part 2] Rebecca Collins, Julie Christie

09. APPROVE RESOLUTION 1242 - A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR THE RAILROAD AVENUE-HATCHERY ROAD PHASE OF THE BLUE LAKE TRUCK ROUTE PROJECT: [1:10:46 Part 2]



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Motion: [1:16:50 Part 2] to approve Resolution 1242 as presented with the following amendments, preface both four and five with “upon approval by the city council, the city manager is authorized...”.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

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

Nay: None

Motion carried: 5/0

Public Comment Received: [1:17:02 Part 2] Julie Christi, Public Works Director Glenn Bernald

10. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER TO SECOND STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT: [1:24:35 Part 2]

Motion: [1:39:39 Part 2] to approve the change order for the second street pedestrian bridge.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Terri Bayles

Motion carried: 5/0

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

Nay: Council Member Kat Napier

Public Comment Received: [1:39:58 Part 2] Julie Christi

11. APPOINT REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATION TEAM: [1:43:45 Part 2]

Motion: [1:47:39 Part 2] to move to have Mayor John Sawatzky and Council Member Kat Napier be on the negotiating ad hoc committee.

Motion by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Second by: Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

Motion carried: 5/0

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

Nay: None



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Public Comment Received: [1:47:58 Part 2] Julie Christi

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA: [1:49:23 Part 2]

Motion: [1:49:37 Part 2] to continue item number 12) Discuss and Appoint City Council Member Board, Commission and Ad Hoc Appointments, item number 13) Council Correspondence and item number 14) Reports of Council and Staff to the next meeting.

Motion by: Council Member Michelle Lewis- Lusso

Second by: Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani

Motion carried: 5/0

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

Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT: [1:50:20 part 2]

Motion: to adjourn September 09, 2025, special meeting at 11:20 PM.

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