



Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 ~ 6:30pm ~ 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 p.m.

2
3 **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

4
5 **3. Roll Call and Establish a Quorum of the Council**

6
7 **Councilmembers Present:** City Clerk Green established a quorum of Council Members.
8 Present: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Council Member Kat
9 Napier, Council Member Michelle Lewis-Lusso, and Council Member Terri Bayles

10
11 **Councilmembers Absent:** None

12 **Staff Present:** City Manager Jennie Short, City Clerk Samantha Green, Park and
13 Recreation Director Emily Wood, and Videographer Justin Goad.

14
15 **4. Approval of the Agenda**

16
17 **Motion by Councilmember Bayles to approve the agenda. Second by Councilmember**
18 **Lewis-Lusso.**

19 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

20
21 **5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

- 22 • Julie Christie: Requested updates in audio. Suggested discussing ADU's to meet
23 HCD requirements.

24
25 **6. Consent Agenda**

- 26 a. City Council Minutes for February 10th, 2026 – Regular Meeting
27 b. City Council Minutes for February 24th, 2026 – Regular Meeting
28 c. City Council Minutes for March 3rd, 2026 – Special Meeting
29 d. Dog House Lease
30 e. Modification of City Hall Hours Open to Public
31 f. Update Signatories on Local Agency Investment Fund {Resolution 1258}
32 g. Rejection of Danielle Burkhart Claim
33 h. February 2026 Disbursements

34
35 *Manager Short recommended that council pull items 6a, 6b, 6c to adopt the corrections made.*
36 *Mayor Pro Tem requested to pull items 6d and 6e for discussion.*

37
38 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to approve items 6f, 6g, 6h. Second by Councilmember**
39 **Lewis-Lusso.**

40 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**



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42 **6a. City Council Minutes for February 10th 2026 – Regular Meeting**

43 Corrections made to names/titles

44 **6b. City Council Minutes for February 24th 2026 - Regular Meeting**

45 Corrections made to names/titles

46
47 **Public Comment: None received**

48
49 **Motion by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso** to approve item 6a and 6b corrections to the
50 minutes. **Second by Councilmember Bayles**

51 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

52
53 **6c. City Council Minutes for March 3rd 2026 – Special Meeting**

54 Corrections made to name/titles

55
56 **No action, minutes will be brought back at the next meeting to include a time that council**
57 **convened into closed sessions.**

58
59 **6d. Dog House Lease**

60 Council Members asked for clarification on inspection schedule, discussed hours of
61 operations, and the possibility of utilities being paid by the tenant.

62
63 **Public Comment:**

- 64
- 65 • Julie Christie: Thinks Darci should have priority on facility use
 - 66 • Darci Lima: Curious how much the Clemence Snack Shack has generated in the last
67 10 years. Brought up other facilities as options for rental that aren't being utilized.
 - 68 • Jeff Bird: Avid supporter of Dog House
 - 69 • Dana: Thinks renting out the Dog House for 1-2 days is a terrible idea. Also has
70 friends from all over that come to Blue Lake for the Dog House

71 **Motion by Council Member Napier** to Approve the Contract as written with the understanding
72 that council will revisit the terms of that contract before the next extension. **Second by Council**
73 **Member Lewis-Lusso**

74 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

75
76 **6e. Modification of City Hall Hours Open to Public**

77 City Manager Short explained that closing to the public on Fridays' benefits staff by
78 allowing dedicated time for financial tasks, staff meetings, and ongoing training.

79
80 **Public Comment:**

- 81 • Darci Lima: Asked about water bills due on Fridays.



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83

Motion by Council Member Bayles to approve revised hours open to the public. **Second by Council Member Napier.**

85

86

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

87

88

Items for Council Discussion or Action

89

7. Arts and Heritage Commission Update

90

The Arts and Heritage Commission has developed a community survey and accompanying flyer for distribution. The Commission has also drafted a Land Acknowledgement and is seeking Council feedback prior to presenting it to the Blue Lake Rancheria. After Rancheria review, it will return to Council for final consideration and publication.

91

92

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94

95

Public Comment:

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- Julie Christie: Feels uncomfortable that the Arts and Heritage Commission started the Land Acknowledgement on their own. Urges further research regarding Land Acknowledgment. Provided feedback on City logo vs seal

97

98

99

- Rebecca Collins: Beautifully written, has pause. Blue Lake Rancheria is more than one tribe.

