



Agenda

City Council Meeting
November 13th, 2023
6:30pm

Baldwin Courtroom, 155 Willingham Avenue, Baldwin, GA 30511

Acting Mayor Alice Venter, Council Member Erik Keith, Council Member Theron Ayers, Council Member Stephanie Almagno, and Council Member Maarten Venter were all in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

Acting Mayor Alice Venter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Invocation and Pledge

Pastor Samuel Negron from Iglesia Principe de Paz gave the invocation.

Swearing In of Mayor Elect Stephanie Almagno

Acting Mayor Alice Venter gave a brief statement before swearing in Stephanie Almagno as Mayor of the City of Baldwin.

Mayor Stephanie Almagno gave a statement, thanking voters, supporters, and City staff.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting 10/23/2023, Special Called Meeting 10/27/2023, Special Called Meeting 11/2/2023, and Work Session 11/6/2023.
- b. Wastewater Treatment Plant Heat Pump Expense: \$5,948.00

Action: A motion was made by Theron Ayers to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Maarten Venter. Motion Carried 4-0.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the wastewater treatment plant expense with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to amend the agenda to remove item #2 “Consideration/Approval of 1st Reading of Precision Digital SUP Ordinance #2023-10132Z” and to replace it with “Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem” with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0.

Citizen Comments

Public Hearings

Precision Digital SUP – Ordinance #2023-10132Z

City Attorney Jack Samuels opened the public hearing at 6:44 pm and read the highlighted portion of the ordinance.

In Favor: Tim Barbir of Precision Digital spoke in favor of the special use permit, speaking on the mutually beneficial relationship his business proposed the City

and how citizens will see benefits through franchise fees. Barbir complimented the ease of working with Baldwin staff and thanked Council for the opportunity to address.

In Opposition: None.

The public hearing was left open while Mayor and Council continued with the remainder of the agenda.

Reports

Old Business

1. Consideration/Approval of 2024 Council Meeting Calendar
The calendar was presented to Council for review at the work session. Since then, the Court calendar has been added, with meetings that may be affected by Court noted on the overall meeting list.

Action: A motion was made by Maarten Venter to approve the 2024 council meeting calendar as presented with a second by Theron Ayers. Motion Carried 4-0.

New Business

2. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

With Almagno's swearing in as Mayor and Alice Venter returning to her seat at Post 5, a new Mayor Pro Tem is needed to serve as Mayor in the event Almagno is unable to serve.

Action: A motion was made by Theron Ayers to nominate Maarten Venter to serve as Mayor Pro Tem with a second by Erik Keith. Venter accepted the nomination. Motion Carried 4-0.

3. Consideration/Approval of Fire Department Nepotism Waiver

CAO Emily Woodmaster presented a request for a waiver of the City's nepotism policy. The policy has a clause that states the policy may be waived by the City Council "in situations involving rare and critical skills." This policy was waived in February so that Hayden Benfield, son of Assistant Fire Chief Shaun Benfield, could be employed with City of Baldwin Fire Department part-time. There is now a full-time position available, and the request is that the policy be waived so that Hayden can be employed at Baldwin full-time. Since beginning work with Baldwin in February, Hayden has received nine NPQ certifications.

Fire Chief Joe Roy stated that Hayden Benfield would be a great asset to the City of Baldwin, and explained how Hayden would skip the Assistant Chief and go straight to Chief Roy in instances of addressing the chain of command.

Action: A motion was made by Alice Venter to approve the Fire Department nepotism waiver for Hayden Benfield with a second by Theron Ayers. Motion Carried 4-0.

City Attorney Jack Samuels opened the floor again to speak in favor or in opposition of the Precision Digital Special Use Permit Ordinance #2023-10132Z. No one came forward.

Mayor Almagno closed the public hearing at 7:06 pm.

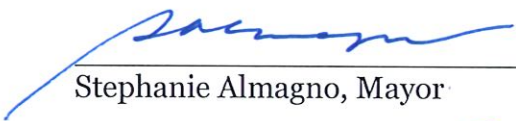
Executive Session

Announcements


- a. The City Council Fall Retreat will be November 16th and 17th from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at 202 Luthi Road, Alto, GA 30510.
- b. The City of Baldwin will be hosting the 2nd Baldwin Thanksgiving Community Potluck on November 23rd from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm at the Baldwin Fire Department. This potluck is open to all Baldwin residents. We will provide the turkey and ham and ask that you bring your favorite family dish to share. Please reserve a seat by emailing ewoodmaster@cityofbaldwin.org or by texting 470-208-9842.
- c. City Offices will be closed on November 23rd and November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Theron Ayers to adjourn the meeting with a second by Erik Keith. Motion Carried 4-0 at 7:08 pm.


Stephanie Almagno, Mayor

11/27/2023
Date Approved by Council


Erin Gathercoal, City Clerk

