



**City of Blaine
Anoka County, Minnesota
Minutes - Final**

10801 Town Square Dr.
Blaine MN 55449

City Council Workshop

**While this is a public meeting where interested persons are welcome to attend, it is a work session for Council and staff to discuss issues before them. It is not for the purpose of receiving public input.*

Thursday, April 5, 2012

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

Meeting Number 12-21

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 p.m.

ABSENT: City Manager Clark Arneson

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Therres, Acting, City Manager; Thomas Sweeney, City Attorney; Bryan Schafer, Community Development Director; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Chris Olson, Safety Service Manager/Police Chief; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Al Thorp, Senior Engineering Technician; Jane Cross, City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

Present: 7 - Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Kolb, Councilmember Bourke, Councilmember Herbst, Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, and Councilmember Swanson

1. [WS 12-17](#)

**AMENDMENT TO BLAINE'S 2030 COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [2030 TPP and Blaine 2030 Comp Plan.pdf](#)

Acting City Manager Therres stated the Metropolitan Council adopted a 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and MN Statute requires the communities to review the impact of the revisions to their Comprehensive Plans. He stated the Blaine City Council considered the proposed amendments to the Blaine 2030 Comprehensive Plan on March 1, 2012. He stated two amendments were approved and two (Transit Market Areas and Aviation) were sent to Council Workshop for additional discussion. Mr. Therres stated potential consequences of not following through with this Statute requirement could lead to the Metropolitan Council's holding up of future requests, amendments and applications. He stated the following recommendations for Blaine's Comprehensive Plan:

- 1. Modify Transportation Implementation No. 18 on Page 7-47 to indicate that Blaine is in Transit Market Areas 3 and 4.*
- 2. Modify Transportation Implementation No. 20 on Page 7-47; the City of Blaine supports continued use of and improvement of the Anoka County-Blaine Airport as long as it does not upgrade the airport's classification at the federal or local level.*

The City acknowledges the State of Minnesota's change in classification to a key status due to the 5,000 foot runway extension, but does not support a change in aircraft use at the airport.

Councilmember Clark asked about the implications for the change from Transit Market 2 and 3. Acting City Manager Therres replied Blaine is a little less urban and has less job and population density. He stated the City will not get more regular fixed route services

Mayor Ryan stated he and City Manager Arneson met with Senator Franken about freight.

Councilmember Clark asked about the impact on the City's park and rides. Acting City Manager Therres replied the park and rides are the same in Transit Market 3. Councilmember Swanson replied there is no impact. Councilmember Clark asked about the effect on North Town's bus schedules. Councilmember Swanson replied it will take longer for the City to get cross town bus service.

Mayor Ryan asked if changes are made to the comprehensive plan every year. Acting City Manager Therres replied no.

Acting City Manager Therres stated there are three levels of aviation which are state, federal and the Met Council. He stated that the expansion of the run way changed the status of the airport to Key System status.

Councilmember Clark suggested the following statement: "The City of Blaine supports continued use of and improvement of the Anoka County – Blaine Airport. The City does not support a change in aircraft use at the airport.

Councilmember Bourke stated he does not want the statement to endorse the change in the airport's status.

Acting City Manager Therres stated the City's existing Comprehensive Plan identifies the state's classification as an intermediate airport.

Mayor Ryan stated the Met Council could increase the runway to 6,000 feet without changing classification.

Councilmember Bourke stated the City has acknowledged the airport as intermediate. Acting City Manager Therres stated the graph in the Comprehensive Plan lists the airport as intermediate. He stated the airport is now considered Key.

City Engineer Keely directed the Council to the workshop packet that includes Blaine's Comprehensive Plan pages 7-38, 7-39, 7-46 and 7-47. Discussion took place on the three levels of aviation which are Federal Aviation Administration, State of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council and Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

Councilmember Clark directed the staff to rewrite the paragraph.

Councilmember Bourke stated the airport's status has already been upgraded and the City needs to make it known the City does not support a change in aircraft use at the airport.

Councilmember Swanson stated MNDOT has no authority over the airport and that MAC has the authority.

Council consensus was to agree with MAC and Federal levels, and disagree with State of Minnesota's level.

Discussed

2. [WS 12-18](#)

COMPLETE STREET INFORMATION

Sponsors: Therres

Attachments: [CompleteStreets Intro - Council Retreat 2012](#)

Acting City Manager Therres stated Complete Streets is a MNDOT program that requires MNDOT to consider all types of modes of transportation (trails, sidewalks, bus lanes) when they look at any project. He stated the cities are strongly encouraged by MNDOT to look at Complete Streets criteria. Mr. Therres gave an overview while showing the Council a PowerPoint presentation. He stated the local governments are not required to comply with Complete Streets.

Mayor Ryan asked about sidewalk size recommendations. Acting City Manager replied specific specifications are not listed.

Councilmember Clark asked Complete Street program will apply to MSA funding. Acting City Manager Therres replied it does not now, but may in the future. Councilmember Swanson commented that the program will impact CAP projects in the future.

Councilmember Clark asked if a cost benefit analysis has been done on this policy. Acting City Manager Therres replied he has not seen a cost benefit. Councilmember Swanson commented this reduces the miles of road being built.

Councilmember Clark stated each mile will be more expensive and more right-of-way will need to be acquired.

Acting City Manager Therres commented Complete Streets does not mean "all modes on all roads."

Community Development Director Schafer stated the City has been planning with the Complete Streets concept for years.

Discussed

OTHER

Councilmember Clark stated he is in favor of expanding business in the City, but he is not in favor of expanding tattoo artists, pawn shops, and massage parlors. Councilmember Herbst asked if the pawn shop fees cover the police department costs. Safety Services Manager/Police Chief Olson replied the fees cover the costs. Councilmember Herbst asked if there is trouble or rift-raft surrounding the pawn shop. Safety Services Manager/Police Chief Olson replied no. Councilmember Swanson stated this We Pay More Pawn is unique. Discussion took place on the zoning of the shopping center at Lake Drive and Naples. Councilmember Kolb commented these types of businesses do not fit the City at all.

Mayor Ryan stated some patrons of the Tavern Grill and Buffalo Bills; vehicles were privately towed from Fairview's lot. Mayor Ryan commented the no parking sign is not clear and Tavern Grill is willing to pay for better signage.

ADJOURN

The Workshop adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Adjourned