100

101

- Angela Dare: Agreed with Julie and Rebecca, gave feedback for logo

102

- Bettina Eppier: Provided feedback on logo, likes that it captures what you see in Blue Lake

103

104

- Becky: Likes the yellow line adjustment and suggested sticking to City seal for legal documents and logo for advertising

105

106

No action was taken, feedback was received by the Council, and the Commission will come back with revisions for the Land Acknowledgement and the Logo.

107

108

109

8. Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commission

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During the Council Meetings on January 27, 2026, and February 24, 2026, appointments were made to the Parks and Recreation Commission, filling 4 of the 5 spots on the Commission. Jeff Bird, a previously serving commissioner with Parks and Rec, has expressed interest in continuing his participation with the Commission.

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Public Comment:

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- Julie Christie: Feels staff should fill the role of informing Commissioners with City Council matters and updates
- Darci Lima: Supports Jeff as a continuing Commissioner

117

118

119

120

Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso to reappoint Jeff Bird to the Parks and Recreation Commission. **Second by Council Member Bayles.**

121

122



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123 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

124 **9. Consider Introduction of Ordinance No. 550, an Ordinance Amending Blue Lake**
125 **Municipal Code Chapter 13.12 Regulating Cross Connections, Waive Further**
126 **Reading, and Introduce by Title Only**

127 The proposed ordinance amendment is administrative in nature and does not change the
128 regulatory requirements of the City's Cross-Connection Control Program. It removes
129 fixed fee amounts from the code and authorizes the City Council to establish and adjust
130 fees by resolution. The amendment also updates Section 13.12.020 (Definitions) to
131 include "User Supervisor" and "Cross-Connection Control Specialist," and amends
132 Section 13.12.050 to include authority of a City designated Cross-Connection Control
133 Specialist.

134
135 **Public Comment:**

- 136 • Julie Christie: Would like Public Works updates periodically. Supports amending
137 Ordinance

138
139 **Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso** to introduce and conduct the first reading by title
140 only of Ordinance 550 Amending Chapter 13.12 of the Blue Lake Municipal Code regulating
141 cross-connections to remove fixed fee amounts and definitions and update user supervisor
142 provisions. **Second by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani.**

143 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

144
145 **10. Consider Introduction of Ordinance No. 551, an Ordinance Amending Blue Lake**
146 **Municipal Code Chapter 15.04 Regulating California Building Standards, Waive**
147 **Further Reading, and Introduce by Title Only**

148 The proposed ordinance amends Section 15.04.030 to clarify that building permit,
149 inspection, and related fees shall be established by resolution of the City Council and
150 may be amended from time to time as deemed necessary. The ordinance also repeals
151 Section 15.04.060, which was previously reserved for fees addressed within the building
152 code.

153
154 **Public Comment: None received**

155
156 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to introduce ordinance 551 amending chapter 15.04 of title
157 15 of the Blue Lake Municipal Code to remove building fee provisions. **Second by Council**
158 **Member Lewis-Lusso.**

159 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

160
161 **11. Fee Schedule Update- Parks and Recreation**

162 The City's recreation fee schedule was last updated in 2023. The first draft was presented at
163 the Feb 24, 2026, Council Meeting and the following draft fee schedule has been created to



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164 include fee adjustments and new line items for cost recovery purposes related to special
165 events and recreation programming.

166 **Public Comment:**

- 168 • Rebecca Collins: Advised that staff check into policies regarding raffles
- 169 • Bettina Eppier: Commented on schedule regarding Medieval Festival and the Horse
170 Arena.
- 171 • Julie Vinum: Concerned with proposed fee updates regarding horse arena
- 172 • Dana: Not opposed to increase in fees, working on MOU with City.
- 173 • Darci Lima: Arena donated by Bill Roda (?) for equestrian use. Addressed restroom
174 situation regarding facility use rentals
- 175 • Julie Christie: Would like to see this fee schedule used as a fluid document
176

177 **Motion by Council Member Lewis-Lusso** that Elise Scafani and John Sawatzky form an ad
178 hoc to assist the director of parks and recreation to develop a fee schedule and bring it back to
179 the next meeting in April. **Second by Council Member Bayles**

180 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

181 **12. Memorandum of Understanding- Humboldt County Public Works- Regional** 182 **Edible Food Recovery Program**

