

City of Baldwin City
Minutes from the September 19, 2016
Regular Council Meeting

The Baldwin City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. at the Baldwin City Public Library, 800 7th Street, with Mayor Marilyn Pearse presiding.

Present were Council Members: President Kathy Gerstner, Tony Brown, Steve Bauer, Christi Darnell, David Simmons, Glenn Rodden-City Administrator, Laura Hartman-City Clerk. Also attending were Brad Smith, Ed Courton, Bill Winegar, Tina Rakes, Rob Culley, Chris Croucher and Greg Neis.

A. Call to Order:

Mayor Marilyn Pearse called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Consent Agenda:

Kathy Gerstner moved and Christi Darnell seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

C. Public Comments: Brian and Susan Pitts, 207 Elm commented on the franchise fee increase. Toby Ebel, 508 Heritage Drive also spoke on the utility bills and suggested some ideas.

Mayor Pearse asked Brad to address the billing cycle and the options that are already in place.

Christi Darnell asked to open discussion regarding the issue of a long billing cycle and the larger amount due. She asked if there are options to waive late fees especially for special situations. Council members continued discussion about the billing cycle and level pay. Tony said the Utility Committee will be glad to look into how we currently operate. Tony pointed out the committee makes decisions based on data.

D. Special Reports or Presentations: No reports given at this time.

E. Old Business

Utility Building Project- Glenn began the discussion on the proposed Public Utilities building. Brad expanded more detail relating to the project which has been in the CIP. Staff is looking for a commitment from the Council so they know if they need to move forward. Jay Zimmerschied was present and reviewed the powerpoint the Council had seen some time ago. The powerpoint was updated with the current information. A hard copy of the powerpoint was provided to council members. Council members had discussion about the big picture and order of building projects.

Tony Brown moved and Steve Bauer seconded to approve Resolution 2016-18 authorizing the building of the Public Utilities Building. Motion carried with a vote of 3 yes and 2 no.

F. New Business

Glenn explained the ValueNet agreement before council. Matt Hoy explained the legal pieces of the agreement. Kathy Gerstner moved and Steve Bauer seconded to approve the Valu-Net Agreement between Baldwin City and Valu-Net. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Brad reviewed the sewer averaging concept. Brad asked for council guidance on the direction. Tony said the committee felt this plan was very reasonable and fair. Tony Brown moved and Christi Darnell seconded to have staff to move forward with drafting an ordinance for 6 month sewer averaging. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Bill Winegar explained the street overlay project. Bill said council has the bid in their packet with a short memo addressing the project. Kathy Gerstner moved and Tony Brown seconded to approve the bid from N R Hamm in the amount of \$137,899.75 for the 2016 street overlay project. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

G. Committee Reports:

Budget and Finance- No report

Community Development Committee- Steve said the committee reviewed the NRA at their last meeting and are prepared to have a work session. Council agreed on a date of October 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The committee will meet Wednesday, September 21st @ Library at 7:00 p.m.

Public Health and Safety Committee- The committee will meet, Thursday, Sept 22 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Public Works Committee- no report

Utilities Committee- This committee met on Sept. 8 at 7 a.m. Discussion included: Sewer averaging, proposal to set rates for new residents at the City average as opposed to the amount charged on regular months, parallel generation discussion- promoting alternative energy, information about utility bills and smart metering.

H. City Administrator and Staff Comments – Mayor shared she learned about an act of kindness from one of our Council members. The Mayor said Steve Bauer built a handicap ramp for the Surbaugh family and commented what a nice gesture this was.

Council members asked about the progress of the re-alignment of Eisenhower. Bill addressed this inquiry.

I. Adjourn

Steve Bauer moved and Kathy Gerstner seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no. Time 8:27 p.m.

Approved by the governing board on October 3, 2016.

Attest:

Laura E. Hartman

Laura E. Hartman, City Clerk

