The regular meeting of the Baxter City Council was called to order on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Bryan DeJong. Council members present were Josh Meckley, Tootie Samson, Jason Robinson, Dan Kunkel, and Josh Lokenvitz remotely.

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

Samson moved to approve the Minutes of the June regular meetings. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

BEDCO – A written report was reviewed. The committee is seeking a grant through ISU to complete a housing needs assessment for the city.

Dan Huebner – Nursing Home Property – Samson moved to table. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Fire & Ambulance Reports – Randi Gliem, EMS Director, was in attendance to report. Items discussed:

1. 11 ambulance calls ran in June
2. Exploring options for alternative paging system due to recent issues
3. Working on a community benefit project to help monetize public safety services
4. Essential Service update – New information released from county that signatures of 25% of the residential property owners within the district are required for it to be on the ballot – Based on 561 properties in Baxter, 141 signatures are needed. Physical petitioning and more campaigning will continue to inform citizens. Discussion held on certifying the signatures on petitions. Gliem’s goal is 250 signatures; 180 have been obtained thus far.

Police Report – Chief Daggett reported.

1. Recent issues with citizens in the cemetery after dark. A special meeting will be called to pass a law establishing dawn to dusk cemetery hours for enforcement.
2. Patron from recent lifesaving call has given permission to use her story to help campaign for essential services initiative.
3. Daggett proposed raising overall city credit cards limit. Clerk will place new policy on August agenda.

Discussion Blue Line Solutions Handheld Speed Camera – Lengthy discussion held. It was determined more conversation would need to take place before a decision could be made.

Maintenance Report – A written report was submitted by Public Works Director, Halter.

1. New street signs will be placed around town.
2. Street painting has been completed.
3. 5.91 tons of metal/trash were hauled away during city-wide cleanup.

Water/Wastewater Report –

1. All DNR reports have been submitted.
2. Last month’s average daily water usage: 129,169 GPD

Discussion held on status of replacing water meters due to increased cost of monthly IRUA water purchase and Halter water/wastewater certification testing.

HomeServe NLC Service Line Warranty Program – DeJong presented information on program offered through the IA League of Cities for insurance on property owners’ service lines. Clerk will obtain more information on cost of program to bring to council at the next meeting.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2023/24 Cost Sharing Formula Between the City of Baxter and West Malaka Benefited Fire District - Samson moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Resolution #01-24; A Resolution Naming Depositories for the City of Baxter, Iowa for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 – DeJong presented Resolution #01-24. Meckley moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley, Lokenvitz. Nays; None. Resolution #01-24 adopted.

DeJong questioned liability coverage on money held at bank over FDIC insurance limit. Clerk will reach out to bank account representative to explore options for coverage.

Resolution #02-24; A Resolution Setting Salaries for the Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Baxter, Iowa, for the Fiscal Year 2023/24 - DeJong presented Resolution #02-24. Samson moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley, Lokenvitz. Nays; None. Resolution #02-24 adopted.

Resolution #03-24; A Resolution Setting Fiscal Year 2023/24 Water Rates for the City of Baxter, Iowa - DeJong presented Resolution #03-24. Meckley moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley, Lokenvitz. Nays; None. Resolution #03-24 adopted. Meckley noted a closer look at the water budget is needed considering the large price increase from IRUA this year.

ORDINANCE NO. 622; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BAXTER, 2010, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO SEWER RATES - Robinson moved to approve Ordinance No. 622 on its first reading. Kunkel seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Samson, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; None. Samson moved to waive the second and third readings for Ordinance No. 622. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Samson, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; None. Meckley moved to approve Ordinance No. 622 on its final reading. Samson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Samson, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; None. Ordinance No. 622 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 621; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BAXTER, 2010, BY ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL SECTION TO ALLOW URBAN CHICKENS WITHIN BAXTER CITY LIMITS - Lokenvitz moved to approve Ordinance No. 621 on its first reading. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; Samson. Meckley moved to waive the second and third readings for Ordinance No. 621. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; Samson. Kunkel moved to approve Ordinance No. 621 on its final reading. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Lokenvitz, Kunkel, Meckley, Robinson. Nays; Samson. Ordinance No. 621 adopted.

Review Nursing Home Property Proposals – Two proposals were submitted and reviewed. Discussion held on one proposal’s request of City funding/tax abatement. Samson moved to table. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Selection of proposals will take place at August 14th meeting.

Consent Agenda – None.

Bills Payable – Meckley moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Mayor’s Report –

1. Baxter Chamber of Commerce was awarded a $3000.00 grant from Jasper Community Foundation grant for the Main Street Beautification Project.
2. Baxter Rural Fire & Rescue request for city to take over quarterly payroll operations for EMS volunteers. With the initiative in place to migrate EMS operations over to the city, the change will be approved at the August 14th meeting.

Other Business –Kunkel requested street parking on High Street and East Ave. to be added to next agenda for discussion. Conversation held on Chief Daggett completing a study/assessment of city parking needs.

Daggett informed council Lt. Adam Choat and Officer Nguyen will be covering for him while he attends the Public Safety Cadet National Conference.

Public Comments – None.

Robinson moved to adjourn. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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Mayor Bryan DeJong

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Katie Wilson, City Clerk