The regular meeting of the Baxter City Council was called to order on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Bryan DeJong. Council members present were Josh Meckley, Tootie Samson, and Dan Kunkel and Jason Robinson.

Meckley moved to approve the agenda. Samson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Maggie Burger with Speer Financial presented Baxter’s annual TIF debt report.

Bryan Vander Meiden with Midwest Sanitation & Recycling was in attendance to discuss the proposed garbage/recycling contract extension for years 2024-2026. Discussion held over increase of rates. Upon completion of discussion, Kunkel moved to approve contract extension. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Public Comments – None

Oaths of Office – Mayor Bryan DeJong administered the oaths to council elects Stephen Smith and Jamie Milligan, and mayor-elect, Doug Bishop.

Samson moved to approve the minutes of the November regular and special meetings. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

BEDC Report/BEDC TIF Bills Payable – A written report was provided from BEDCO. City’s December rebate appropriation payment for WFH IV is due this December.

Approval of 2024 BEDC Officers – Kunkel moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

 Ambulance Report – EMS Director, Gliem was in attendance and provided a report.

Police Report – Chief Bill Daggett was in attendance and provided a report. Daggett presented information on Blue Line Solutions.

Approval – Reimbursement of Training Expenses Agreement for Officer Nguyen – Samson moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

**Resolution #22-24**; A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Officer Nguyen to Part-Time Police Officer and Approving his Attendance to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy  - Kunkel moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #22-24 adopted.

**Resolution #23-24;** A Resolution Approving Signing of a Contract with Blue Line Solutions – Kunkel moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson. Nays; Samson, Meckley. Absent; None. Resolution #23-24 failed.

**Resolution #24-24;** A Resolution Setting the Fine for Automated Traffic Enforcement Violations – Due to failure of Resolution #23-24, this resolution was not entertained.

**Resolution #25-24;** A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the Police Equipment Fund to Issue Payment to Omnigo Software and Wrap Technologies – Samson moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #25-24 adopted.

Maintenance/Water/Wastewater Report – Public Works Director, Halter, was in attendance and provided a report.

Resident, Mike Brandt, addressed the council in opposition of the proposed alley closure near his property. Council decided to set hearing date and have clerk check on legal process with the nature of the opposition between two parties.

**Resolution #26-24**; A Resolution Setting A Time and Authorizing Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Vacation and Sale of Public Alley - Meckley moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #26-24 adopted.

Discussion of Clean Energy Districts of Iowa “CEDI” Memorandum of Agreement In Regards to Alliant Energy’s Electric Rate Increase

**Resolution #27-24;** A Resolution Opposing Alliant Energy’s Electric Rate Increase - Robinson moved to approve. Samson seconded. Roll call vote: Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #27-24 adopted.

**Resolution #28-24**; A Resolution Approving FY23 Annual Financial Report - Meckley moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #28-24 adopted.

**Resolution #29-24**; A Resolution Setting Animal License Fees - Samson moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #29-24 adopted.

**Resolution #30-24;** A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from TIF to Low to Moderate Income for the Annual Appropriation Rebate Payment to Baxter Economic Development Corporation for the Development of Westfield Horizons IV – Samson moved to approve. Kunkel seconded. Roll call vote: Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; None. Resolution #30-24 adopted.

Lengthy discussion held over garbage/recycling rates for 2024. Due to contractor increase, council is implementing a 5% increase to rates effective January 2024.

Consent Agenda - Kunkel moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Bills Payable - Meckley moved to approve. Kunkel seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Mayor’s Report - None

Other Business – Recognition of Mayor Bryan DeJong for his 18 years of service as council member & mayor for the City of Baxter

Mayor DeJong advised the Council would need to enter into Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5 Closed Session, Subsection i. To discuss the purchase or sale of real estate – Nursing Home Property, 407 S East Ave - Meckley moved to enter into closed session. Samson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Samson, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; None. Absent; None. Council entered into closed session at 7:13 p.m.

Meckley moved to leave closed session. Kunkel seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Samson, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; None. Absent; None. Council left closed session at 7:50 p.m.

Approval of Development/Minimum Assessment Agreement for Sale of Real Property – 407 S East Ave; Nursing Home Property - Meckley moved to table. Samson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Samson moved to adjourn. Kunkel seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Mayor Bryan DeJong

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Katie Wilson, City Clerk