



# Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026~ 6:30 pm ~ Regular Council Meeting  
Skinner Store Building ~ 111 Greenwood Rd., Blue Lake ~ Behind City Hall

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

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3 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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5 **3. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL**

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7 **COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** City Manager Short established a quorum of council  
8 members: Present: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council  
9 Member Kat Napier, Council Member Terri Bayles, Council Member Michelle Lewis-  
10 Lusso

11  
12 **COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT:** None

13  
14 **STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Jennie Short and Park, Recreation Director Emily  
15 Wood, and Videographer Justin Goad

16  
17 **4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to move agenda  
18 item 17 after agenda item 11. **Second by Council member Lewis-Lusso.**  
19 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously

20  
21 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

22 The following persons addressed Council:

- 23 • Tim Daniels with Bike Park Alliance announcing Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Mad Scramble  
24 Fundraiser for bike park
- 25 • Julie Christie- Suggested investing in a conference speaker for better audio  
26 and discussed McKinleyville bike park planning
- 27 • Letter received from Kent Sawatzky regarding consent agenda item 6.j

28 **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 29 a. Corrected City Council Minutes for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – Regular Meeting
  - 30 b. Corrected City Council Minutes for June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Regular Meeting
  - 31 c. Corrected City Council Minutes for June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Special Meeting
  - 32 d. Corrected City Council Minutes for July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Special Meeting
  - 33 e. Corrected City Council Minutes for October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Regular Meeting
  - 34 f. Corrected City Council Minutes for November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Regular Meeting
  - 35 g. City Council Minutes for December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 - Regular Meeting
  - 36 h. Receive Disbursements for Period of December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025
  - 37 i. Adopt amended Resolution 1246 “Comfort Zone Variance” to replace Resolution  
38 1245 “Comfort Zone Variance”
  - 39 j. Approve Professional Service Agreement Between City of Blue Lake and  
40 Colantuono, Highsmith, & Whately, PC.
- 41



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## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The following persons addressed council:

- Adelene Jones: Wondering why minutes don't indicate first and second motion for adjourned meetings
- Julie Christie: Shared same concerns, would prefer that first and second motions made for adjourned meetings, but

**Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso to approve Consent Agenda, Second by Council Member Bayles.**

**Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

## ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

## 8. APPROVE RESOLUTION 1249 DECLARATION OF CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS FROM THE SPECIAL 2026 MUNICIPAL RECALL ELECTION

On January 6, 2026 a special municipal election was held in the City of Blue Lake, and voters were asked to vote by mail-in ballot whether Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani be recalled (removed) from the office of Blue Lake City Council Member. The Humboldt County Registrar of Voters has completed the canvass of the results, and the attached Resolution has been prepared for adoption. The election results are attached as "Exhibit A" to Resolution 1249 and indicates that Mayor Pro Tem Scafani has not been recalled from the City Council, and will remain in service through the remainder of the term, ending 2026.

### **Public Comment:**

- Adelene Jones: Noted low participation for recall election
- Julie Christie: Happy to hear that elections office helped reduce financial burden on the city. Thanked council for their service
- Juan Cervantes: Staff went above and beyond to help which kept costs low
- Tracy F: Relieved that recall is done and looking forward to moving forward

**Motion by Council member Napier to approve Resolution 1249 "Declaring result from the special municipal recall election dated January 6<sup>th</sup> 2026"; and pursuant to section 34459 and 34460 of the Government Code, the acting city clerk is directed to file the adopted measure to the Secretary of State Office. Second by Council member Bayles.**

**Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously

## 9. APPROVE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND TIMELINE FOR FY 26-27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION; DISCUSS PROPOSED BUDGET MONITORING AND CONTROLS



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83 In recent years the frequency for presentation of financial statements to the Council has  
84 varied. In an effort to set up realistic expectations with the recent complete turnover in  
85 Finance department staff, two options for the frequency of financial statements are proposed  
86 for Council's consideration.

87 Council was asked to consider and select a frequency for financial statement presentation  
88 (option 1: quarterly or option 2: semi-monthly), appoint an Ad Hoc Finance Committee, and  
89 provide direction as appropriate.

