



Blue Lake City Council Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 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**

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5 **Councilmembers' Present:** City Clerk Green Established a Quorum

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

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.

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12 **4. Approval of the Agenda –** City Manager Short requested item #16 be moved before
13 item #11 and Councilmember Napier requested that item #12 be moved before item #9.

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15 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to approve modifications to the agenda. **Second by**
16 **Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

17 **Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.**

18
19 **5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Kent Sawatzky, Stephanie Dickinson,
20 Tamara Tafoya, Levi Seda, Laura Chapman, Julie Christie, and David Seda.

21
22 **6. Consent Agenda**

- 23 a. Approval of June 23, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
24 b. Approval of July 14, 2026 City Council Meeting Action Minutes
25 c. Contract with Bender Rosenthal
26 d. Contract with Deltex Diving

27
28 **Public Comment on Consent Agenda:** Kent Sawatzky, Heather, and Julie Christie.

29
30 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to approve the consent agenda. **Second by**
31 **Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

32 **Voice vote: Motion passed 4:1 with Mayor Sawatzky dissenting.**

33 ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

34 **7. Humboldt Skate Collective MOU [Resolution 1268]**

35 City Staff proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Humboldt Skate
36 Collective to support fundraising, volunteer coordination, and community outreach for the
37 Blue Lake Bike & Skate Park, in coordination with existing partner organizations. The
38 agreement would operate alongside existing MOUs with the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike
39 Association and the Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance to support a collaborative approach
40 to the project.
41



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Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky, Rebecca Collins, Julie Christie, Shaun Fyfe, Charlie Caldwell.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to approve Resolution 1268 and Direct the City Manager to sign the MOU. **Second by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani.**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Brunson Family Fund Donation Acceptance

The City Council considered formal acceptance of a \$402,000 donation from the Brunson Family Trust, previously announced at the June 23 meeting, in support of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Brunson Family were recognized for their longstanding contributions to the City's park and recreation programs. The Humboldt Area Foundation will administer the grant funds, including a one-year term and required financial and narrative reporting.

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to accept the donation from the Brunson Family Trust designated for the Bike Park in the amount of \$150,000 and Prasch Hall in the amount of \$50,000, accept the \$202,000 donation from the Brunson Family Trust into an endowment held by the Humboldt Area Foundation for use in the parks and recreation department in perpetuity, and authorize the City Manager to execute any agreements necessary for acceptance and distribution of the donations to the City. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Voice vote: Motion passed 3:2 with Mayor Sawatzky and Councilmember Bayles dissenting.

9. Fee Waiver Policy Concept – Discussion *Previously Item 12*

The City Council considered a request from Councilmember Napier to discuss the development of a fee waiver policy. The proposed policy would establish objective criteria for evaluating requests from events and organizations seeking fee waivers from the City.

Public Comment: Rebecca Collins and Julie Christie.

No action was taken, but Councilmember Napier will continue her research on the matter and provide a status update at the August 25, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

10. Fee Waiver Request: RCMBBA Enduro *Previously Item 9*

The City Council considered a request from the Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association (RCMBBA) to waive a portion of camping rental fees along Taylor Way following adoption of the new Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule.



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Public Comment: Tim Daniels, Kent Sawatzky, Lin Glen, Adelene Jones, Julie Christie, Linda Cooley, and Lorraine Ponte.

Motion by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso to authorize a \$400 discount on facility rental fees for Taylor Way usage for the Mad River Enduro Event, equating to a total fee of \$580.00.

Second by Councilmember Napier.

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

11. Fee Waiver Request: Annie and Mary Day **Previously Item 10**

The City Council considered a request from the Blue Lake Chamber of Commerce to waive a portion of rental fees for the 57th Annual Annie & Mary Day following adoption of the new Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule. The request reflects that the event has historically not been charged rental fees by the City.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky, Julie Christie, Linda Cooley, and Lorraine Ponte.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to waive all fees except staff costs/cost recovery. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Voice vote: Motion passed 4:1 with Mayor Sawatzky dissenting.

12. Blue Lake Rancheria Water and Sewer Applications **Previously Item 16**

The City Council received an update regarding water and sewer service applications submitted by the Blue Lake Rancheria for existing residences and new commercial facilities on various parcels. City Staff has been coordinating with Rancheria representatives to review and process the applications, with a focus on addressing straightforward requests as information becomes available while continuing to resolve more complex applications.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to approve the transfer of the water connection to the residences on APNs 312-111-006 and 312-101-014 to the new commercial facilities (HULA-Claudia Brundin Health Center and TOMA-T'am Campus). **Second by Councilmember Bayles.**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

13. 7th Cycle Housing Element Update **Previously Item 11**

The City Council received an update regarding the publication of the initial Draft 7th Cycle Housing Element for public review, as required by the Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Staff also provided information regarding the upcoming Public Workshop—City Council Study Session



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scheduled for August 1, 2026, to review the draft document and receive community feedback.

No action was taken.

14. Building Department Fee Schedule Update [Resolution 1269] **Previously Item 13**

The City Council considered updates to the Building Department Schedule of Fees as part of the City's ongoing efforts to revise outdated fee schedules across departments. The proposed updates were developed by the Building Official in collaboration with City Staff and replace the schedule previously adopted in 2011 through Ordinance No. 501

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to adopt Resolution 1269: A Resolution of the City Council of Blue Lake Replacing the Building Department Schedule of Fees and Establishing other Miscellaneous Building Related Charges from Ordinance No. 501 with an effective date of August 1 2026. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

15. City Manager and City Clerk Performance Evaluation Methodology – Discussion ****Previously Item 14****

The City Council held a discussion regarding potential evaluation tools for the City Manager and City Clerk, as presented by the Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Councilmembers Lewis-Lusso and Bayles. The discussion focused on possible evaluation processes and tools for Council consideration and future implementation.

No action was taken, however the Ad Hoc Committee requested evaluations for the City Manager to be submitted by August 14th and for staff to provide input on the evaluation tool for City Clerk with recommended edits.

16. Town Square Project Financial Update **Previously Item 15**

The City Council received an update regarding the completion and closeout of the State Parks Per Capita-funded park project on APN 025-073-007. Staff provided an overview of the project timeline, including property acquisition, design and construction, and the remaining grant closeout items consisting of the pergola, art feature, and project sign. The remaining items are expected to be completed within the next 60 days.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky.

No action was taken



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17. Council Correspondence

- a) Green Waste Day: August 22nd
- b) Letter: David Groe
- c) Post Cards: Regional Climate Action Plan supporters

18. Reports Of Council and Staff

- a. Ad hoc Committee Reports

Bike Park: Has a meeting scheduled for July 29th with Dana Creech.

Powerplant: Waiting to meet.

- b. Commission Updates

Public Safety: Safety Fair on September 12 2026.

19. Future Agenda Items Requested by Council

- Fee Waiver Policy Expanded Framework – August 25th

Adjourn at 11:03 p.m.

Prepared by: Samantha, City Clerk