A special meeting of the Baxter City Council was called to order on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Doug Bishop. Council members present were Stephen Smith, Jamie Milligan, Josh Meckley, Dalton Kinzel, and Dan Kunkel remotely.

Milligan moved to approve the agenda. Smith seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

City/School joint meeting will take place on Wed. April 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Baxter school.

Public Works Director, Halter, gave an update on the endloader damage from recent snow accident. Halter is waiting on an estimate from insurance. Discussion held over the cost of a replacement.

Halter gave an update on the status of his water/wastewater testing. The water test has been passed and he is scheduled to take Lagoon 1 Dist. shortly.

Nursing Home Property sale that has been on pause with Gliems will be placed on the Feb. 12th agenda to decide whether to move forward with the sale or open it up for bids again.

Approval Brick Gentry Contract – Smith moved to approve. Milligan seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

ORDINANCE NO. 624; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BAXTER, 2010, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO GARBAGE/RECYCLING RATES - Milligan moved to approve Ordinance No. 624 on its first reading. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Milligan, Meckley, Kinzel, Smith. Nays; None. Absent; None. Meckley moved to waive the second and third readings for Ordinance No. 624. Smith seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Meckley, Smith, Kinzel. Nays; Milligan. Absent; None. Kinzel moved to approve Ordinance No. 624 on its final reading. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Kinzel, Meckley, Smith. Nays; Milligan. Absent; None. Ordinance No. 624 adopted.

The remainder of the meeting was held as a budget work session for FY 2024-25. Key points discussed:

* Implications of HF 718 reducing the amount of taxable value growth cities can capture
* Focusing on city infrastructure and streets
* Addressing water issues with city billing vs. IRUA billing
* EMS department funding with the termination of the 28E with West Malaka Benefitted Fire District
* Potential plan to hire a city manager/city administrator in future years
* Seeking other health insurance plans to reduce employee benefit package
* Wage freezes for city employees in FY24-25
* Next budget work session to be held on Mon. Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Kinzel moved to adjourn. Milligan seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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Mayor Doug Bishop

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Katie Wilson, City Clerk