



Minutes
City Council Meeting
May 13th, 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, and Council Member Maarten Venter were in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

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

Invocation and Pledge

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Retreat 4/17-19/24, Council Meeting 4/29/24, and Work Session 5/7/24.

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

Public Comments

Nick Shirley (of 490 Highland Pointe Drive) recapped his concern brought to the Council in April to address road conditions and speeding issues in Highland Pointe Subdivision. Shirley had surveyed the neighborhood and collected signatures from those in favor of installing speed bumps, stating the response was positive.

CAO Emily Woodmaster stated that since Highland Pointe Subdivision is slated to be repaved over the next few years, temporary speed bumps (like the ones at City Hall) can be installed. Woodmaster said she would speak with Public Works Director Scott Barnhart about installing the speed bumps and posting the speed limit.

Council Member Maarten Venter shared his appreciation to Shirley for going to his neighbors, stating that making the decision about speed bumps is much easier knowing that the neighborhood is in favor of the installation.

Public Hearings

Reports

Municipal Court – Susan Newsom

Clerk of Court Susan Newsom gave Council a quarterly report for Municipal Court. Her current priorities are creating the FY25 court budget and creating more office space to allow for a full-time employee. Newsom is working to smooth out court security procedures and efficiency, ensuring there are enough officers for security and to provide transport. Newsom also possibly has a lead

with the City of Helen in finding a certified licensed court interpreter located closer to Baldwin, a mandate passed down by the state as of January 1st.

Old Business

1. Consideration/Approval of PTO Supplement for Exempt Employees

Woodmaster recapped the proposed three policy amendments to allow salaried employees to have a vacation allotment in their salary instead of a weekly PTO accrual. The expectation is that time will be taken off at the discretion of the employee's department head or city manager. When first implemented, any current PTO "banks" will be paid out to the employees, and their current accrual rate will be converted into regular salary pay going forward.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the PTO Supplement for Exempt Employees policy amendments as presented with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0.

New Business

2. Ratification of Consent Order for Alto Mountain Grocery (BP Gas)

Legal Counsel Jack Samuels presented the consent order for Alto Mountain Grocery for the selling of alcohol to a minor, created by Samuels and attorney Adam Harkness. The terms of the consent order that the business owner will pay a \$750 fine for underage selling, correct all zoning and life safety issues on the premises, update the employee handbook section on proper identification to prevent underage sales, and pay all past due personal property taxes and water bills.

Harkness provided Samuels a \$750 check for the fine and confirmed that all other terms in the consent order have been addressed.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to ratify the consent order for Alto Mountain Grocery, as previously approved at the hearing on May 1st, 2024, with a second by Joseph Satterfield. Motion Carried 4-0.

Action: A motion was made by Erik Keith to amend the agenda to read announcements prior to executive session with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 4-0.

Announcements

- a. The City of Baldwin will host a Town Hall Meeting for the FY2025 budget tomorrow night at 6:30 pm at the Baldwin Farmers' Market at 110 Airport Road. We invite citizens to ask questions, meet department heads and staff, and discuss the future of Baldwin.

- b. Join us for the Movie in the Market on May 24th, starting at 8:30 p.m.. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and join us for a FREE night of fun at the Farmers' Market located at 110 Airport Road. This month we will be showing Moana. Concessions are available, with all proceeds going to Shop with a Hero.
- c. City Offices will be closed May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.
- d. Join the City of Baldwin at the next reFRESH Market on May 25th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Baldwin City Hall. Shop fruits & veggies, honey, fresh eggs, and other goods from local farmers and vendors. If you are interested in selling your products at the reFRESH Market for FREE, contact John at City Hall for more information or visit www.cityofbaldwin.org for a vendor application.
- e. Mayor Almagno recognized City Clerk Erin Gathercoal for City Clerk's Week and thanked the Public Works department for handling the fall out of last week's storms.

Executive Session

Executive Session for Personnel

Action: A motion was made by Erik Keith to close the regular session and move into executive session for personnel with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion carried 4-0 at 6:59 pm.

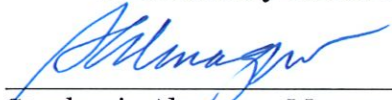
Maarten Venter excused himself from executive session and left the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm.

Action: A motion was made by Erik Keith to reenter the regular session from executive session and authorize the execution of the affidavit for an executive session for personnel during which personnel was discussed and no action was taken with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 3-0 at 8:24 pm.

Action: A motion was made by Kerri Davis to accept the executive session minutes from April 18th, 2024 as presented with a second by Joseph Satterfield. Motion Carried 3-0.

Adjournment

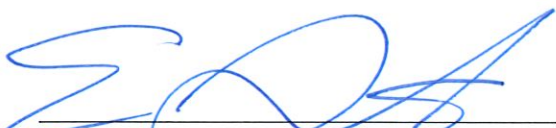
Action: A motion was made by Erik Keith to adjourn the meeting with a second by Kerri Davis. Motion Carried 3-0 at 8:26 pm.



 Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

5/28/2024

 Date Approved by Council



 Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

