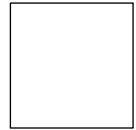




Blue Lake City Council Minutes

October 28, 2025~ 6:30 p.m. ~Regular Council Meeting
Skinner Store



1 **These minutes were generated by AI from the original meeting recorded October 28,**
2 **2025. The minutes are presented as "Summary Action Minutes".**

3
4 **1. CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Sawatzky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

5
6 **Pledge of Allegiance** Council, staff and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

7
8 **Establish a Quorum of the Council:** Interim City Manager Duffy established a quorum of
9 Council members. **Present:** Mayor Sawatzky, Councilmember Napier, Councilmember Lewis-
10 Lusso. Mayor Pro Tem Scafani, Councilmember Bayles.

11
12 **Staff Present:** Interim City Manager Duffy, City Attorney Ryan Plotz, City Planner Garry Rees
13 and Deputy City Clerk Laura McClenagan

14
15 **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA [Time: 0:43]**

16 Motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to a requested reordering, noting the
17 requestor was absent .

18
19 **Motion:** by Napier **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

20 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).

21
22 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items) [Time: 1:16]**

23 The following members of the public addressed the Council:

- 24
- 25 ● **Adelene Jones:** Spoke regarding the memory of Merritt Lungren, concerns regarding
26 commissions taking their own minutes, and provided an update on the Chamber of
27 Commerce Board of Directors.
 - 28 ● **Don Bednar:** Spoke regarding speeding issues on A Street and Broad Street and
29 requested speed bumps.
 - 30 ● **Julie Christie (via Zoom):** Expressed support for the Council, discussed economic
31 infrastructure, and commented on the recall narrative.

32 **4. 4. CONSENT AGENDA [Time: 11:38]**

33 Council requested to pull all Consent items for discussion.

34 4.a. City Council Minutes for August 26, 2025 [Time: 11:58]

35 Councilmember Scafani requested corrections to spelling (lines 95, 98), removal of an
36 erroneous public comment reference ("Paradise K"), and the addition of speaker names
37 (Juan Pablo Cervantes, Ted Hales) and Ad Hoc committee members.

38 **Motion to Approve as Amended:** Scafani **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

39 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).
40
41
42



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43 4.b. City Council Minutes for September 9, 2025 [Time: 17:07]

44 Corrections made to spelling of "Corse" and "Christie," and the addition of guest speaker
45 Nicole Goldbach (Humboldt County Elections).

46 **Motion to Approve as Amended:** Napier **Second:** Scafani

47 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).

48
49 4.c. City Council Minutes for September 23, 2025 [Time: 19:39]

50 Corrections made to names/titles (Beth Burks, Richard Engel, Samantha Green), the
51 acronym "RHNA" (replacing Arena), and notation of the Ad Hoc presentation regarding the
52 City Clerk job description 14.

53 **Motion to Approve as Amended:** Bayles **Second:** Scafani

54 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).

55
56 4.d. Monthly Disbursement (Sept 1 - Sept 30, 2025) [Time: 23:51]

57 Council clarified Check #13304 (grant reimbursement to SHN) and Check #13299 (Water
58 Operator exam fee policy) 16.

59 **Motion to Approve:** Scafani **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

60 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).

61 **5. PRESENTATION: HUMBOLDT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (RABIES** 62 **AWARENESS) [Time: 27:19]**

63 Ben Dolf, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist of Humboldt County Department of
64 Health and Human Services, provided a presentation on rabies surveillance, transmission, and
65 local statistics (2 confirmed skunk cases in Blue Lake) .

66 **Public Comment:** Questions received regarding feeding wildlife and bat exposure.

67 **Action:** Presentation received; informational only.

68 69 70 **6. SCHEDULE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING [Time: 48:39]**

71 Staff requested a special meeting to address continued items. Council discussed availability
72 regarding travel schedules.

73 **Motion:** To schedule a Special City Council Meeting for **November 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

74 **Moved:** Scafani **Second:** Bayles

75 **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0).

