



Minutes
City Council Work Session
July 5th, 2023
6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Acting Mayor Alice Venter, Council Member Theron Ayers, Council Member Stephanie Almagno, and Council Member Maarten Venter were in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

Acting Mayor Alice Venter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Public Hearing

Old Business

New Business

1. Savant Learning Systems Virtual Academy

Police Captain Justin Ferguson presented a quote and a contract for Savant Learning Systems Virtual Academy. Virtual Academy is recognized by Georgia P.O.S.T. and would allow Baldwin officers to get further up-to-date training while on duty during downtime, reducing overtime and travel costs. Georgia state law requires police officers to maintain a minimum of 20 hours of training per year, while Baldwin Police Department policy requires a minimum of 50 hours per year.

Virtual Academy's field training module (FTO) would assist Ferguson and Chief Jones in identifying strengths and weaknesses in an officer's training progress, so any problems can be corrected as they are identified. Currently, the field training officer fills out daily observation reports on paper and review them with the trainee at the end of each shift. The FTO tracks progress and would clearly show inclines or declines in various subjects of training. Baldwin's current method does not have a way of running any kind of progress report. The FTO allows electronic document storage, which is always accessible. Ferguson stated that this would supplement in-person training, not replace it.

The full-access one-year contract would cost \$1,050. This cost was added into the Police Department's FY24 budget, so this would not be a new cost, however, it must be presented to Council as it is a contract. City Attorney Bubba Samuels has reviewed the agreement and had no concerns.

Council was in consensus to bring this forward at Monday night's meeting.

2. Razzetto Childcare Center Special Use Permit

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented a request for a Special Use Permit from Mary Razzetto, who would like to implement an in-home daycare in her residence in Mallard Pond. Razzetto previously operated a daycare from her home in Flowery Branch before moving to Baldwin. She has her state license and is authorized to care for up to six children without adding additional components to her home, but with Razzetto's residence being zoned R-1, she would require a Special Use Permit to operate in Baldwin with a business license.

Woodmaster has spoken with Fire Chief Roy who had no concerns with the request as long as the house does not exceed the maximum occupancy. Razzetto's yard must also be completely fenced in, and she also has more than enough space to meet the required 100 square feet of play area per child. Woodmaster stated that she had no concerns with Razzetto's request and given that this is a zoning special use permit, her neighbors will have the opportunity to come to a council meeting and speak in favor or in opposition during a public hearing.

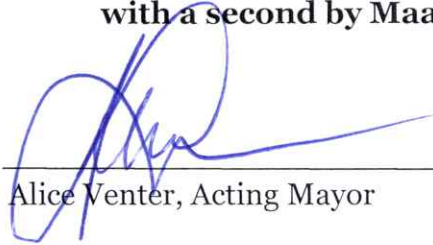
Council was in consensus to bring this forward to Monday's meeting.

Announcements

- a. The Piedmont Library System Pop Up Rolling Library will be set up at the Farmers' Market in Baldwin from 11 am – 12:00 pm this Friday and every Friday through the end of July. We encourage all our residents to come and check out or return books. This is available to anyone with a PINES library card. Cards can be issued on site for those that do not currently have one. Those attending the Pop Up Rolling Library with children will also receive food bags courtesy of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.
- b. The City of Baldwin Back to School Bash will be Saturday, July 29th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Life Church. Everything at this event will be free of charge, including games and activities, food, school supplies giveaways for grades K-12, and haircuts from local hairdressers and barbers. If you are interested in donating supplies, please contact City Hall at 706-778-6341.
- c. Shop with a Hero is happening early this year! Every ticket you purchase equals an entry in a raffle for a Pit Boss Pro grill on July 31st! All proceeds go towards giving local kids an unforgettable Christmas, emergency victim assistance, local elderly support, and community outreach and engagement. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at City Hall, Baldwin Fire Department, and Baldwin Police Department! For more information, contact Fire Chief Joe Roy at jroy@cityofbaldwin.org or call City Hall at 706-778-6341.
- d. Council recapped the success of the Baldwin City "Pit"nic and thanked staff for volunteering their time and the generous sponsors who made the event possible.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Theron Ayers to adjourn the meeting with a second by Maarten Venter. Motion Carried 3-0 at 7:04 pm.



Alice Venter, Acting Mayor



Emily Woodmaster, CAO

7/10/2023

Date Approved by Council

