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CITY OF BLUE LAKE
CALIFORNIA

111 Greenwood Road
P.O. Box 458
Blue Lake, CA 95525

Blue Lake City Council Action Minutes

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

1. **Call to Order**: Mayor Sawatzky Called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call and Establish a Quorum of the Council**

Councilmembers' Present: Mayor John Sawatzky, Mayor Pro Tem Elise Scafani, Councilmember Kat Napier, Councilmember Terri Bayles.
Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Lewis-Lusso.

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

4. **Approval of the Agenda –**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to approve the agenda as is. **Second by Councilmember Bayles**
Voice Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Beckie Raygoza and Julie Christie.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   a) Approval of October 6, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
   b) Approval of October 13, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
   c) Disbursements Report – September 2026
   d) 4th Quarter Draft Financial Statements
   e) Accept Donation from RCMBA for Bike Park
   f) Accept Donation from GLJ Construction for Materials
   ~~g) Saddle Club MOU -~~ ***Removed from the agenda by staff.***
   h) Baduwa't Watershed Resilience Initiative: Contribution to HBMWD to Develop a Prop 4 Watershed Resilience Program Grant

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to approve consent items 6a-6d and 6h. **Second by Councilmember Bayles.**
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Consent items 6e and 6f were pulled by Councilmember Napier and Mayor Sawatazky for further discussion/clarification.

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CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

6e. Accept Donation from RCMBA for Bike Park

The Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association (RCMBA) held a fundraiser for the Bike & Skate Park by serving beer, wine, and cider. RCMBA raised $3,471.41 and presented the funds to the City Council for acceptance.

Public Comment: Julie Christie.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to accept the donation from RCMBA for the bike park.
Second by Councilmember Bayles.
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

6f. Accept Donation from GLJ Construction for Materials

GLJ Construction has been using a City hydrant on Taylor Way to fill its water truck for dust abatement, under an arrangement with prior City Managers. In exchange, GLJ provided aggregate materials and equipment assistance to the City's Public Works Department. The value of the materials and assistance exceeded the estimated value of water used by $3,611. Gary Johnston has elected to donate the difference to the City rather than request payment.

Public Comment: Julie Christie.

Motion by Councilmember Napier to accept the donation from GLJ construction for materials.
Second by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani.
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION OR ACTION

7. Rousseau Property Exchange – Lot Line adjustment

At the February 10, 2026 City Council meeting, Rousseau Investments LLC requested consideration of a reciprocal access easement involving its property (APN 025-201-018) and the City's adjacent Corporation Yard parcel (APN 025-201-019). The proposed mixed-use development in the Powers Creek District includes residential units and ground-floor commercial space. The City Engineer recommended establishing a 25-foot reciprocal easement to accommodate a future shared driveway, with an expanded entrance to provide a minimum 24-foot access width due to existing utility infrastructure. The project will come back with the lot line adjustment.

Public Comment: Julie Christie.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to authorize staff to coordinate with the Rousseaus and move forward with the property exchange. **Second by Councilmember Napier.**
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

8. Application to LAFCo – Blue Lake Rancheria

The City and Blue Lake Rancheria continued work on an application to the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for authorization of water and/or sewer service to several tribal trust parcels. The application addresses existing residences and commercial facilities seeking connections to City water and sewer infrastructure. The proposed out-of-agency services will be incorporated into an amendment to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Tribe.

Public Comment: Julie Christie.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to authorize the City Manager to sign and submit the application to LAFCo for the Blue Lake Rancheria out of agency water and sewer services.
Second by Councilmember Bayles.
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

9. Blue Lake Truck Route Improvement Project – Phase 2 Railroad Ave to Hatchery Road

The Blue Lake Truck Route Project is a multi-phase transportation improvement project intended to enhance the existing truck route through roadway rehabilitation, traffic calming, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements. Phase 1 (Greenwood Avenue) was completed in 2024. Phase 2 was divided into two segments, with current funding covering the section from Railroad Avenue to Hatchery Road.

Public Comment: Julie Christie.

