

## *Minutes*

City Council Meeting

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

6:30 pm

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

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Mayor Stephanie Almagno, Councilmember Erik Keith (via phone), Councilmember Nancy Lehman, Councilmember Kerri Davis, Councilmember Maarten Venter (via phone), and Councilmember 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*

*Mayor Almagno listed all those present at the meeting.*

### *Consent Agenda*

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 2/10/25.
- b. Approval of \$7,500.00 Budget Amendment from General Fund Balance for prior year Building Inspection Fees
- c. Approval of PD Sale of Surplus: Taser 7s - \$3,600.00

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

### *Public Comments*

Paul Wolf of 170 Banks Ridge Drive followed up regarding issues with trash pickup and the procedure of residents calling City Hall if there are additional bags for pickup. Wolf also thanked the Mayor for sending him the agenda for the meeting. Council discussed landfill and recycling options for both Habersham and Banks County residents.

### *Public Hearings*

### *Reports*

Fire Department - Chief Joe Roy

Chief Joe Roy provided a 2024 year-end report for the Fire Department (see attached).

### *Old Business*

### *New Business*

1. Consideration/Approval of AXON Quote Amendment for Code Compliance

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented a proposed quote amendment from AXON for Code Compliance Officer Chris Thomason for the modification from Taser 7 to Taser 10. The Police Department transferred to Taser 10 at the end of 2024, and while Code Compliance does not fall under the Police Department, City staff want Code to utilize the same equipment as the PD. The City is currently four months into the five-year agreement with AXON, and adding Code's Taser 10 actually reduces the annual cost from approximately

\$3,900 to \$2,377. As this modification is for a contract, it is required to come before Council for approval.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the AXON Quote Amendment for Code Compliance as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 5-0.

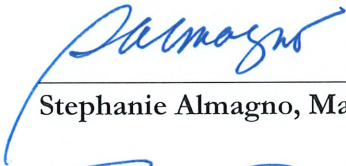
*Executive Session*

*Announcements*

- a. 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.
- b. 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 Nancy Lehman. Motion Carried 5-0 at 7:10 pm.

  
Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

3/10/2025  
Date Approved by Council

  
Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk





**FY2025 Top Priorities:**

- Personnel and Equipment
- Continued improvements to our Training Facility
- Newer Apparatuses to reduce maintenance and repair costs
- Improved Community Relations along with Fire prevention
- EMT-R standard for all Fire Personnel
- Build the newest members of Our Department to Our Standards
- Second Station (Station 42)

**January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024**

**Total CAded Call Volume:** 1116 - Actual response calls were 1086 calls. Some generated CADs are by accident and not dispatched. This is a 16.15% increase over last year. At our current rate we are on pace to run an estimated 1300+ calls in 2025.

*See table for the complete 2024 yearly breakdown.*

**Training Hours Completed:** 5516 hours were completed as a department with individuals varying from 240 to 400+ hours.

**Completed Classes:**

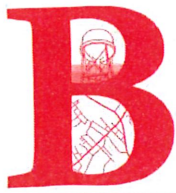
- Fire fighter 1 - 240 hrs
- Fire fighter 2 - 40 hrs
- Hazmat Awareness and Operations - 40 hrs
- Instructor 1 - 40 hrs
- Our First Recruit School - 240 hrs over 8 weeks

**Classes Hosted:**

- Fire fighter 1 - 240 hrs
- Fire fighter 2 - 40 hrs
- Hazmat Awareness and Operations - 40 hrs

**Acquired Equipment:**

- New Equipment
- Physical Fitness Equipment
- Incident Command Board & Accountability system
- Holmatro Mini Cutter
- 2 - Chainsaws



### Monthly Events:

#### January Events:

- Fire Department yearly employee meeting
- Responsibilities assigned

#### February Events:

- Annual Hose Testing
- Lieutenant and Captain Promotion

#### March Events:

- Instructor 1 Class
- City Safety Coordinator Class
- Live Burn training
- Training Tower repairs began

#### April Events:

- LACI FF1 class
- Pinning Ceremony for Promotions
- FF1 Live Burn
- MES serviced E-draulic extrication tools
- Clean-up Day
- Training Tower work continues

#### May Events:

- LACI FF1 class continues
- Public Safety Day cancelled due to weather and postponed
- Set Container at training center
- MES serviced E-draulic extrication tools
- Water Day Public event at The Oaks at Scenic View Nursing Home
- Training Tower work Continues

#### June Events:

- Tower 41 in Alto City Parade
- LACI HAZMAT class
- Ladder Testing

## City of Baldwin Monthly Fire Incident Count

	Basic Incident Month Name	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21)	Basic Incident Type (FD1.21)													Count of Fire Incidents Grand Total	Percent of Count of Fire Incidents Grand Total
1 - Fire	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire		1				1							2	0.18%
	Building fire	1	3	2				2	2	2	1	1	3	17	1.57%
	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1												1	0.09%
	Cooking fire, confined to container	1		2										3	0.28%
	Forest, woods or wildland fire		1	1									1	3	0.28%
	Grass fire				1									1	0.09%
	Incinerator overload or malfunction, fire confined				1									1	0.09%
	Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire		1						1			2		4	0.37%
	Passenger vehicle fire					1						1		2	0.37%
	Road freight or transport vehicle fire									1				1	0.09%
	Special outside fire, other				2			2						4	0.37%
	Trash or rubbish fire, contained				1						1			2	0.18%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4%</b>
2 - Overpressure	Excessive heat,					1		1						2	0.18%

	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)				1		1						1	4	0.37%
	Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill												1	1	0.09%
	Oil or other combustible liquid spill			1									1	1	0.09%
	Overheated motor												1	1	0.09%
	Phone or Cable TV line down				1					1			1	3	0.28%
	Power line down	1	1	1			1	1	1				2	8	0.74%
	Transformer Malfunction				1			1					2	4	0.37%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>5 - Service Call</b>	Animal problem				1			1						2	0.18%
	Assist invalid	5	1	1	2			6	2	5	5	3	2	32	2.96%
	Assist police or other governmental agency	1						2						3	0.28%
	Cover assignment, standby, moveup										1			1	0.09%
	Fire Dept event: Fill the boot, fundraisers, etc												1	1	0.09%
	Lock-out	1												1	0.09%
	Police matter			1				1	2				1	5	0.46%
	Public service								2		1	1	2	6	0.55%
	Smoke or odor removal			1	1	1								3	0.28%
	Tree Down, Weather Related				1			1		1				3	0.28%
	Unauthorized burning								1	1		1		3	0.28%
	Water or steam leak		1		1	1							2	5	0.46%

	Unintentional upon arrival															
	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction							1	1				1		3	0.28%
	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional												1		1	0.09%
	Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	1													1	0.09%
<b>Subtotal</b>		5	1	5	3	1	4	7	6	4	4	4	3	4	47	4%
8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	Lightning strike (no fire)														1	0.09%
	Tree Down, Weather Related														1	0.09%
<b>Subtotal</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0%
9 - Special Incident Type	Citizen complaint								1						1	0.09%
<b>Subtotal</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>		84	66	89	88	63	85	99	90	96	93	102	127	1,082	100.00%	