



Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 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 **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

4
5 **Councilmembers' Present:** City Clerk Green established a Quorum

6 Present: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Councilmember Kat Napier,
7 Councilmember Michelle Lewis-Lusso, Councilmember Terri Bayles.

8 **Councilmembers Absent:** None

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

11
12 **4. Approval Of the Agenda –**

13
14 **Motion by Councilmember Bayles to approve the agenda. Second by Councilmember**
15 **Lewis-Lusso.**

16 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**

17
18 **5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

- 19 • **Stephanie Dickinson:** Addressed the Council regarding a public nuisance located at
20 540 K St. and requested assistance from the City in addressing the issue, by either
21 beginning the abatement process or requesting assistance from the County.
- 22 • **Karen Gilkerson:** Requested that the council prioritize storm drain maintenance and
23 action to address the immediate and ongoing flooding problems.
- 24 • **Jan Henry:** Presented a generous monetary gift on behalf of the Brunson Family
25 Fund to the Parks and Recreation department. The donation includes \$150,000
26 towards the completion of the bike and skate park, \$50,000 to the skating rink, and
27 \$202,000 to be put in an endowment to support the Parks and Recreation department
28 for a total donation of \$402,000.
- 29 • **Julie Christie:** Thanked Ann and Jan for orchestrating the donation, suggested
30 meeting with Council in closed session to discuss finer details of donation. Would like
31 to see creek restoration come back and more involvement with CDFW (California
32 Department of Fish and Wildlife).

33
34 **6. Consent Agenda**

- 35 a. Approval of May 26, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- 36 b. Approval of June 10, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- 37 c. May 2026 Disbursements

38
39 **Motion by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso to pass the consent agenda. Second by**
40 **Councilmember Bayles.**

41 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously**



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ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

7. Election Updates

City Clerk Green attended an informational meeting on June 18th hosted by the Humboldt County Office of Elections in preparation for the upcoming Statewide General Election on November 3, 2026, and highlighted important dates outlined on the candidate calendar that was shared.

Public Comment:

- **Jennifer Kramer:** Asked how the word will be spread about the City Council terms that are set to expire.
- **Julie Christie:** Suggested it's up to the community to also help spread the word.

No action was taken.

8. Consolidation of the General Municipal Election [Resolution 1261]

The Statewide General Election is scheduled for November 3, 2026, and two City Council terms are set to expire. California Elections Code Sections 10002 and 10400 authorize a local governing body to request consolidation of a general municipal election with the statewide election. The City of Blue Lake partners with the Humboldt County Office of Elections to conduct its elections, including the City Council election. Consolidation requires approval by City Council resolution, which was prepared by City Clerk Green.

Public Comment:

- **Julie Christie:** Concurred with staff recommendation.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to Adopt Resolution 1261 titled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Blue Lake Requesting Consolidation of the General Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026". **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Sawatzky, Scafani, Napier, Lewis-Lusso, Bayles

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Hill Construction Proposal for Power Plant Fuel Removal

The City owns the power plant property and desires to remove the fuel pile towards the west end of the property. Hill Construction has approached the City with a proposal to remove the pile at no cost to the City.



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Public Comment:

- **Mardi Grainger:** Asked for clarification regarding cost to the City.
- **Adelene Jones:** In favor of moving forward and has wanted to see the plant cleaned up for many years.
- **Tom Tellez:** Asked about the full-sized logs and expressed concerns with chipping these logs.
- **Julie Christie:** Suggested setting up first come first serve agreement if others are interested in completing the work.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to authorize City Staff to create the contract and move forward with the involvement of the Power Plant Ad Hoc. **Second by Councilmember Bayles**
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

10. Car Show Donation Designation

Director Wood presented an event sponsorship proposal for the Bill Nessler Car Show at the April 28, 2026, City Council meeting. The fundraiser benefits the Parks and Recreation Department. Director Wood requested City Council approval to allocate up to \$4,500 in sponsorship revenue toward the cost of a topographic drone survey of the Bike and Skate Park.

Public Comment:

- **Jennifer Kramer:** Asked whether the survey was required for a grant or insurance; later expressed concerns about Fund 15 and oversight of donations.
- **Adelene Jones:** Noted Car Show revenue has traditionally supported Parks and Recreation.

Amended Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to authorize staff to use up to \$4,500 from the 2026 Bill Nessler Car Show to fund the drone survey. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Voice vote: Motion passed 4:1, with Councilmember Napier dissenting

11. Bike Park Grant Application – MBTTA

The Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance (MBTTA) has collaborated with the City to apply for the 2026 Arts in California Parks Program to benefit the Blue Lake Bike & Skate Park. MBTTA informed City staff that the preliminary application was selected to advance to the full application round. The submission deadline for the full application is June 26, 2026. Director Wood requested City Council approval to continue supporting MBTTA in the next phase of the application process and presented a concept for proposed artwork installations. Shaun Fyfe was in attendance with Tribal Artist Sorren Richards to answer any questions about the process.