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91 **Public Comment:**

- 92 • Julie Christie: Referenced Humboldt County Fair Board and lighthouse group that  
93 produces monthly reports

94  
95 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to approve option 1 Proposed Timeline for FY 26-27  
96 Budget Development and Adoption of Ad Hoc Finance Committee of Council Members  
97 Napier and Bayles. **Second by Council member Lewis-Lusso.**

98 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously  
99

100 **10. APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2026**

101 To accommodate the November general municipal election and holiday season, Council  
102 is asked to review and consider revising possible meeting dates as follows. Discussing  
103 these dates now will assist staff in effectively managing agendas and reports.

104 Council is also asked to discuss need to pre-set Special Meeting dates based upon  
105 following conversations from the previous agenda item  
106

107 **Public Comment:**

- 108 • Adelene Jones: Has personal preference for November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>
- 109 • Julie Christie: Would like review of ordinance that addresses two council meetings  
110 a month

111  
112 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to accept proposed 2026 Regular City Council  
113 Meeting Scheduled meetings normally held the forth Tuesday of each month, with the  
114 following exceptions: Move November meeting to the 17<sup>th</sup> and hold a special meeting on  
115 December 8<sup>th</sup> **Second by Council member Lewis-Lusso.**

116 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously  
117

118 **11. APPROVE RESOLUTION 1250 FOR APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY CLERK**

119 Jill Duffy, Interim City Manager, was appointed Acting City Clerk at the continued Council  
120 meeting of August 26, 2025 (meeting was held August 27, 2025). The permanent City  
121 Manager, Jennie Short, assumed office on January 5, 2026, and Ms. Duffy is no longer  
122 employed by the City; however she continues to voluntarily assist with Acting City Clerk  
123 obligations during this transitional period.



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**Public Comment:**

- Adelene Jones: Requests open-mindedness when city staff is required to step into other roles (ie City Manager as acting City Clerk)

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**Motion by Council member Bayles** to approve Resolution 1250, Appointing Jennie Short as acting City Clerk. **Second by Lewis-Lusso**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Sawatzky: Aye  
Napier: Aye  
Lewis-Lusso: Aye  
Scafani: Aye  
Bayles: Aye

**Motion passed unanimously**

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**12. RECEIVE AND APPROVE REVISED FISCAL YEAR 25-26 BUDGET, APPROVE RESOLUTION 1251; TAKE ACTION AS APPROPRIATE**

Receive and approve the fourth Revised Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget presentation and approve Resolution No. 1251 "Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Adoption". Budget Ad hoc members Napier and Bayles met with City Manager Short and former interim City Manager Duffy on Tuesday, January 20 to review and discuss this report and recommends Council adopt the FY 2025-26 Budget as presented.

**Public Comment:**

- Adelene Jones: Expressed disappointment in City Manager's salary relative to the previous administration

**Motion by Council member Lewis-Lusso** to Approve the Organizational Chart as presented and the Classification Pay Plan effective January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 and approve Resolution 1251 FY 25-26 Budget Adoption. **Second by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani**

**Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously

**13. COMMISSION CONSOLIDATION AND RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION**

Council created an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the existing commissions and to make recommendations for possible changes to the structure and duties of the commissions. A presentation will be made by the Committee and further discussion regarding direction may be provided



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162  
163 **Public Comment:**

- 164
- 165 • Mardi Granger: Loves the idea, makes sense
  - 166 • Lin Glen: Questions regarding logistics of combining commissions and fiscal impact
  - 167 • Adalene Jones: Doesn't see overlap of commissions or need to combine
  - 168 • Justin Goad: More people in a meeting may present difficulties with video
  - 169 • Julie Christie: Commissions have been difficult to fill, can see incorporation
  - 170 • between some of the commissions
- 171  
172

173 **Council took a 5-minute break**

174  
175 **14. APPOINTMENT TO ARTS & HERITAGE COMMISSION**

176 The terms of three (3) of the five City's Park and Recreation Commissioners are set to  
177 expire on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and there is an existing vacancy for an unexpired term ending  
178 January 2027. City Council is asked to consider and discuss the three received applications  
179 for either reappointment or appointment to the commission.  
180

181 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to appoint **Shamus Kistner** to serve on the Arts and  
182 Heritage Commission. **Second by Lewis-Lusso.**

