

**CITY OF BLAINE**  
Council Chambers/Zoom

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Monday, November 28, 2022

6:00 PM

Mary Lou Steward – Mayor  
Richard May – Mayor Pro Tem

This City Council meeting will be conducted in-person and virtually. Councilmembers and the public will be in attendance in the City Council Chambers. Those wishing to listen or watch the meeting live will be able to call one of the numbers below, or click the link to watch the live stream. Other than the audience participation portion or a public hearing, all callers will be muted during the meeting. All City Council meeting recordings are on the City's website. Instructions on how to listen live to the City Council meeting are below:

For members of the public who want to watch the meeting live, click the link below:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6326365553?pwd=MnhJQIFiU2hxWC9TcU9sN1J0N3VUUT09>

For members of the public who want to listen to the meeting, call one of the numbers below:

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Meeting ID: 632 636 5553

Participant ID: #

Passcode: 427636

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**A. STUDY SESSION: 5:02 PM – Public Works CIP Budget and General Fund Budget**

**B. CALL TO ORDER: 6:06 PM**

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance – *Led by Mayor Steward*

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS: Garth Baldwin, Eric Davidson, Kerena Higgins, Mike Hill, Rhyan Lopez, Richard May, and Mary Lou Steward.

**C. PUBLIC HEARING**

*\*\*Please Note\*\* Persons speaking on any issue will be allowed five (5) minutes. Additional, non-repetitive testimony will be allowed after all testimonies have been heard. Testimony can also be sent to [CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofblaine.com).*

1. 2023 Budget. (Continued from November 14, 2022 meeting). (Heverling)

Written Testimony:

1. Email dated November 25, 2022, from Dennis Olason, regarding street preservation funding.
2. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Ryan Van Straten, regarding funding for the Plover.
3. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Chris Johnston, regarding funding for the Plover.
4. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Laurie Siemens, regarding funding for the Plover.
5. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Kassy Stuart, regarding funding for the Plover.
6. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Jon Landis, regarding funding for the Plover.
7. Email dated November, 26, 2022, from Barbara Swansen, regarding funding for the Plover.
8. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Kari Miller, regarding funding for the Plover.
9. Email dated November 26, 2022, from Naomi Knowlton, regarding funding for the Plover.
10. Email dated November 27, 2022, from Annie Magner, regarding funding for the Plover.
11. Email dated November 28, 2022, from Carl Dufton, regarding funding for the Plover.

Public Testimony:

1. Janet Pickard, regarding funding for the Senior Center.
2. Anna Johnson, regarding funding for the Plover.
3. Sheli Moore, regarding funding for the Plover.
4. Carolyn Anderson, regarding funding for the Plover.
5. Sonia Hurt, regarding funding for the Plover.
6. Olivia Rutherford, regarding funding for the Plover.
7. Katherine Garrow, regarding funding for the Plover.
8. Skip Jansen, regarding funding for the Plover.

The public hearing was closed at 6:34pm.

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** - Sign-up/Comment Sheet is located in the Council Chambers before the meeting. Members of the audience will have three minutes to speak. If you plan on commenting remotely via Zoom, instructions on how to comment are included at the bottom of the agenda. Audience members speaking remotely will be asked to participate first. After the remote audience participation is over, in-person speakers will be asked to speak.

1. Ken Hertz, regarding the Grandis Pond development project, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the Senior Center, and the Plover.

**E. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Email dated November 19, 2022, from Greg Wendt, regarding the downtown revitalization project.
2. Letter dated November 14, 2022, from Sally Church, regarding the Blaine Food Bank.
3. New. Email dated November 28, 2022, from Stacie Pratschner, regarding the Inverness Subdivision.

