



Minutes

City Council Work Session

September 3rd, 2024

6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Council member Erik Keith, Council member Maarten Venter, and Council member Alice Venter were all in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Almagno called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and announced those present for the meeting.

Principal Rodney Long from Baldwin Elementary School addressed Council and staff to express thanks for the Back to School Bash, sharing gratitude from teachers, parents, and students for the event and community support throughout the year.

Public Hearing

Old Business

New Business

1. Budget Amendment - Insurance Reimbursements

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented a budget amendment for an increase of \$800.00 for insurance reimbursements for the Fire Department. When Baldwin Fire Department responds to a motor vehicle accident, our name is put on the claim and reimbursement is sent to the City after the insurance company pays. The City does not regularly see these funds, so the line item must be increased from \$0.00 to \$800.00 to recognize those funds as revenue. Council was in consensus to bring this forward for a vote on Monday night.

2. Water Sale Agreement

Woodmaster presented a five-year water sale agreement with the City of Cornelia, which was last adopted in 2019. There is an interconnect with Cornelia on Main Street and Willingham that has been in place for years. The water rate has increased to \$4.82 per 1,000 gallons because of an increase in Cornelia's maintenance and operations costs. Baldwin utilized the Cornelia water as a supplement to that side of the system while the water tower was being erected. Once the tower was complete, all of those customers were placed back on City of Baldwin water. While Baldwin does not use this water now, up to 150,000 gallons per day is available in the event it is needed. While there is no monetary value to this agreement anticipated for this fiscal year, \$5,000.00 is built into the budget. Council was in consensus to bring this forward for a vote on Monday night.

3. Entertainment District Resolution [#2024-09150R](#)

Woodmaster presented a resolution to establish a temporary entertainment district for

the sale and consumption of alcohol during the annual Fall Festival. This is the same resolution passed by Council for the 2022 and 2023 Fall Festivals. The resolution states the time and location parameters and lists the only authorized dispenser as Los Cerritos Mexican Restaurant, who will sign an agreement with the City that they will follow all procedures to prevent underage sales. Council was in consensus to bring this forward for a vote on Monday night.

4. 2024 Millage Rate

Woodmaster presented options for the 2024 millage rate (page 8 of information packet), having received both county digests for Banks and Habersham. The annual budget is based on the anticipation of the forthcoming digest, as the City does not receive its digest from each county until after July 1st. Council has 3 options for the 2024 millage rate:

- Brown column - A full rollback of the millage rate, which was not anticipated when preparing the FY25 budget. This would reduce the millage by 0.677, bringing the Habersham millage to 7.804 and the Banks millage to 3.384 (after LOST).
- Blue column - The minimum required increase in order to meet budgetary needs for FY25 of \$1.1 million. This would increase the millage by .689, bringing the Habersham millage to 9.170 and the Banks millage to 4.750 (after LOST).
- Green column - The anticipated increase of 1.11 mills, used to create the budget and would bring in collections beyond what is needed. This would bring the Habersham millage to 9.591 and the Banks millage to 5.171 (after LOST).

Council member Maarten Venter requested to see the numbers for neither a rollback nor an increase, effectively, if no changes were made, at the next council meeting.

Woodmaster reminded Council that they must decide on the millage rate by the September 23rd council meeting in order to allow for sufficient time for public hearings and advertisement if needed. Council was in consensus to bring this forward for further discussion on Monday night.

Announcements

- a. Join us for Movies in the Market on September 27th starting at 8:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join us for a FREE night of fun at the Farmers' Market at 110 Airport Road. This month we are showing "If." Concessions will be available, with all proceeds going to Shop with a Hero.
- b. The 7th Annual Baldwin Fall Festival will be on October 19th from 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Baldwin Farmers Market and Downtown City Park. Enjoy live music, local crafters and vendors, a wide variety of food trucks, and a closing fireworks show. As always, admission is FREE!
- c. The City of Baldwin is holding a Fall Amnesty Day on November 7th. Baldwin Public Works will pick up and dispose of trash that would normally need to be taken to the

landfill. We will accept scrap metal, paint cans, furniture, and old appliances. Tires and batteries will not be picked up. All items must be placed at the curb no later than 8:00 am on November 7th. Call City Hall at 706-778-6341 to get your name on the list! The deadline to sign up is 4:30 pm on November 4th

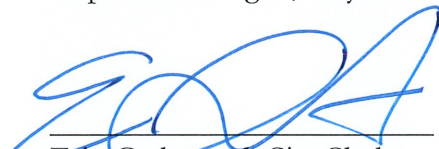
- d. The Public Works Department is holding an open house at the new Public Works building at 201 Industrial Park Road on September 17th. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 6 pm, and residents are welcome to drop in between 6 and 8 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to adjourn the meeting with a second by Alice Venter. Motion Carried 3-0 at 7:05 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

9/09/2024
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