183 In September 2016, Governor Edmund Brown Jr. signed SB 1383 establishing methane
184 emissions reduction targets, including a 2025 goal to recover 20% of edible food
185 currently disposed of. Jurisdictions are required to implement edible food recovery
186 programs under CCR Title 14. Humboldt County cities have agreed to collaborate,
187 designating the County as lead for a Regional Edible Food Recovery Program
188 Professional Services Agreement. The County has secured a consultant for an amount
189 not to exceed \$64,713.76, with costs shared proportionally by population. The City of
190 Blue Lake's share is \$566.07, a minimal cost that ensures compliance with SB 1383
191 planning requirements; implementation will be addressed separately.
192

193 **Public Comment:**

- 194 • Rebecca Collins: Mentioned different organizations that have participated in similar
195 programs
196

197
198 **Motion by Council Member Napier** to authorize the City Manager to execute a MOU with the
199 HCPW for the Regional Edible Food Recovery Program. **Second by Council Member Bayles**

200 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

201 **13. Hazard Mitigation Plan Approval [Resolution 1257]**

202
203 *This item was tabled to the next Regular City Council Meeting in April*



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204
205 **Motion by Lewis-Lusso** to table the item until April's Regular City Council Meeting. **Second**
206 **by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani**
207 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**
208

209 **14. Memorandum of Understanding- Humboldt County Association of Governments**
210 **(HCAOG)- Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT)**

211 The City of Blue Lake has been working with HCAOG on the (PAACT) Project. The MOU
212 allows for HCAOG to reimburse the City for SHN or staff time spent working on this
213 project up to \$8,000 with the City's share being \$1,000.
214

215 **Public Comment:**

- 216 • Julie Christie: Thanked Council for continuing relationship with HCAOG
217

218 **Motion by Council Member Bayles** to authorize the City Manager to execute the MOU with
219 HCAOG for Partnering Assets & Authorities for Comprehensive Transit (PAACT). **Second by**
220 **Council Member Napier**
221 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**
222

223 **15. Designation of Subordinate Officer of Alcoholic Beverage Control License**
224 **Application Determinations of Public Convenience or Necessity**

225 California Business and Professions Code section 23958 is used for determining
226 whether issuance of a license results in an undue concentration of licenses. Each
227 jurisdiction can designate a subordinate officer or body that can make determinations of
228 public convenience or necessity. Designation of the City Manager is recommended.
229

230 **Public Comment: None received**
231

232 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to designate the City Manager as the subordinate officer
233 for the City of Blue Lake to make determinations of public convenience or necessity regarding
234 ABC license applications where undue concentration exists. **Second by Lewis-Lusso.**
235 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**
236

237 **16. Council Correspondence**

- 238 a. Letter of Support – MBTTA grant application
- 239 b. Danco Communities Notice of Default
240

241 **Public Comment:**

- 242 • Rebecca Collins: So far to go with Bike Park, not understanding what motive is
243 regarding the grant.



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- Julie Christie: Agrees with comments and would like Council to be involved with allocation of grant funds

17. Reports of Council and Staff

a. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fiscal Policy:** Council Members Napier and Bayles continuing this and determining priorities.
- **HWMA Meeting:** Discussion around organics processing feasibility study.
- **HCAOG:** Denied Eureka's appeal for arena allocation. MCSD added as advisory member.
- **Chamber of Commerce:** looking for more board members.

b. Commission Updates:

- **Arts and Heritage:** Have gotten a lot done in a short amount of time.
- **Public Safety:** Newly appointed commission has resigned, looking for an additional commissioner. Continuing projects that were started in the past. Not in favor of combining commissions

c. City Manager Report:

- **Housing Element:** Seventh Cycle Housing Element has officially kicked off and the annual progress report was submitted to HCD for Sixth Cycle Housing Element.
- **Commission Chair Meeting:** Discussed duties, expectations, physical set up of the meetings, as well as roles of the Chair, the Clerk, and the Liaison.
- **Great Redwood Trail:** Master plan was adopted and section 39 in Blue Lake was ranked as Tier 1
- **Green Waste Day:** May 9, 2026

18. Future Agenda Items Requested by Council

- Bathrooms at Horse Arena and Town Square
- Discussion: How to Move Forward with Strategic Planning
- Discussion: Possibility of Two Liaisons per Commission

Adjourn at 10:31 p.m.

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