

**City of Baxter**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall**  
**December 7, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

**Opening of Meeting, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

City Recorder Sharon Carlile called roll. Present were Councilman Dustin Stanton, Councilman Greg Phillips, Councilman Jeff Herald, and Mayor John Martin. Councilman Willie Allison was absent

**3. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting on November 2, 2023**

A motion to approve the minutes and dispense of the reading was made by Councilman Dustin Stanton and was seconded by Councilman Jeff Herald

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

**4. Communications from Mayor John Martin**

Mayor Martin thanked everyone for their hard work on the Christmas parade.

**5. Reports from Committees, Members of the Board of Mayor and Councilmen and other Officers**

Police Chief Danny Holmes thanked everyone that helped with the parade. He also asked the council to vote to hire another officer in February or March. Mayor Martin explained that the promise could not be made right now. The finances will have to be evaluated before any kind of motion can be made adding more officers since it was not in the original budget.

Shawn Fry has nothing new and is just interested to see what everyone wants to say

Bob Lane discussed all the new developments in process right now. They are about to start the Dollar Tree. Lynn McHenry is working on a new house and pediatric office. He is also putting in an arcade/ simulator.

Engineer Tom Bennett discussed all the projects on the sewer rehab happening. He expects these projects to begin in Spring. He has analyzed all the data provided by the CDBG grant. Would like to discuss priorities in a workshop with the Mayor and councilman. We are working on the final project to be done with the EDA grant. The USDA WWTP rehab project is ready to be put out to bid. It will take a long time to complete due to delays in getting parts and equipment.

Councilman Greg Phillips really enjoyed the parade. And thanked Chief White for helping with a fall victim. It is a blessing to have someone employed here that can help.

Councilman Dustin Stanton and Jeff Herald echoed the sentiments.

**A. Bills for Approval**

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

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

#### **6. Purchase Orders: Fire (1); Sewer (1)**

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to approve the two purchase orders. Councilman Jeff Herald made a second to the motion.

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

#### **7. Old Business - 2nd Reading**

#### **8. New Business – 1st Reading**

##### **A. School Bus Drivers Regarding 1st Avenue**

Ron Chaffin supervisor of the School bus drivers approached the board. He discussed how wonderful the parade was in Baxter. He also asked that the board help them with some issues. A presentation of a rendering of 1st Ave and HWY 70. To widen it to help the school bus drivers in that intersection more bus friendly. Public Works Director suggested that one side be made one way which will widen the right turn. He also asked that a stop line be painted where third Ave and buffalo valley road to help the drivers know where to stop. Public Works director asked for him to meet him there tomorrow to look at it. Bob Lane felt like the municipal codes covered the city cutting a tree if it is obstructing someone's view. He really appreciates the council helping with the issues and he congratulated the Upperman Bees.

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

##### **B. Payoff Line of credit for Baxter Junction**

Motion to payoff the line of credit utilized for Baxter Junction was made by Councilman Dustin Stanton and seconded by Councilman Greg Phillips.

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

##### **C. Ordinance 2023-7- “Ordinance Of The Governing Body Of Baxter, Tennessee Amending The Baxter Zoning Ordinance To Amend Article III General Provisions Section, Adding Section 12, Minimum Site Plan Requirements For Multi-Family Residential, Commercial And Industrial Developments”**

Councilman Greg Phillips made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-7 for the first reading. Councilman Dustin Stanton made a second to the motion.

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

##### **D. Ordinance No. 2023-8- “An Ordinance To Amend The Official Zoning Map Of The Town Of Baxter, Tennessee By Changing The Zoning Classification Of The Property Described As District 20 Map 063, Control Map 063, Parcel 135.04 (Located On Baxter Road) From R-1, Low Density Residential To C-2, General Commercial District”**

The first reading of Ordinance 2023-8 was passed with a motion by Councilman Greg Phillips and seconded by Councilman Dustin Stanton.

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

##### **E. CDL Contract**

Public Works Director John Ramsey discussed the need for a contract and the information needed to get the contract written up. Maybe a three-year contract

Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to approve a three-year contract being written up. Councilman Dustin Stanton seconded the motion.

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

#### **F. Storage Container for City Decorations**

The cheapest John Ramsey found was \$2900.00. It is a shipping container to be placed at the farm to store city items.

A motion to approve the purchase of the shipping container for storage was made by Councilman Jeff Herald and seconded by Councilman Dustin Stanton.

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

#### **G. Discussion of Speed Bumps**

A concerned citizen addressed the board. She said the issue is not the speed bumps, the issue is speeding in their neighborhood. The board voted to install speed bumps, on the street but have not done it yet. Why? She was very upset and asking for some kind of resolution. She asked for the street connecting to theirs to be closed. Attorney Shawn Fry discussed the need for items to be on the agenda. He recommended the comments be made and heard. And put on the next month's agenda.

The mayor asked why everyone is not here. She said she didn't think everyone knew about the meeting. She asked for it be tabled. Another citizen Mike Taylor asked that the road be closed off. He also asked for an explanation if this was looked at when they opened the cul de sac to extend the road. He requested the cutoff be done to cut Celeste in half.

Bob Lane discussed that Celeste was built after Rachele. The citizen asked if Fourth Ave could be closed.

Officer Brandon Herren discussed sitting on Celeste for many hours at a time the highest speed he has gotten was twenty-eight miles per hour. He did stop the speeders and gave them a warning. But this was only a few people.

Another citizen approached with a petition against the speed bumps. She also spoke against the road being closed. She discussed the kids walking in the middle of the road.

A lady lives on Rachele spoke about she believes it's a lot of the parents who have kids that are speeding. Her mailbox has been hit three times. She asked for something to be done. She suggested closing off the back side.

Another citizen asked if any of the officers have investigation experience. He commended the officers. He relayed at 3:00 or 4:00 students are driving down their road at 30 mph. He said the citizens are about to take matters into their own hands.

What time of the day the Mayor asked. A citizen replied it can be any time of the day.

They asked for the speed bumps be put down temporarily to slow the speeders.

Mayor Martin relayed to everyone that this issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The police officers have been sent over there many times.

#### **9. Comments and Grievances from Citizens**

#### **Adjournment**

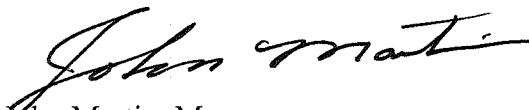
Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Dustin Stanton seconded the motion.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sharon Carlile, City Recorder

  
John Martin, Mayor