

CITY OF BLAINE  
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, December 12, 2022

7:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers  
10801 Town Square Drive

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sanders at 7:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tim Sanders, Councilmembers Wes Hovland, Julie Jeppson, Tom Newland, and Jess Robertson.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Chris Massoglia and Richard Paul.

Quorum Present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Michelle Wolfe; Deputy Finance Director Ali Bong; Safety Services Director/Police Chief Brian Podany; Community Development Director Erik Thorvig; City Engineer Dan Schluender; Park & Recreation Manager Jerome Krieger; Fiscal Analyst Jenna Trittin; Director of Administration Cassandra Tabor; Interim Public Works Manager Nick Fleischhacker; and Communications Manager Ben Hayle

## **7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING AND ITEMS SET FOR A CERTAIN TIME**

### **TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING**

Deputy Finance Director Bong provided the Council with a presentation on the proposed tax levies and general fund budget that will be the subject of the Truth in Taxation Hearing. Staff commented on the process that is followed each year to complete the budget and described how the City's tax rate was calculated. She reported the City of Blaine was very strong economically which meant the City was providing high quality services for its residents at a valued price. It was noted the preliminary general fund budget was adopted along with the preliminary levies on September 19 with an expenditure budget of \$38,112,000 which was a 7.1% overall increase in expenditures compared to the 2022 general fund budget. The staffing and service levels being maintained by the City were discussed. She indicated the City currently had an AAA bond rating, which was held by only 3% of the cities in Minnesota. She commented further on how individual tax bills were calculated. Staff commented further on

how the proposed levy would impact the median value homeowners and requested the Council hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Mayor Sanders thanked Ms. Bong and the entire finance department for their efforts on the 2023 budget and tax levy.

Mayor Sanders opened the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 7:14PM.

Jonathan Carlson, 10817 Stutz Street NE, explained his taxes were slated to go up considerably in 2023 and requested further information on how the City calculated what homeowners would pay in property taxes. Ms. Bong reviewed the calculations for a median value home. She stated she would be happy to review Mr. Carlson's tax statement to further explain the amounts each taxing jurisdiction was charging.

Mr. Carlson reported his taxes would be going up 11.3% for 2023, which would not be sustainable long-term. He anticipated there were people who would not be able to absorb this into their budget for the coming year. He believed there was some point where Blaine should reach an economy of scale when development levels off.

City Manager Wolfe explained the tax statement Mr. Carlson was reviewing was based on the preliminary levy and noted the final levy would be lower, which meant the taxes payable would be lower.

Councilmember Hovland requested clarification on the City's tax rate and tax levy. Ms. Bong described the differences between the tax rate and the tax levy.

Mayor Sanders reported the Truth in Taxation Hearing would be continued to Monday, December 19, 2022.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Hovland, seconded by Councilmember Jeppson, to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 7:26PM.

Motion adopted unanimously.

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Tim Sanders, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Catherine Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk

*Submitted by Minute Maker Secretarial, Inc.*