Motion by Councilmember Bayles to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract with SHN in the amount of $38,000 and to update the adopted budget for Fund 10 Department 900 authorizing a budget amendment for the expenditure of $38,000 and a corresponding grant reimbursement revenue of $38,000. **Second by Councilmember Napier.**

Roll call vote:
Aye: Scafani, Napier, Bayles.
Nay: Sawatzky
Motion passed 3:1

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10. Consider approval of the First Amendment and Full Restatement of the Employment Agreement with the City Manager Jennie Short, extending the term through June 30, 2029, revising compensation and leave provisions, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement.

The proposed amendment and restatement extends the City Manager's employment agreement through June 30, 2029, with continued at-will employment.

Public Comment: Beckie Raygoza and Julie Christie.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to approve the first amendment and full restatement of the City Manager employment agreement with Jennie Short and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City. **Second by Councilmember Bayles.**
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

11. State Park Per Capita Round 5 Grant Project: Bike & Skate Park – Public Outreach & Project Elements

Director Wood has facilitated community input sessions for Phase 2 of the Bike & Skate Park, beginning at Annie & Mary Day on August 9, 2026, with outreach continuing through November 2026. The presentation and attachments summarize the input methods, feedback received to date, and proposed amenities and recreational features based on community feedback.

Public Comment: Mardi Granger, Julie Christie, John Barthlomeau, and Verda Pitts.

No action was taken.

12. State Park Per Capita Round 5 Grant Project: Town Square Expansion – Public Outreach & Project Elements

The privately owned property at 411 Railroad Avenue is currently listed for sale. Staff is seeking Council direction on whether to further investigate the potential acquisition of the property for expansion of Town Square in connection with the upcoming State Parks grant application, due December 17, 2026. Land acquisition is an eligible grant component, and a nonbinding letter from the willing seller would be required for the application.

Public Comment: Angela Cincotti and Verda Pitts.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to authorize staff to move forward and learn more about the potential and requirements. **Second by Mayor Sawatzky.**
Voice vote: Motion failed 2:2 with Councilmembers Napier and Bayles dissenting

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13. Bike & Skate Park Phase 1 Update

Phase 1 paving is scheduled for October 27–28, 2026, with the City contributing $15,000 for asphalt and base rock. Dana Creech will provide equipment and labor at no cost, with Hemmingson Construction and local volunteers assisting. SHN has completed the as-built drawings and confirmed the constructed features meet recommended specifications. Remaining work includes permanent signage, fencing, and storm drainage connections. Staff also completed a review of outstanding vendor invoices as part of the Corrective Action Plan. Following review of supporting documentation, staff identified $33,058 in verified unpaid expenses owed to Wildland Operators (Dana Creech). Mr. Creech is requesting Council authorization to pursue fundraising through community groups to cover the expenses, rather than seeking payment from City funds.

Public Comment: Julie Christie, Justin Woehler, Garry Johnston, Sal Ingrilli, Mike Callaghan, Charis Bowman, and two unknown speakers.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to accept the engineered as-built record drawings for phase 1, authorize an expenditure of $2,500 for fence anchors and concrete, and authorize the City Manager to make field decisions during paving and fencing efforts that increase authorized expenditures by up to 20% of the authorized amount**. Second by Councilmember Napier.**
Voice vote: Motion passed 3:1 with Councilmember Bayles dissenting

14. Council Correspondence: None received

15. Reports Of Council and Staff

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

16. Future Agenda Items Requested by Council

17. Closed Session Agenda:

a. Public Comment on Closed Session agenda item(s): None received.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scafani to move into Closed Session. **Second by Councilmember Bayles**.
Voice vote: Motion passed unanimously

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Council convened into Closed Session at Skinner Store at 10:55 p.m. for the purpose of:

b. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Title: City Clerk

c. 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

d. Adjourn and Report Out of Closed Session. Council reconvened at **9:07pm the *following** day at Skinner Store for a report out of Closed Session. No Reportable action was taken.

***The City Council issued an order of adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 10:57 p.m. in accordance with Government Code §54955. Pursuant to the order of adjournment, the City Council reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7pm on October 28, 2026, at Skinner Store and adjourned at 9:07pm**

Prepared by: Samantha Green, City Clerk