



Minutes

City Council Work Session

March 5th, 2024

6:30pm

Baldwin Municipal Court, 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.

Public Hearing

Baldwin Court Apartments Variance Ordinance #2024-02139Z

Mayor Almagno opened the public hearing at 6:31 pm.

In Favor: Tom Wright of Wright Mitchell & Associates Architects spoke in favor of the variance, stating that Baldwin Court Apartments currently provides one bedroom/one bathroom units and that there is a demand for two bedroom/two bathroom units. Wright explained the proposal to remove the unused leasing office and to replace with one new building and 33 new parking spaces. Due to the sloping of the property, the back elevation would have three levels, and the front elevation would match the other buildings with two levels.

Council member Maarten Venter expressed some concern about being able to maintain water infrastructure with the addition of ten units, as Baldwin Court Apartments has a master meter. Venter asked what the City would receive in terms of system connection fees.

Woodmaster stated that a system connection fee can't be assessed until a substantial change in demand for water is made, and that system connection fees are not necessarily assessed per meter.

In Opposition: *No one came forward.*

Old Business

New Business

1. Installation of Lights in Downtown City Park

Woodmaster presented a request for the installation of power in Downtown City Park. With the continuing growth of City events, power is needed at Downtown City Park to be able to accommodate vendors at events and benefit citizens using the property. City staff requested the same scope of work from three companies, but only received one bid from MPE in the amount of \$31,800. This project has been expensed through SPLOST VI and the account needs to be closed, as collections ceased a few years ago, and the City is three years into SPLOST VII. City staff will work alongside MPE and do the trenching work, and Public Works

will likely hydroseed the grass during that time. Estimated time of completion two months.

Adding power is the last item for Downtown City Park to be completed, but this is not the last item to close the SPLOST VI account. Several years prior, Council made the decision to restrict \$34,556 of SPLOST VI funds for the FEMA grant match for a firetruck. Last year, Council made the decision to not apply for that grant, therefore nullifying the restriction of the funds. Those funds will need to be formally unrestricted and then allocated by Council. Currently unrestricted SPLOST VI funds will be \$1,400 short to pay the full \$31,800 for power installation at Downtown City Park. So Council will need to unrestrict the \$34,556, allocate \$1,400 to the power installation, and the remaining \$34,000 will then need to be allocated and expensed on another capital project. Woodmaster shared some ideas for projects that City staff had discussed and welcomed Council's input.

Council was in consensus to bring this forward at Monday's meeting.

Mayor Almagno opened the floor again for anyone to speak in favor or in opposition of the Baldwin Court Apartments variance. No one came forward. Mayor Almagno closed the public hearing at 7:01 pm.

2. GACP Grant for Police Department

Police Chief Chris Jones gave a short history on the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) grant and presented Council with a Memorandum of Understanding. Baldwin policy is for computers to have a lifecycle of four years, and the Police Department's current in-car computers are approaching four years come November 2024. The MOU was originally due March 1st, but Chief Jones was given an extension on the submission deadline so that a section of the MOU regarding a contract with LexisNexis could be removed at legal counsel's recommendation. With this grant, the Police Department will receive \$10,000 for new in-car computers and the City will not have to match any funds. A representative of Baldwin Police Department will have to attend monthly GACP meetings and log statistics like traffic stops and safety checks, which Chief Jones assured Council will be done.

Mayor Almagno extended her thanks to Assistant Executive Director Dwayne Orrick with the GACP for his assistance and the extension for the MOU submission.

Council was in consensus to bring this forward at the special called meeting immediately following the work session.


Announcements

- a. Homestead exemption affidavits for city 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.

- b. Join us for the 25th Baldwin Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Baldwin Farmers’ Market! Celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up Baldwin roads and planting a tree. Free T-shirt and lunch provided for pre-registered participants. Register with your T-shirt sizes at baldwinevents@cityofbaldwin.org by April 5th!

Adjournment

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


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

3/11/2024
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

