

Minutes

City Council Meeting

August 26th, 2024

6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

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

Call Meeting to Order

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

Invocation and Pledge

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to amend the agenda with the addition of "Item #5: Consideration/Approval of Habersham County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Resolution #2024-08149R" and an Executive Session for Land Acquisition and Disposal with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 8/12/24.

Council had no additional questions or comments.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

Public Comments

Paul Wolf of 170 Banks Ridge Drive stated that he had submitted a few complaints to City staff about garbage collection, where there have a few instances of having an extra bag that did not fit inside the can being left behind. Wolf requested that when the City renegotiates the contract with FC Sanitation, to include provisions for an occasional extra bag of trash to be picked up.

Public Hearings

Reports

Fire Department – Chief Joe Roy

Chief Roy gave a six-month report from January 2024 – July 2024 on Fire Department calls, training, expected needs, and upcoming projects (see attached report).

Old Business

New Business

1. Consideration/Approval of Habersham County Roads Study

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented a request from Public Works Director Scott Barnhart for a survey of all Baldwin roads in the Habersham County side to determine the priority order of repaving these roads. The cost of the survey is \$6,600 and can be

covered by the Streets Department budget. The expense, however, must be approved by Council since it is over the \$5,000 threshold. Council had no further questions or concerns.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the Habersham County Roads Study, not to exceed \$6,600 and to be expensed from the Streets Department budget as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0.

2. Consideration/Approval of Purchase of Public Works Mower

Woodmaster presented a request for the budgeted purchase of a new Public Works mower to replace a mower that has been out of service for a while. Council had no further questions or concerns.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to authorize the purchase of a Public Works mower, not to exceed \$10,000 and to be expensed from the Streets Department budget as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

3. Consideration/Approval of Updated Blue Line Solutions Contract

Woodmaster presented an Acknowledgement of Agreement for the City of Baldwin and the Georgia Department of Revenue pertaining to the City's Blue Line Solutions contract approved in 2019. Lines 11 and 12 of the Agreement were implemented to ensure clarity for the violator of who to contact if they receive a citation, how to pay the fine, etc. The contract currently in place states that the City will follow all codes and regulations passed by the State of Georgia, and this Agreement acknowledges the implemented changes. Otherwise, no other changes have been made to the contract currently in place with Blue Line Solutions. Council had no further questions or concerns.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the updated Blue Line Solutions contract by authorizing the Acknowledgement of Agreement between the City of Baldwin and the Georgia Department of Revenue as presented and to authorize the CAO to execute the agreement with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

4. Consideration/Approval of Cemetery Overlay Resolution #2024-08148R

Woodmaster presented a resolution clearly stating that the City will not sell plots in what is referred to as the "old section" of the City Cemetery due to lack of record keeping over several decades since the Shore Family deeded the cemetery to the City. Council adopted regulations in December 2023 that state this rule, but a new overlay has been created to clearly delineate the available and unavailable portions of the cemetery. Council had no further questions or concerns.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the Cemetery Overlay Resolution #2024-08148R as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0.

5. Consideration/Approval of Habersham County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Resolution #2024-08149R

Woodmaster reminded Council about the county Hazard Mitigation Plans that must be updated every five years for both Habersham and Banks County. The Hazard Mitigation Plan for Banks County was approved several months ago, and now that Habersham's plans have been approved, each of the cities must pass a resolution stating that they agree with the presented Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council had no further questions or comments.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the Habersham County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Resolution #2024-08149R as presented with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

Mayor Almagno read the announcements prior to entering Executive Session.

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. Council member Kerri Davis announced a silent book club meeting at Sweet Acre Winery on September 8th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Davis welcomed all with a love for reading and stated anyone with questions could contact her.

Executive Session

Land Acquisition and Disposal


Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to close the regular session and to enter into executive session for land acquisition and disposal with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0 at 7:15 pm.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to reenter the regular session from executive session and to authorize the execution of the affidavit for an executive session for land acquisition and disposal during which land acquisition and disposal were discussed and no action was taken with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0 at 8:05 pm.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to adjourn the meeting with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0 at 8:06 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk



9/09/2024
Date Approved by Council