



Minutes

City Council Work Session

December 3rd, 2024

6:30 pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Councilmember Erik Keith, Councilmember Nancy Lehman, Councilmember Kerri Davis, Councilmember Maarten Venter, and Councilmember Alice Venter were all in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

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

Public Hearing

Reports

Code Compliance - Officer Chris Thomason

Officer Chris Thomason explained some specific data points from his most recent staff report submitted to Council and also shared some details about a Code concern that began in July and was recently resolved in Baldwin's Municipal Court in November.

Officer Thomason reviewed one "unsuccessful" Code issue involving the Noise Ordinance and how the vagueness of the document restricts Code or the Police from enforcing the ordinance. Mayor Almagno suggested the creation of a committee after the first of the year to review the noise ordinance and update the document.

Thomason also stated that the software he uses for reports and records is in need of an upgrade. Currently, he utilizes InterOps, the same software as the Police Department, and the software is not built for code compliance. Thomason also expressed concern about ongoing customer service issues with the company.

Council had no further questions or concerns for Officer Thomason.

Old Business

1. ARPA Fund Obligation Updates

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented an updated list of quotes for the ARPA fund obligation projects so that they may be approved at the next Council meeting to meet the December 31st deadline. Due to the higher costs for the Air Relief Valves and the Pressure Reducing Valves, Woodmaster recommended removing the Public Works pole barn from the list and utilizing the original allocated funds for the project.

City Engineer Fletcher Holliday reviewed the three quotes for the Water Treatment Plant. All three projects are needed, as all three relate to the Water Treatment Plant's ability to safely function day-to-day. First, the Chattahoochee River has overwhelmed the riverbank several times due to high rain events, causing significant erosion of the pump station foundation. Second, painting the interior of the Plant will protect the pipes from corrosion, which will involve prepping the metal beams, constructing a cover to protect the filtration systems from any debris during the process, and the actual labor of painting the facility

and the side storage room. The new quote is for \$82,000 with a local contractor and is significantly lower than the previous estimates. Third, at the Raw Water Intake, both the pump station and the electrical building have several roof leaks, which pose serious damage risks. \$12,184 has been quoted to repair both structures and establish a watertight seal.

Council was in consensus to move forward with a vote on the project list at Monday night's council meeting.

New Business

2. Qualifying Fees for 2025 Election

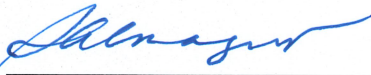
Woodmaster presented a rough draft of the ordinance for the 2025 General Election Qualifying Fee, which must be approved by Council no later than February 1st. Woodmaster stated that she is not expecting the Council to make a decision at the December council meeting, because Habersham County (who manages Baldwin elections via IGA) has not determined the timeline for qualifying. However, she did ask Council to review the document and decide whether to keep the fee the same or to change it and be ready to move forward with a vote in January.

Announcements


- a. The Baldwin Christmas Tree Lighting will be this Friday, December 6th at 6:00 pm at Mitchell Gailey Park. 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! Woodmaster added that there will be fire pits and recommended attendees bundle up to prepare for the cold weather.
- b. Mayor Almagno thanked all contributors for a successful community Thanksgiving dinner, where there were more than 30 attendees.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to adjourn the meeting with a second by Kerri Davis Motion Carried 5-0 at 7:19 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

12/09/2024
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

