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

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

Lokenvitz moved to approve the Minutes of the August regular and special meetings. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

BEDCO – Wilson gave a brief update on the committee’s current initiative to sell the trailer court property.

Natalie Moorman/Chamber of Commerce/Hometown Pride –

1. Bike racks have been purchased with Jasper Community Foundation grant funding. Three locations have been determined for placement. The committee is also working to obtain confirmed costs for trash and cigarette receptacles funded by the grant. Their goal is to have these placed by the end of October.
2. Community visioning for the Chichaqua Valley trailhead will take place soon.
3. Baxter residents, Ron & Peggy Smith, have donated four dog waste stations to be placed on city property throughout the community.

American Legion Memorial Survey/Helicopter Placement – Lynn Harnden was present to discuss progress of the Huey helicopter initiative for the Legion Memorial. Harnden has met with Jasper County supervisors and Jasper County conservation board members. Jasper County Conservation has proposed they would remove the dead oak tree on the property and the city close the alleyway behind the property in order to create green space and provide more area to place the helicopter. An easement would need to be given to the city for necessary maintenance. This would eliminate the need for a land survey.

Discussion held on Jasper County’s plan to beautify the area where the caboose is located.

Fire & Ambulance Report – EMS Director, Gliem, reported.

1. 8 calls were ran last month – 4 city; 4 rural
2. Four additional town hall meetings are scheduled to bring awareness to the EMS Essential Services Tax Levy
3. Gliem requested council feedback for potential candidates to act as write-in board of trustees to oversee the funding of the new established EMS Essential Services district.
4. A 28E Agreement with the Jasper County Sheriff’s Office is proposed in order to provide more advanced life support coverage throughout the county. Services will remain the same, the only difference implemented is a $150 fee charged to the city if insurance does not cover the patron’s services provided by the county.

Resolution #11-24; A Resolution Approving a 28E Agreement Between Government Entities in Jasper County, Iowa and Jasper County for the Jasper County Sheriff’s Office Providing Advanced Life Support Services in Jasper County - DeJong presented Resolution #11-24. Lokenvitz moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley, Lokenvitz. Nays; None. Resolution #11-24 adopted.

Resolution #12-24; A Resolution Approving Engineer’s Preliminary Plat for City Emergency Medical Services District – DeJong presented Resolution #12-24. Samson moved to approve. Meckley seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley, Lokenvitz. Nays; None. Resolution #12-24 adopted.

Police Report - Chief Bill Daggett was in attendance and submitted a written report.

Maintenance Report – Public Works Director, Bryce Halter, was in attendance. Items discussed:

1. A community volunteer will be assisting with curb stop painting next week.
2. Every dead-end sewer main throughout the city has been flushed.
3. Snow equipment will soon be serviced and prepped for the upcoming season.

Water/Wastewater Report

1. Fall discharge will begin Oct. 1st
2. Repairs and a new UPS board have been ordered for the West lift station due to communication failures.

Review/Approval of 401 Hoover Ave. Lot & Garage Agreement – Kunkel moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Negotiations/Final Terms Agreement - Sale of Nursing Home Property; 407 S East Ave – Discussion held over limited funding options available from city. Upon completion of discussion, Gliems proceeded to accept moving forward with sale of property with no funding provided from city. Clerk will work with city attorney to draft a formal purchase agreement and begin the process of rezoning the property to commercial.

Approval of Geise Park Electrical Installation Quote - Lokenvitz moved to approve a quote by Foreman Electric & Plumbing. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Approval of HomeServe NLC Service Line Warranty Program Marketing Agreement – Samson moved to approve. Lokenvitz seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Review/Selection Proposals for City 2022/23 Annual Audit Examination – Meckley moved to approve a bid submitted by Martens & Company of West Des Moines. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Discussion Water Rates/Water Budget – Discussion held over current and increasing deficit in the water budget. Upon completion of discussion, council decided to increase water rates by 3% beginning in October and borrow the remaining deficit amount from the sewer fund through salary distributions.

Designation of Beggar’s Night – Meckley moved to set the date for Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Kunkel seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Consent Agenda – None.

Bills Payable - Samson moved, with the exception of paying 8/26 community center cleaning service invoice. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Mayor’s Report -

1. Mayor has been in contact with Jasper County Conservation in regards to funding for the maintenance of the caboose and potentially gifting the caboose to the county.
2. Recognition of Greg Christianson for his involvement with the local Legion and his dedication to placing American flags in the cemetery each Veterans’ Day.

Other Business - None.

Public Comments – None.

Meckley moved to adjourn. Samson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Mayor Bryan DeJong

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Katie Wilson, City Clerk