

**City of Baxter**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall**  
**January 4, 2024 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 6:05 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor John Martin called roll. Present were Councilman Dustin Stanton, Councilman Greg Phillips, Councilman Jeff Herald, Councilman Willie Allison, and Mayor John Martin.

**3. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting on December 7, 2023**

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

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

**4. Communications from Mayor John Martin**

Mayor Martin advised that at this time he could not divulge any information but in three weeks he will be able to make an exciting announcement regarding upcoming projects in the City of Baxter.

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

Police Chief Danny Holmes praised Officer Allen Cool for apprehending two robbery suspects in an approximately 40-minute pursuit. Baxter's Police department was the only department which followed the suspects all the way to their capture.

Fire Chief Matt White mentioned that Baxter's fire department has been approved for the first state approved in-house firefighter training program.

City Engineer Tom Bennett stated that the design phase on the ARP project has begun.

Codes Enforcement Officer Bob Lane mentioned that there are many projects and much new construction going on in town. The new Dollar General is expected to open next month and Portobello has been granted a ninety-day extension of their building permit as construction continues on the tile plant.

City Attorney Shawn Fry requested that the Board meet for work sessions to discuss legal issues and appoint a new city attorney.

**A. Bills for Approval**

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

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

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

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to approve the two purchase orders. Councilman Willie Allison made a second to the motion.

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

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

### **A. 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”**

A motion was made by Councilman Jeff Herald to adopt Ordinance 2023-7. The motion was seconded by Councilman Greg Phillips.

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

## **8. New Business – 1st Reading**

### **A. Discussion of Speed Bumps**

Councilman Willie Allison stated when speed bumps were approved at a previous meeting the Board was under the impression that most of the citizens of Celeste Drive and Rachele Place were in favor of them to stop speeders. After hearing from other residents and a petition with 39 signatures against speed bumps, it was decided that most residents of the neighborhood were not in favor of having them installed. Councilman Willie Allison made a motion to rescind the previous motion allowing speed bumps to be placed on Celeste Drive and Rachele Place. Councilman Greg Phillips seconded the motion.

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

### **B. Police Department**

Councilman Willie Allison requested that discussion of the Police Department be moved to the end of the meeting.

### **C. 20 mph Speed Zone on 1st Ave By Dollar General**

Councilman Jeff Herald made a motion to reduce the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour near the new Dollar General store being constructed on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue due to congestion in the area. A second to the motion was made by Councilman Willie Allison.

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

### **D. Gaming Machines**

Councilman Willie Allison discussed his concerns with gaming machines at local convenience stores. He stated the machines bring in a lot of people from out of town late at night and he has heard from concerned citizens that these machines may increase crime and cause problems for the employees of the convenience stores. Councilman Greg Phillips agreed that the machines are a bad idea and he hates to see citizens losing money.

Councilman Willie Allison made a motion to ban gaming devices within the city limits of Baxter.

City Attorney Shawn Fry stated that there are state laws regarding gaming machines and it is hard to enforce city ordinances that go against state laws. He suggested that the city police investigate any instances of laws being broken at the convenience stores. Mayor Martin requested that the city attorney check into the legal

aspects before adopting Councilman Allison's motion regarding gaming machines. Councilman Allison agreed and asked that the gaming machine issue be tabled until the February board meeting.

#### **E. Bid Approval for Fire Department Respiratory Fit Tester**

Councilman Dustin Stanton made a motion to approve the bid from OHD, LLP for a respiratory fit tester for the fire department. Councilman Greg Phillips seconded the motion.

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

#### **F. Baxter Standard Specifications for Water and Sewer Construction**

City Engineer Tom Bennett advised the Board that TDEC has reviewed and approved the standard drinking water and sanitary sewer specifications for Baxter's upcoming water and sewer projects. A motion was made by Councilman Willie Allison and seconded by Councilman Jeff Herald to adopt these specifications as the city's standards.

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

#### **B. Police Department**

Councilman Willie Allison addressed some concerns he had about recommendations from MTAS about the police department and the Comptroller's report. After some discussion, City Attorney recommended the city schedule work sessions to discuss issues like these that might take extra time.

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


##### **Adjournment**

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

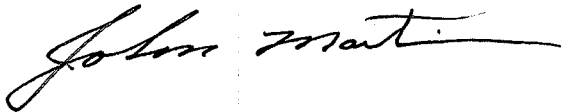
Vote: Phillips – Yes, Stanton - Yes; Herald- Yes, Allison- Yes. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorie Buford, Court Clerk



John Martin, Mayor