**F. PRESENTATION:** Whatcom Working Waterfront Coalition – Jim Kyle, President – *The presentation by the Whatcom Working Waterfront Coalition was moved to the December 12, 2022, City Council meeting.*

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.*

1. Voucher Memo:  
Approval of Bills: \$745,011.61

2. Approval of November 7, 2022, Special City Council Minutes.
3. Approval of November 14, 2022, City Council Minutes.
4. Approval of November 15, 2022, Special City Council Minutes.
5. Approval of agreement with Chmelik, Sitkin, & Davis for legal services. (*Wilbrecht*)

**THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED BY GARTH BALDWIN, SECONDED BY RHYAN LOPEZ, AND APPROVED 7-0.**

#### **H. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

1. Resolution 1906-22, Splitting up LID cost for stormwater Gateway. (*Heverling*)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ERIC DAVIDSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 1906-22, SPLITTING UP LID COST FOR STORMWATER GATEWAY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD MAY, AND APPROVED 7-0.**

2. Ordinance 22-2990, approving the 2023 Budget. (*Heverling*)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY GARTH BALDWIN TO WAIVE THE SECOND READING AND APPROVE ORDINANCE 22-2990, APPROVING THE 2023 BUDGET WITH AN EXTRA \$1,800 FOR THE SENIOR CENTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RHYAN LOPEZ, AND APPROVED 7-0.**

3. **MOTION WAS MADE BY GARTH BADLWIN TO INCREASE THE PLOVER BUDGET BACK UP TO \$35,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RHYAN LOPEZ, AND APPROVED 6-1 (DAVIDSON ABSTAINED).**

4. **MOTION WAS MADE BY MIKE HILL TO CHANGE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COORDINATOR FUNDING BY INCREASING IT BACK TO 50% GENERAL FUND AND 50% BTAC. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RHYAN LOPEZ, AND DEFEATED 2-3 (DAVIDSON AND BALDWIN ABSTAINED).**

5. Confirming the City Manager interview process. (*Steward*)

*Dave Wilbrecht reviewed the upcoming City Manager interview process.*

#### **I. COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS**

1. Whatcom Council of Governments – Richard May requested the latest talking points regarding the Bell Road project.
2. Friends of the Blaine Library – Kerena Higgins inquired about potential grant opportunities for a new Library.
3. Eric Davidson reported on opportunities in the State Legislature to possibly get funding for environmental and educational economic development for Blaine.

#### **J. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

*None*

#### **K. CALENDARS**

*Information on how to listen to the meeting live will be on the City Council agenda which is located on the City's website homepage under Your Government, City Council, City Council Agenda. Please check the agenda prior to each meeting as the call in number or location may change.*

November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

City Offices Closed

Monday, November 28

5:00pm – Public Works CIP Budget and General Fund Budget

6:00pm – City Council Meeting: Continued Public Hearing on 2023 Budget.

Thursday, December 1

9:00am – Ad Hoc Downtown Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 8

9:00am – Park and Cemetery Board Meeting \*CANCELLED\*

6:00pm – Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, December 12

6:00pm – City Council Meeting

*Contact information for staff and Councilmembers can be found on the City's website.*

#### **L. COUNCIL UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None*

#### **M. COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS**

*None*

**N. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** – *The Council convened in executive session at 7:17 PM for 50 minutes to discuss qualifications of an applicant for public employment pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (I)(iii), with no action to be taken.*

#### **O. ADJOURN: 8:07 PM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lou Steward, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

*Council minutes for November 28, 2022, were approved at the December 12, 2022, Council meeting.*

*Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirement: The meeting location is accessible. If you require a special accommodation during your attendance at any public meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office (360) 332-8311 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting date you will be attending. Thank you.*

#### **Information on how to view or listen to this City Council Meeting live is below.**

##### **Meeting Details**

For information on how to join a Zoom meeting via web browser, please read our advice here:

[How to Use Zoom Meeting](#)

**Follow the instructions below to join the meeting by desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone:**

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*Follow the instructions below if you want to **give testimony during audience participation or public hearing**. Please note that only testimony on the public hearing topic will be placed into the record.*

2. When the Chair opens the Audience Participation or Public Hearing, please “raise your hand” (via the “raise hand” option in Zoom) and you will be placed in a queue. When it is your time to speak, the Zoom moderator will call on you and provide you five minutes to make your comments (if you're not planning on providing public comment, no action is required once you join the meeting).

For information on how to use the **Raise Hand** function in Zoom, please read our advice here: [Zoom Tips on Raising Your Hand](#)

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