



# Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Wednesday, November 19 ~ 6:30 p.m. ~Special Council Meeting  
Prasch Hall, 312 S. Railroad Avenue, Blue Lake

1 **Due to technological difficulties related to audio, visual and Zoom interruptions,**  
2 **the minutes are presented in “Action Minute” form.**

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

5  
6 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

7  
8 **02. ESTABLISH A QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL:**

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

12 **COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** None

13 **STAFF PRESENT:** Jill Duffy - Interim City Manager/Acting City Clerk, Emily Wood- Park &  
14 Recreation Director, Ryan Plotz- General Council and Videographer Justin Goad

15  
16 **03. AGENDA APPROVAL:**

17 **Motion:** to approve the agenda

18 **Motion by:** Council Member Scafani

19 **Second by:** Council Member Bayles

20 **Motion carried:** 5/0.

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

23 **Nay:** None

24  
25 **Public Comment Received:** None

26  
27 **04. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Jill Duffy announced that the City of Blue  
28 Lake received three awards from the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) - North  
29 Coast Section at their awards banquet held November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 for 1) Wastewater Treatment  
30 Plant of the Year, 2) Collection System of the Year and 3) Supervisor of the Year – Glenn  
31 Bernald.

32  
33 Julie Christie and Lin Glen addressed Council, however there was audio interference.

34  
35 **05. CONSENT AGENDA:**

36 c. Monthly Disbursement for Period of October 1-October 31, 2025

37 **Motion:** to approve Consent Agenda.

38 **Motion by:** Council Member Lewis-Lusso

39 **Second by:** Council Member Bayles

40 **Motion carried:** 5/0.



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

43 **Nay:** None

44 **Public Comment Received:** None

45

## 46 **06. A PUBLIC HEARING: APPLICATION #025-067-011/2025 COMFORT VARIANCE**

47 **APPLICATION.** The project consists of a Variance application for a reduced side yard setback  
48 on a parcel located on the corner of Wahl and C Streets. The applicants are proposing to  
49 construct a 24' x 24' (576 sq. ft.) garage on the northeast corner of the parcel, with the entrance  
50 facing toward C Street.

51

52 Lorraine Comfort addressed Council, with Jimmy Gonsalves, Adeline Jones and Julie Christi  
53 speaking in support of the project.

54

55 Council members requested clarification regarding easement conveyance of the abandoned  
56 alley, and referral feed back from the City's Building Official and Blue Lake Volunteer Fire  
57 Department to be presented at a future meeting.

58

59 **Motion by:** Request Additional Information and Continue Item by the December 23<sup>rd</sup> City  
60 Council meeting for consideration by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani.

61 **Second by:** Council Member Lewis-Lusso

62 **Motion carried:** 5/0.

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

65 **Nay:** None

66

## 67 **07. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 1246 FOR SUBMITTAL OF COMMUNITY** 68 **DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT HOUSING ELEMENT SEVENTH** 69 **CYCLE**

70 Staff introduced the item, with a recommendation to continue this item to a future date due to  
71 timeline revisions by the California Dept. of Housing and Development following agenda  
72 preparation that extends submittal timeline of applications from December 1, 2025 until  
73 February 1, 2026. This will allow staff time to develop more comprehensive submittal of  
74 information and proposed project funding requests.

75 **Public Comment Received:** Adelene Jones,

76

77 **No action necessary.**

78

## 79 **08. APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH REDWOOD** 80 **EMPIRE MUNICIPAL INSURANCE FUND (REMIF)**

81



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82 **Motion:** to approve the selection of Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund as the City’s  
83 health insurance provider for the upcoming plan year (January 1, 2026) and authorize the City  
84 Manager to execute the REMIF Participation Agreement.

85 **Motion by:** Council Member Lewis-Lusso

86 **Second by:** Council Member Napier

87 **Motion carried:** 5/0.

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

90 **Nay:** None

91

92 **Public Comment Received:** Jennie Short and Julie Christie

93

## 94 **09. INTRODUCE THE REVISED DRAFT FY 2025-26 BUDGET AND PRESENTATION**

95

96 Due to technical problems, this item is considered to the regular Council meeting to be  
97 held Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Council requested that the video prepared for the  
98 presentation be made available in advance of the meeting; video will be uploaded on the  
99 City’s website along with the agenda notice and meeting packet.

100

101 No Action Necessary.

102

103 **Public Comment Received:** None

104

## 105 **10. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REDWOOD** 106 **COAST MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION**

107

108 **Motion by:** Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Redwood Coast Mountain  
109 Bike Association and Resolution 1247 “Approving a MOU with the Redwood Coast  
110 Mountain Bike Association for Development, Maintenance and Monitoring of the Blue  
111 Lake Bike Park” made by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani

112 **Second by:** Council Member Napier

113 **Motion carried:** 5/0.

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

116 **Nay:** None

117

118 **Public Comment Received:** Public members addressing Council included Sean  
119 Tetrault, Sean Robinson, John Barthlomew, Ron Perry, Tim Daniels, Naomi Bayles and  
120 Jennie Short



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121

122

123 **11 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:** None Received

124

125 **12. REPORTS OF COUNCIL AND STAFF:** Continue to Regular Meeting of November  
126 23, 2025

127 a. Ad hoc Committee Reports:

128 b. Commission Updates:

129 c. City Manager Report:

130

131 **13. CLOSED SESSION**

132 **A. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION: NONE**

133 **B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS AT 9:27 PM**

134 Property: Portions of APN Nos. 312-131-037-000, 312-131-045-000, 312-  
135 131-046-000, and 312-190-010-000, in the unincorporated area of the  
136 County of Humboldt, State of California.

137 Agency Negotiator: Jill Duffy, Interim City Manager; Ryan Plotz, City  
138 Attorney

139 Negotiating parties: Erin McClure, Trustee

140 Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

141

142 Report out of Closed Session at 10:07 PM. No final action taken.

143

144 **14 ADJOURNMENT at 10:10 PM**

145

146 Jill K Duffy

147 Acting City Clerk, City of Blue Lake