



Minutes

City Council Meeting

November 12th, 2024

6:30pm

Baldwin Police Training Center, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Council member Erik Keith, Council member Kerri Davis, Council member Maarten Venter (via phone), and Council member Alice Venter were all in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Almagno called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Invocation and Pledge

Swearing In of Nancy Lehman to Post 2

Mayor Almagno swore Nancy Lehman to Post 2 of the Baldwin City Council.

Fire Department Promotion

Chief Roy formally promoted Firefighter Mason Murray to the position of Lieutenant.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Retreat 10/3-4/24, Council Meeting 10/28/24, and Work Session 11/4/24.
- b. Recognition of Revenue

CAO Emily Woodmaster reviewed the revenue to be recognized: \$1,400 from the Fire Department reimbursement and \$17,719.23 from the 2023 Homestead Relief Grant reimbursement from the Georgia Department of Revenue

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0.

Public Comments

No one came forward.

Public Hearings

Reports

Old Business

1. Consideration/Approval of 2025 Council Meeting Calendar

Council had no further questions or comments.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the 2025 Council Meeting Calendar as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Consideration/Approval of ARPA Funds Obligation

Woodmaster reviewed the task of obligating ARPA funds prior to December 31st as

discussed at the previous work session, where Woodmaster provided Council a list of potential projects that need funding and could be allocated or completed before the deadline.

The Council originally allocated \$558,000 in ARPA funds for the Solids Handling Building, but the City will not be able to complete the project by the deadline. Woodmaster still proposes paying for the screw press with the originally committed \$382,198 in ARPA funds (part of the \$558,000), but she requested modifying the change order to add \$55,000 to cover the entire cost of the screw press and complete the purchase of the screw press.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to authorize the execution of the change order in the amount of \$508,556.50 with a second by Nancy Lehman. Motion Carried 5-0.

A total of \$319,948 in ARPA funds need to be obligated by the end of the year. Woodmaster reviewed the proposed projects that had totals amounts and clarified that the motion today is not for contracting these projects, but authorizing City staff to move forward with those projects. All items will still come before the Council for approval.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the ARPA funds obligation list as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0

New Business

3. Consideration/Approval of Police Department Vehicle Additions

The Police Department currently has nine police officers on the force and all of them require vehicles to effectively do their work. The two 2017 Ford Explorers are at the point where it's no longer worth expensing money into them (one engine has already blown). Woodmaster presented two lease agreements from Enterprise for two 2024 Chevy Silverados.

When Council approved the vehicle lease program two years ago, the City utilized three funding mechanisms: SPLOST VII, Public Safety Funds, and the General Fund. These new vehicles are proposed to be funded through the General Fund as originally presented, but still had to be brought before Council for approval.

The two Chevy Silverados are ready for the City once the lease agreements are approved. The two Explorers will be stripped of equipment and surplussed.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the lease agreement for two additional Police Department vehicles through Enterprise with a monthly cost of \$3,444.40 to be expensed from FY25 funds and to authorize the CAO to execute the agreement as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0.

Executive Session

Announcements

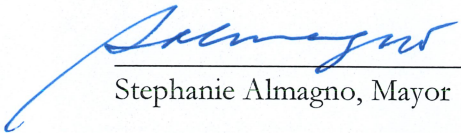
- a. City offices will be closed on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- b. The 3rd Annual Baldwin Thanksgiving Community Potluck Dinner will be on November 28th starting at 4:30 pm at the Baldwin Fire Department. This potluck is open to all Baldwin residents. We will provide the turkey and ham and ask that guests bring a favorite dish to share. Please RSVP to 470-208-9842 with the number of guests and

dish details for the menu.

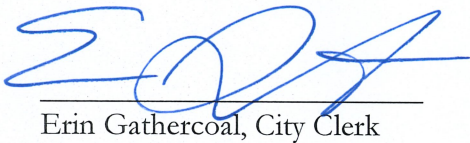
- c. The Baldwin Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Friday, December 6th at 6:00 pm. Ring in the Christmas season with Christmas carols by Baldwin Elementary School Choir as we light the tree, and enjoy FREE pictures with Santa, FREE cookies and cocoa, and FREE train rides around the park!
- d. Council member Alice Venter provided an update on the hurricane relief effort and shared an update on work done with Patriot Relief, Cabins for Christ, and the Amish in North Carolina.
- e. Mayor Almagno reminded the public of the disposal unit for prescription drugs located at the Baldwin Police Department.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Erik Keith to adjourn the meeting with a second by Maarten Venter. Motion Carried 5-0 at 7:09 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

12/09/2024
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

