

City of Baxter
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Hall
February 2, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Opening of Meeting, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Police Chief Danny Holmes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Putnam County Clerk Wayne Nabors led the Invocation and Police Chief Danny Holmes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Roll Call

Court Clerk Lorie Buford called roll. Present were Councilman Dustin Stanton, Councilman Greg Phillips, Councilman Jeff Herald and Mayor John Martin.

3. Communications From Mayor John Martin

Mayor Martin commended David Funk of Funk's Landscaping for providing the city with numerous flowering trees for the Baxter Seminary Park.

4. Oath of Office

Putnam County Clerk Wayne Nabors swore in Patrolmen Nik Agee and Allen Cool as Baxter police officers and had them sign the Oath of Office.

5. Blue Line Solutions – Automated Speed Enforcement System

Ryan Moore with Blue Line Solutions gave a presentation regarding the company's automated speed enforcement system which would help cut down on speeding in school zones. The system uses LIDAR automated photo technology. After a 30-day warning period, speeders going 11 miles over the speed limit will receive a citation in the mail from Blue Line Solutions. These tickets are a civil infraction and will not go on the speeder's driving record. There will be no cost to the city other than the monthly cost of electricity which should be less than the cost of a street light. Blue Line Solutions will split the \$50 fine fifty/fifty with the city. Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to sign a two-year agreement with Blue Line Solutions for this system. Councilman Greg Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion carried.

6. Minutes

Approval of minutes from the regular board meeting on January 5th, 2023. A motion was made by Councilman Dustin Stanton and seconded by Councilman Jeff Herald to approve the minutes.

Vote: Phillips- Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

7. Reports From Committees, Members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and Other Officers

Jeannie Lee gave a report highlighting the 2022 activities of the Beautification and Friends of the Depot committees. She stated that the first Spring Festival was well attended and the Halloween Boo-tacular and Christmas parade were great successes. She also mentioned the possibility that the Tennessee Central Rails and Trails walking trail may be extended to Baxter.

The Mayor mentioned that there are more businesses interested in coming to Baxter but he cannot divulge any more information at this time.

Codes Officer Bob Lane stated there are seven houses currently under construction in the city. Also, the Portobello plant will start testing their equipment soon in anticipation of opening for business in the spring.

City Engineer Tom Bennett stated that he is hoping for a declaration from FEMA that they will fund the cost of the waterline leaks caused by the freezing weather.

Councilman Greg Phillips made a motion to allow the street department employees to remodel the extra bathroom at City Hall into a storage closet for the City Recorder's office. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dustin Stanton.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

8. Bills for Approval

Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to approve the Bills for Approval. Councilman Dustin Stanton seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips- Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried

9. Purchase Orders

The purchase orders for the heat pump at the sewer plant and the tasers for the police department were approved with a motion by Councilman Dustin Stanton and seconded by Councilman Greg Phillips.

Vote: Phillips- Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

Police Chief Danny Holmes informed the board that the city has been approved for a \$198,000 grant to purchase four police cars. The city is to pay up front for the vehicles and then will be reimbursed within 30 days. Chief Holmes requested to be allowed to order two patrol cars now and postpone buying the tasers at this time and use the money earmarked for the tasers to be put toward the purchase of the two cars.

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to purchase two police cars and Councilman Jeff Herald seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

Police Chief Danny Holmes also mentioned that there is no speed limit sign on Fast Lane. Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion for the police department to make a recommendation setting the speed limit on Fast Lane. Councilman Jeff Herald seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

10. Old Business: 2nd Reading: None

11. New Business- 1st Reading:

A. Debt Report

Court Clerk Lorie Buford read the Debt Report which states that the city borrowed \$214,000 to purchase a rear-load sanitation truck at an interest rate of 3.45% for 10 years.

B. Ordinance 2022-10- “An Ordinance Amending The Annual Operating Budget Of The General and Special Revenue Funds of Baxter, Tennessee For Fiscal Year 2022-2023”

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-10. Councilman Greg Phillips made a second to the motion.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

C. Ordinance 2022-9-“Ordinance Of The Governing Body Of Baxter, Tennessee Amending Article V, Specific District Regulations, Section 7, R-3 Multi-Family Residential Only District Regulations”

A motion was made by Councilman Jeff Herald and seconded by Councilman Dustin Stanton to approve Ordinance 2022-9.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

D. Ordinance 2022-11-“Ordinance Of The Governing Body Of Baxter, Tennessee Amending Municipal Codes, Title 8 Alcoholic Beverages, Chapter 3, Beer, Section 8-305 Permits Issued For Sale Of Beer Within Corporate Limits For Off-Premises And On-Premises Consumption, Subsection 2 Class A On-Premises Consumption, Item D”

Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-11. The motion was seconded by Councilman Greg Phillips.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

E. Appraisal of City-Owned Medical Clinic Building

The Upper Cumberland Medical Clinic will be closing February 24th. The city has decided to sell the building rather than rent it out anymore. Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to get an appraisal on the medical clinic building so it can be sold. Councilman Jeff Herald seconded the motion.

Vote: Phillips-Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried.

F. Ordinance 2022-12-“An Ordinance Amending The Annual Operating Budget Of The General And Special Revenue Funds of Baxter, Tennessee For Fiscal Year 2022-2023”

Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-12. Councilman Dustin Stanton made a second to the motion.

Vote: Phillips- Yes, Stanton-Yes, Herald-Yes. Motion Carried

13. Comments and Grievances from Citizens

Mr. Paul Cotnoir asked the board when the modification of Ditty Road would be completed. The Mayor explained that the contract is supposed to be let in March and will be 3 lanes from Baxter Road to Ditty Road.

Adjournment

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Jeff Herald seconded the motion.

Vote: Stanton- yes; Phillips- yes; Herald- yes. Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Buford, Court Clerk

John Martin, Mayor