



Minutes
City Council Meeting
January 16th, 2024
6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Council Member Erik Keith, Council Member Joseph Satterfield, Council Member Kerri Davis, 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.

Invocation and Pledge

Pastor Bob Petty of Life Church gave the invocation.

Employee Recognition – Susan Newsom and Cindy Hernandez

CAO Emily Woodmaster recognized Clerk of Court Susan Newsom for 20 years of service with the City of Baldwin and Accounts Receivable Supervisor Cindy Hernandez as City Hall’s Employee of the Year.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to table item #3 “Consideration/Approval of Fire Department Fiber Agreement” with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 12/11/23 and Work Session 1/9/24.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0.

Citizen Comments

Public Hearings

Reports

Old Business

1. Consideration/Approval of Council Meeting Procedures

Woodmaster recapped the work session discussion of the opportunity to update council meeting procedures. It was noted that the current procedures state that work sessions were to occur on Thursday when they were moved to Tuesdays in 2020. The council calendar had been adopted with Tuesday work sessions and a resolution would have accompanied the proposed new charter. The charter, however, did not pass and the adopted calendar was honored. Woodmaster stated that a new resolution will be adopted to formally change the work session

date to Tuesdays. Woodmaster reviewed the other proposed changes made to council meeting procedures, which were notated in the information packets.

Council Member Alice Venter stepped out at 6:48 pm and returned at 6:49 pm.

Council Member Maarten Venter stated that he needed more time to consider the procedures.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to table the council meeting procedures to the January 29th meeting with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

New Business

2. Ratification of First Responders' Grant

Woodmaster briefly recapped the First Responders' Grant, stating that it was discussed individually to get consensus of Council to receive the grant awarded. There is no match required, but it will require the opening of an additional bank account, which will be done upon receipt of the grant funds.

Assistant Police Chief Justin Ferguson reviewed the proposed purchases with the awarded grant funds of \$17,300: equipment for breaching and search and rescue, protection plates for bulletproof vests, additional rifle and handgun optics, lighter and less expensive flashlights, and patrol vehicle trauma kits.

The only cost to the City will be approximately \$80 in shipping, which can be taken out of the Police Department equipment line item.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to ratify the First Responders' Grant with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the expenses accompanying the First Responders' Grant as presented by Assistant Chief Ferguson, not to exceed \$17,380, with a second Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 5-0.

~~3. Consideration/Approval of Fire Department Fiber Agreement~~

Executive Session

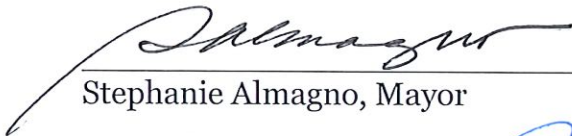
Announcements

- a. The deadline for city property tax payments has been extended to February 16th. Payments can be made at City Hall or online at www.baldwinpayments.com.
- b. Homestead exemption affidavits for property taxes are due April 1st. Please stop by City Hall with your driver's license or other government-issued ID to complete the affidavit.

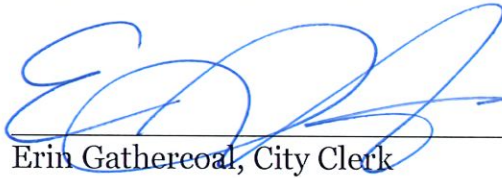
- c. Council Member Maarten Venter asked citizens to check on elderly family members and friends to ensure they have alternative sources of heat with the inclement weather.
- d. Mayor Almagno thanked Assistant Chief Ferguson for conducting the CRASE active shooter training class at Life Church the previous weekend. Another will be held in late spring or early summer, and any businesses or establishments that are interested in having their own class can contact Ferguson.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to adjourn the meeting with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0 at 7:13 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

1/29/2024
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