76 77 **7. RESOLUTION NO. 1244: HCD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (HOUSING** 78 **ELEMENT) [Time: 58:44]**

79 City Attorney Ryan Plotz provided an update regarding the MOU with California Housing
80 Community Development (HCD). Staff requested continuing this item to allow for continued
81 negotiations with HCD and finalizing current draft MOU.

82 **Public Comment:** Scott Frazier and Julie Christie spoke in support of the Council's fiscal
83 prudence.

84 **Action:** Item continued to a future meeting.



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8. URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 548-2025: COUNCIL ACTING AS PLANNING COMMISSION

[Time: 1:11:35]

Staff presented the periodic need for the City Council to act as the Planning Commission when a quorum of Planning Commissions are unable to be obtained due to vacancies and recusals. Interim City Manager Duffy announced that a resignation was received earlier in the day, reducing the Commission to two members.

Public Comment: Adelene Jones, Scott Frazier, Angela Dare, and Julie Christie spoke in support of the ordinance ²⁷.

Motion: To introduce and adopt by title only Urgency Ordinance No. 548-2025.

Moved: Napier **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

Roll Call Vote: Napier (Aye), Lewis-Lusso (Aye), Sawatzky (Aye), Scafani (Aye), Bayles (Aye).

Result: Motion Passed Unanimously (5-0).

9. FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES (FRMS) SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FEE [Time: 1:36:43]

Interim City Manager Duffy reported that the City's employee health insurance provider FRMS is \$11 million in arrears due to claims and has issued an assessment to its members to recover costs. Blue Lake's assessment is approximately \$80,000. Staff recommended paying under protest via an 18-month installment plan.

Public Comment: Jenny Short inquired about premium comparisons; Julie Christie commented on previous agenda history.

Motion: To authorize installment payments under protest and authorize the Mayor to sign the protest letter to FRMS (with typo correction).

Moved: Scafani **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

Vote: Unanimous (5-0).

(Council recessed at approximately 8:38 p.m. and reconvened shortly thereafter).

10. PRESENTATION: POWERS CREEK FLOODING (KARINA GREEN) [Time: 2:00:38]

Karina Green presented on flooding issues affecting Broderick Lane, Chartin Road, and Prasch Hall, citing sediment buildup and vegetation in Powers Creek.

Dave Feral of Mad River Alliance provided an update on the restoration plan status and funding challenges (Prop 4 funds not available until 2026).

Public Comment: Verta Pits questioned previous expenditures on the creek; Julie Christie suggested a Town Hall; Linda Cooley voiced concerns regarding Taylor Way flooding liability.

Council Direction: Staff to implement signage and safety measures for flooding areas, Engineering to review potential French drain at Prasch Hall, and identify partnership agencies.

11. FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET EXTENSION [Time: 3:24:49]

Interim City Manager Duffy requested a 3rd temporary extension (Resolution 1245) as the revised budget is not yet ready due to consultant delays. Ad Hoc Committee Councilmembers Bayles and Napier presented findings indicating structural deficits in Water and Sewer



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operating funds and significant deficits in Parks & Recreation 40. Recommendations included quarterly reporting, mid-year reviews, and establishing clear audit trails.

Public Comment: Jenny Short supported the Ad Hoc committee's findings.

Motion: To approve Resolution No. 1245 authorizing the temporary extension of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025-26 for 60 days.

Moved: Napier **Second:** Lewis-Lusso

Roll Call Vote: Napier (Aye), Lewis-Lusso (Aye), Sawatzky (Aye), Scafani (Aye), Bayles (Aye).

Result: Motion Passed Unanimously (5-0).

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12a: National Rural Water Association – Final Loan Payoff.

12b: HCAOG RHNA Methodology Transmittal.

12c: Correspondence from Kent Sawatzky and Adelene Jones acknowledged.

13. REPORTS [Time: 4:17:50]

Items continued to the next meeting due to time constraints.

14. CLOSED SESSION [Time: 4:18:15]

14.a. Public Employee Appointment: City Manager.

14.b. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session: Scapani **Second:** Lewis Luso

Vote: Unanimous (5-0).

Report Out of Closed Session (12:15 AM)

No Final Action Taken

15. MEETING ADJOURNED

Revised by Jill K Duffy

Acting City Clerk, City of Blue Lake