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Public Comment:

- **Adelene Jones:** Highlighted the role of the Arts and Heritage Commission and suggested utilizing the Commission for further input.
- **Julie Christie:** Expressed appreciation for volunteers and spoke in favor of moving forward.
- **Jennifer Kramer:** Supports the project and asked about the durability of the artwork on cement compared to wood surfaces.
- **Sorren Richards:** Shared experience regarding the use of high-durability paint for longevity.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to authorize city staff and Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance to proceed with the full application round of the 2026 Arts in California Parks program for the Blue Lake Bike and Skate Park. **Second by Councilmember Bayles.**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

12. Adoption of Parks and Recreation Fees [Resolution 1262]

During the May 26, 2026, City Council meeting, City Council unanimously approved a revised Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule presented by Director Wood, with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Resolution No. 1262, which adopts the updated Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule previously established under Resolution No. 1107, was presented to City Council for formal adoption.

Public Comment:

- **Adelene Jones:** Expressed sadness that the Blue Lake Chamber of Commerce is being charged to host Annie and Mary Day as it has been perceived to be a City Event.
- **Julie Christie:** Supported moving forward with adoption of the fee schedule and pointed out that it can always be brought back for revisions.

Motion by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso to authorize and adopt Resolution 1262. **Second by Councilmember Napier.**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

Council took a break at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

13. Update Ad Hoc Committee – Danco Project

City Council established an Ad Hoc Committee for the Danco Project over a year ago, with current members John Sawatzky and Kat Napier. In light of recent correspondence, Council reviewed the committee's role and considered whether any modifications to the committee's charges were needed prior to the next meeting with Danco.



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Public Comment:

- **Julie Christie:** Spoke in favor of committee continuity and requested Ad Hoc updates during meetings.

Motion by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso to continue with the established Danco Project Ad Hoc Committee of John Sawatzky and Kat Napier and replace interim City Manager Duffy with current City Manager Short. **Second by Councilmember Bayles**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

14. Resolution 1263: Adopting List of Projects for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Funded by SB1: the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017

The City utilizes Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) funding provided through Senate Bill 1 (SB1) to maintain and rehabilitate streets throughout the City. Staff identified priority projects for the upcoming fiscal year, including pothole repair and road rehabilitation on Hartman Avenue/G Street, Chartin Road, and Railroad Avenue, as well as replacement of traffic and directional signage. City Council considered adoption of a resolution authorizing the use of RMRA funds and submission of the required project application through CalSMART.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to adopt Resolution 1263 titled "Resolution Adopting a List of Projects for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Funded by SB1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017." **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

15. Final Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget [Resolution 1264]

The Budget Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the updated Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget on June 17, 2026, and recommends adoption as presented. Staff incorporated revisions related to CalPERS liabilities, planning costs, grant reimbursements, Town Square reimbursements, and additional street maintenance funding. The updated budget reduces the projected deficit from \$91,628 to a surplus of \$2,420 and was presented to City Council for consideration and adoption.

Public Comment:

- **Julie Christie:** Commended City Manager Short for the outlay of the budget and supported passing the budget as is and making amendments as needed.

Motion by Councilmember Napier that the Council adopt Resolution No. 1264 to adopt the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. **Second by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani.**



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Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Sawatzky, Scafani, Napier, Lewis-Lusso, Bayles

Motion passed unanimously

The organizational chart will be brought back with edits as requested by Council.

16. Council Correspondence

- City Clerk Green read an email that was sent by Jeff Harnden regarding a formal public nuisance noise complaint.

Public Comment on Correspondence

- **Julie Christie:** Recommended putting pressure on CDFW to come in to provide assistance with flood concerns.

17. Reports of Council and Staff

a. Ad hoc Committee Reports

Transparency: Exploring different ideas for meeting videos and the City website.

RREDC: Members were happy about the JPA being signed and submitted by partnering cities.

HCAOG: Working on transportation, taking steps towards a new Executive Director.

RCEA: Approved a purchase for a new "home" for the organization and will have one location for everyone instead of two. Mayor Pro Tem Scafani also had the opportunity to tour the Diabolo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

b. Commission Updates

Public Safety: Safety Fair has been set for September 12th from 10am to 2pm and will be held in the parking lot at City Hall. Touch a Truck and information booths will be present.

Arts and Heritage: Had not met in the last three months due to quorum issues.

Parks and Recreation: Commended the commissioners for digging in and going after it and securing a huge donation.

c. City Manager Report:

The City Manager report will be provided at the second Tuesday meeting of the month.

18. Future Agenda Items Requested by Council

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption
- City Manager Report to be provided during second Tuesday of the month meeting



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19. Closed Session Agenda:

a. Public Comment on Closed Session agenda items

- **Julie Christie:** Felt that Danco took advantage and urged Council to not let them continue taking advantage.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to move into closed session. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

b. Council convened Closed Session at the Skinner Store at 10:00 p.m. for the purpose of:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case. Facts and circumstances involve claims by Danco Communities that the City's election to terminate the Development and Disposition Agreement after notice and opportunity to cure is not permitted under the terms of the parties' agreement.

c. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case.

d. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation**

Title: City Manager

California Government Code section 54957(b)(1).

e. **Report Out of Closed Session.** Council reconvened at 12:22 a.m. at the Skinner Store to report out of Closed Session. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed for the purpose of performance evaluation of the City Manager. Councilmembers Lewis-Lusso and Bayles will serve on this committee. No other reportable actions were taken.

Adjourned at 12:22 a.m.

Prepared by: Samantha Green, City Clerk