



Blue Lake City Council Action Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 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:** Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani,
6 Councilmember Kat Napier, Councilmember Michelle Lewis-Lusso

7 **Councilmembers Absent:** Councilmember Terri Bayles

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9 **Staff Present:** City Manager Jennie Short, and City Clerk Samantha Green

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11 **4. Approval of the Agenda –**

12
13 **Motion by Councilmember Napier** to approve the agenda. **Second by Mayor Pro Tem**
14 **Scafani.**

15 **Voice Vote: Motion passed unanimously.**

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17 **5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

18
19 **6. Consent Agenda**

20 a) Approval of August 25, 2026, City Council Action Minutes

21 b) August 2026 Disbursements

22
23 **Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

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25 **Motion by Councilmember Napier** to approve the Consent Agenda. **Second by**
26 **Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

27 **Voice Vote: Motion passed unanimously.**

28 ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

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31 **7. Proclaim October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

32 October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Humboldt
33 Domestic Violence Services requested a City proclamation in support of ongoing awareness
34 efforts, and a representative from HDVS was in attendance to provide information.

35
36 **Public Comment:** None

37
38 **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani** to Proclaim October 2026 as Domestic Violence
39 Awareness Month. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

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



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8. HCAOG Unmet Transit Needs

The annual Unmet Transit Needs process is underway. A representative from the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) was in attendance to provide information about the process and transit services in Blue Lake, and to receive public comments for the upcoming HCAOG public hearing.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky, Lin Glen, and Julie Christie.

No action was taken.

9. Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan [Resolution 1270]

In 2019, Blue Lake joined Humboldt County and other incorporated cities in signing an MOU committing to the development of a shared Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions countywide. Humboldt County adopted the RCAP in December 2025, and the City is now considering adoption of the plan.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky, Lisa Hoover, and Julie Christie

Motion by Councilmember Napier to adopt Resolution 1270 a Resolution of the City Council of Blue Lake Adopting the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan as the City of Blue Lake's Climate Action Plan and Making Findings as a Responsible Agency Under the California Environmental Quality Act. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

10. Bike and Skate Park Corrective Action Plan Implementation Update

At the August Council meeting, Council directed SHN to convert existing topographical surveys into engineered, stamped as-built plans for the Bike and Skate Park. Compaction testing of areas not yet paved was also identified as a means of documenting the quality of the compaction work. SHN provided a scope and fee proposal for these services.

Public Comment: Lin Glen and Julie Christie.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to approve SHN's proposal to prepare the Bike and Skate Park as-built site plans and perform compaction testing and authorize an expenditure of \$5,800 in anticipation of donation proceeds from the Annie and Mary Day Beer Sales by RCMB. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Voice vote: Motion passed 3:1 with Mayor Sawatzky dissenting.

11. Public Safety Commission Verbal Update

The Vice Chair of the Public Safety Commission gave a report on the Safety Fair held earlier this month and shared additional updates regarding matters within the Commission's scope.



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Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

No action was taken.

12. Fee Waiver Policy Concept Discussion

Councilmember Napier continued gathering information regarding a potential Fee Waiver Policy. Resolution 1137, adopted in 2019, already addresses fee waivers, prompting discussion about whether to continue developing a separate policy.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

No action was taken.

13. Hartman Sewer Line Replacement: Informal Bid

The City has experienced recurring sewer line blockages along Hartman Avenue despite ongoing maintenance efforts. A recent sewer camera inspection identified two significant offsets contributing to the issue. The proposed project involves replacing a portion of the sewer line and increasing its diameter from 6 to 8 inches to help prevent future blockages. The City received two bids through the informal bidding process.

Public Comment: None received

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to award the informal bid to Hooven & Co. in the amount of \$36,820 and authorize expenditure of \$36,820 from the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund.

Second by Councilmember Napier.

Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

14. Resolution 1271 Authorizing Signature: Carbon Reduction Program – Purchase Electric Maintenance Fleet Vehicles Project: CRPLNI-5190(014)

At the August Council meeting, Council authorized the City Manager to execute documents related to the acceptance of \$80,000 in STIP funding and toll credits for the purchase of electric fleet vehicles. Resolution 1271 authorizes the City Manager to execute the master agreement and other necessary documents for the project.

Public Comment: None received

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to adopt Resolution 1271: a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Blue Lake Authorizing the Execution of Master Agreements, Program Supplements, and Confirmation Documents for the Carbon Reduction Program: Project CRPLNI-5190(014) with the California Department of Transportation. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**



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Roll call vote:

Aye: Sawatzky, Scafani, Napier, Lewis-Lusso.

Absent: Bayles

Motion passed unanimously.

15. Amendment to FY 2026-2027 Budget Approval – Increase Health Insurance Premium Contribution [Resolution 1272]

CalPERS has announced the 2027 health insurance premium rates. The proposed contribution increases would maintain the City's coverage of the full employee-only premium and adjust the employee + 1 dependent and family contribution from \$2,050 to \$2,240. The anticipated increase was included in the adopted FY 2026-27 budget.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to Adopt Resolution 1272: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Blue Lake Amending Chapter Attachment "C" for the Adopted Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. **Second by Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.**

Roll call vote:

Aye: Sawatzky, Scafani, Napier, Lewis-Lusso.

Absent: Bayles

Motion passed unanimously.

16. 7th Cycle Housing Element Update

The second draft Housing Element was released for public review and comment on September 14 2026. Written comments are welcome and may be submitted to City Hall or emailed to comments@bluelake.ca.gov. The Public Hearing is scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Public Comment: Julie Christie

No action was taken.

17. Requests for Proposals – Professional Services

The City contracts with several local consulting firms for professional services on an as-needed basis, including the City Attorney, Accountant, Engineer, Planner, and Auditor. These contracts have been in place for several years, and the City is considering establishing a routine schedule for reviewing consultant performance and determining whether contracts should be extended, renewed, or terminated. The item also addresses the potential use of Requests for Proposals for select services in 2027 while maintaining continuity during the transition of City staff.



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Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky.

No action was taken.

18. Power Plant Property Interconnect Discussion

Councilmember Napier requested that the item be brought before the City Council for discussion and potential direction to City staff.

Public Comment: Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.

No action was taken.

19. Council Correspondence

20. Reports Of Council and Staff

- a) City Manager Report
- b) Ad hoc Committee Reports
- c) Commission Updates

21. Future Agenda Items Requested by Council

22. Closed Session Agenda:

- a) **Public Comment:** Kent Sawatzky and Julie Christie.
- b) Council convened into Closed Session at Skinner Store at 10:21pm for the purpose of: **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**
Property: approximately three (3) acres of land that is a portion of the parcels designated as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 312-161-018 and 312-161-015 in the City of Blue Lake, California
Agency negotiator: Jennie Short, City Manager
Negotiating parties: Danco Communities, a California Corporation
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment
- c) **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case.
- d) **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Name of case: Erin McClure, Trustee of the Richard V. McClure Testamentary Trust v. City of Blue Lake, et al., Humboldt County Superior Court Case No. CV2601646.



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- e) Report Out of Closed Session.** Council reconvened at 12:10am at Skinner Store to give a report out of Closed Session. The court filing for the McClure lawsuit was reviewed and legal documents can be viewed on the City's Website.

Prepared by: Samantha Green, City Clerk