



Minutes
City Council Meeting
January 9th, 2023
6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Mayor Joe Elam, Council Member Alice Venter, Council Member Maarten Venter, Council Member Theron Ayers, Council Member Larry Lewallen, and Council Member Stephanie Almagno were all in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

Invocation and Pledge

Economic Development Discussion (maximum 20 minutes)

Council made a commitment at the fall retreat to dedicate 20 minutes at each work session to discuss economic development in Baldwin, and the commitment was forgotten at the January work session. Mayor Elam proposed postponing the discussion to the next council meeting and Council was in consensus. No action was taken.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 11/28/22, Work Session 12/8/22, Council Meeting 12/12/22, and Work Session 1/3/23.
- b. FD Revenue Recognition for Cornelia Turnout Gear Reimbursement \$3,308
- c. FD Expense Approval of Turnout Gear \$3,308
- d. FD Expense Approval for Ladder Truck Maintenance \$6,400.00

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the consent agenda as presented along with the rephrasing of item (b) to clarify that Baldwin's turnout gear was used by Cornelia, who is reimbursing Baldwin the \$3,308 with a second by Stephanie Almagno. Motion Carried 5-0.

Citizen Comment

Public Hearings

Reports

Old Business

1. Consideration/Approval of SAFER GRANT

Chief Roy addressed Council regarding the SAFER Grant Application, giving JMCM Consulting authorization to proceed with preparing the application for Baldwin. This form acknowledges the required upfront fee of \$1,500, as well as the potential cost of \$5,000 if Baldwin is awarded the grant. Both costs will come from the Fire Department's budget, however, the potential \$5,000 will not be paid until the FY24 budget cycle. Both JMCM and FEMA will assign Baldwin a representative to work with the Fire Department for the first few months after being awarded the grant. If Baldwin is not awarded the grant, the writer will update and continue to submit the application until awarding.

Grant submission opens January 9th and closes January 30th, but the decision of awarding will not be made until September.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the SAFER Grant application at a cost of \$1,500 upfront and a potential \$5,000 payable to JMCM Consulting if and only if Baldwin Fire Department receives the SAFER Grant, and the consultant will continue to process the application until the grant is awarded or Council makes the decision to cease applying with a second by Stephanie Almagno. Motion Carried 5-0.

New Business

2. Consideration/Approval of Qualifying Fees Ordinance #2023-01118

CAO Emily Woodmaster addressed Council regarding this current election year. All of the dates and locations featured in the ordinance have been confirmed by Habersham County Election Supervisor Laurel Ellison. The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 (see section two). Three Baldwin City Council seats (Posts 1, 2 and 3) are open for reelection, and they are currently held by Council Members Lewallen, Ayers, and Almagno respectively. This post will serve from January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2027 (see section four).

The qualifying period for the general election will be from August 21st, 2023 to August 25th, 2023 and located at the South Precinct at 403 Habersham County Shopping Center, Cornelia, GA 30531 (see section five).

The qualifying fee for each of the open positions is currently \$35.00, and Woodmaster recommended keeping the fee as such. That fee is paid to Habersham County at the time of the candidate's application and notice of running (see section six). A pauper's affidavit may be filed in lieu of paying the qualifying fee if the candidate meets all the requirements.

All election appointments are handled via intergovernmental agreement with Habersham County (see section seven).

The last day for voter registration for the 2023 General Election is October 10th, 2023. Early voting will be October 16th through November 3rd and is currently slated to be conducted at the Ruby C. Fulbright Aquatic Center in Clarkesville (see section 11). If that location changes, citizens will be notified in advance.

The second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for January 23rd, 2023. Once the ordinance is passed, it will be advertised in Baldwin's legal organ *The Northeast Georgian*.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to accept the 1st Reading of Ordinance #2023-01118 as presented with a second by Larry Lewallen. Motion Carried 5-0.

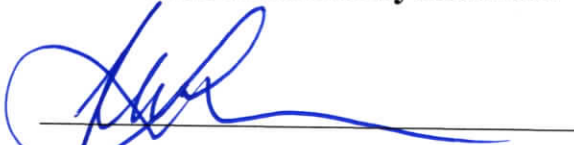
Executive Session

Announcements

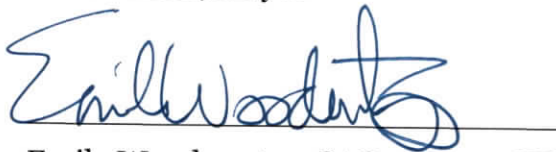
- a. City Offices will be closed on January 16th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Theron Ayers to adjourn the meeting with a second by Maarten Venter. Motion Carried 5-0.



Alice Venter, Mayor



Emily Woodmaster, CAO

2/13/2023

Date Approved by Council

