



# Minutes

City Council Meeting

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

6:30 pm

Baldwin Municipal Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

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Present: Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Councilmember Erik Keith, Councilmember Nancy Lehman, Councilmember Kerri Davis, Councilmember Maarten Venter (via phone), and Councilmember Alice Venter (via phone) were all in attendance.

## ***Call Meeting to Order***

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

## ***Invocation and Pledge***

Mayor Almagno listed those present at the meeting.

## ***Consent Agenda***

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 1/27/25.

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***

## ***New Business***

1. Consideration/Approval of Fire Truck Motor Rebuild

Assistant Fire Chief Shaun Benfield presented an expense request to rebuild the motor on Engine 42, which is approximately 30 years old. The only way to repair the motor is to completely rebuild it, at a total cost for parts and labor quoted at \$28,965.00.

CAO Emily Woodmaster stated that as this expense is unexpected, the cost was not built into the FY25 budget. Woodmaster provided a breakdown of Public Safety Funds, recommending utilizing these funds to pay for the motor rebuild, leaving an approximate balance of \$5,456. If Council approved the expense, Benfield estimated the total time for the rebuild to be just over a month.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the Fire Truck Motor Rebuild, not to exceed \$29,000 and to be expensed from Public Safety Funds as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Consideration/Approval of Fieldale Farms Zoning Change Ordinance [#2025-02161Z](#)

Woodmaster presented a zoning change request from Fieldale Farms for a property

adjacent to the main Fieldale headquarters at the end of Duncan Bridge Road and Gainesville Highway. Fieldale is proposing to utilize the "L"-shaped property for a solar panel farm. At some point, this property was zoned Planned Development District, which means the applicable zone regulations were to be set by the Council when proposed development was brought forward. Fieldale is requesting to rezone this property to Light Industrial to allow for the solar farm. At this time, this ordinance only proposes a zoning change without conditions.

Alex Sullivan of Fieldale Farms addressed the Council regarding the request, stating that the project has been in the works for two years and is part of a sustainability plan for Fieldale. Sullivan also stated that the solar panels are manufactured in Dalton, Georgia.

Woodmaster is still in communication with Georgia Power regarding a concern with the project's impervious surface. As this is a zoning change, there will be a public hearing at the March work session, and a second reading at the first March meeting.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the first reading of Fieldale Farms Zoning Change Ordinance #2025-02161Z as presented with a second by Nancy Lehman. Motion Carried 5-0.


### *Executive Session*

### *Announcements*

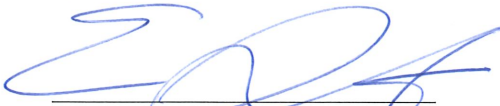
- a. City Offices will be closed Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of Presidents' Day.
- b. City of Baldwin Property Taxes are due February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received your tax bill, please contact City Hall at 706-778-6341 or [cityclerk@cityofbaldwin.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbaldwin.org). Failure to receive a bill does not exempt from penalties or interest resulting from payment after the due date.
- c. Homestead Exemption Affidavits for 2025 property taxes are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not have a Homestead Exemption, stop by City Hall or call 706-778-6341 to find out the exemption for which you qualify. If you have a City exemption, but not a County exemption, contact the County Clerk.

### *Adjournment*

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to adjourn the meeting with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0 at 6:50 pm.

  
Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

2/24/2025  
Date Approved by Council

  
Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