183 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously  
184

185 **Public Comment:**

- 186 • Adelene Jones: In support of Sherri Green
- 187

188 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to appoint **Sherri Green** to serve on the Arts and  
189 Heritage Commission. **Second by Bayles.**

190 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously

191 **15. APPOINTMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

192 The terms of three (3) of the five City's Economic Development Commissioners are set to  
193 expire on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Two of the Commissioners have opted to not apply for  
194 reappointment, and at the time of report publication staff is awaiting whether the third  
195 Commissioner has decided whether to apply for reappointment

196 **NO ACTION; Lack of applicants.**  
197

198 **16. APPOINTMENT TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

199 The terms of three (3) of the five City's Park and Recreation Commissioners are set to  
200 expire on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and there is an existing vacancy for an unexpired term ending  
201 January 2027. City Council is asked to consider and discuss the three received applications



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202 for either reappointment or appointment to the commission.  
203

204 **Public Comment:** None  
205

206 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to reappoint Bettina Eppes and Jan Henry to  
207 the Parks and Recreation Commission. **Second by Lewis-Lusso**

208 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously  
209

## 210 **17. APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

211 The terms of three (3) of the five City's Public Safety Commissioners are set to expire on  
212 January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. City Council is asked to consider and discuss received applications for  
213 either reappointment or appointment to the commission.  
214

215 **Public Comment:**

- 216 • Julie Christie: Commends the commission applicants  
217

218 **Motion by Council Member Napier** to appoint Ted Hales to the Public Safety Commission.  
219

**Second by Council Member Bayles**

220 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed 4:1, **Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** recused herself  
221

222 **Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso** to appoint Josha Stark to the Public Safety  
223 Commission. **Second by Council Member Napier.**

224 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed 4:1, **Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** recused herself  
225

226 **Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso** to appoint Angela Dare to the Public Safety  
227 Commission. **Second by Council Member Napier**

228 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed 4:1, **Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** recused herself  
229

## 230 **18. APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION**

231 The Blue Lake Planning Commission consists of five members and requires three members  
232 for a quorum. Since October 2025 the Commission has lacked quorum due to three  
233 vacancies, preventing regular Commission meetings and the review of planning project  
234 applications (variances, conditional use permits, site reviews, etc) under the Blue Lake  
235 Municipal Code. The lack of a Planning Commission quorum impedes the City's ability to  
236 process development applications.

237 **NO ACTION: Staff directed to assist with recruitment**  
238

## 239 **19. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

240 **Email received from Kent Sawatzky regarding closed session item**  
241  
242  
243



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244  
245 **20. REPORTS OF COUNCIL AND STAFF**

- 246 a. Ad hoc Committee Reports  
247 b. Commission Updates  
248 c. City Manager Report  
249

250 **21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS BY REQUESTED BY COUNCIL**

- 251 • Two meetings per month  
252 • Commission consolidation/scheduling options  
253 • How/when to designate the Mayor  
254 • Visioning/working meeting for budget community visioning/general plan  
255 circulation  
256

257 **Public Comment**

- 258 • Julie Christie  
259 • Lin Glenn  
260

261 **22. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:**

262 **Public Comment on Closed Session agenda item(s)**

- 263 • Julie Christie  
264  
265

266 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to move into closed session. **Second by Council**  
267 **Member Bayles.**

268 **Voice Vote:** Motion passed unanimously  
269

270 Council convened into Closed Session for for the purpose of **CONFERENCE WITH REAL**  
271 **PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

272 **Property: Portions of APN Nos. 312-131-037-000, 312-131-045-0003, 312-131-046-**  
273 **000 and 312-190-010-000, in the unincorporated area of the County of Humboldt,**  
274 **State of California.**

275 **Agency Negotiator: Jennie Short, City Manager; Ryan Plotz (attorney for the City)**

276 **Negotiating parties: Erin McClure, Trustee**

277 **Under negotiation: Price and terms.**  
278

279 **23. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION.** Council reconvened at Skinner Store at  
280 10:27pm. No Final Action to Report Out.  
281

282 **24. Adjourn**

283 Prepared by: Samantha Green  
284 City Clerk, City of Blue Lake