The regular meeting of the Baxter City Council was called to order on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Bryan DeJong. Council members present were Josh Lokenvitz, Tootie Samson, Jason Robinson, and Dan Kunkel. Josh Meckley was absent.

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

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

BEDCO Report: Katie Wilson provided a report on behalf of BEDCO. The committee has sold the trailer park property and duplex style housing will be developed on it.

BEDCO/TIF Bills Payable: None.

Fire & Ambulance Reports – A written Fire Report was submitted. Gliem, EMS Director, was present to provide a report.

1. 8 ambulance calls ran in April – 5 city, 3 rural
2. CPR classes have been completed for most of the firefighters. CPR classes will be scheduled for city employees shortly.
3. EMS Essential Service mailers have been sent out to residents.
4. The ambulance cot’s hydraulic system will need to be replaced as it is unrepairable. The current cot is well beyond typical life span of a cot. The crew is utilizing batteries to temporarily fix the issue. Gliem has been looking into grants to cover the expense of purchasing a new cot.

Police Report – Chief Daggett was in attendance to provide an update.

1. Black patrol car has a cracked windshield and dents due to the recent hail storm
2. Minimal criminal events to report currently
3. Chief will submit his written report at the second council meeting in May

Discussion National Cadet Conference – Chief Daggett is sending two cadets to attend the National Conference this summer. A 501c3 will be created for cadet fundraising for next year.

Resolution #36-23; A Resolution Setting A Fee For City Legal Services Provided by the Baxter Police Department – DeJong presented Resolution #36-23. Lokenvitz moved to approve. Samson seconded. Roll call vote; Ayes; Lokenvitz, Samson, Robinson, Kunkel. Nays; None. Absent; Meckley. Resolution #36-23 adopted.

Maintenance Report – Public Works Director, Bryce Halter, reported.

1. Neighborhood watch signs were placed last week. More signage installations will be completed within the next few weeks.
2. Fiber has been installed in the shop.
3. Department has been cleaning out storm intakes
4. New public works assistant, Carey Petermeier, began working May 1.

Water/Wastewater Report –

1. The hail storm damaged two pumps at the main lagoons. Central pump is currently repairing them.
2. JEDCO will be replacing the transfer switch and batteries in the pump control panels
3. Halter will be scheduled by the end of the month to take water and wastewater test to become certified.

Partner Communications Video Conferencing Quote – Upon completion of discussion, Lokenvitz moved to approve the quote with a 70” TV instead of an 85” TV, provided by Partner Communications at their purchase cost, with TV cost not to exceed $700.00. Samson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Discussion Chickens within City Limits – Baxter resident, Shari Bowers, addressed the council with interest in having chickens to become more self-sustainable. Due to increased interest in the community, council requested an ordinance be drafted for review. DeJong questioned if Chief Daggett would oppose to inspecting coops if ordinance were to be passed. Daggett requested that all chicken permits come before the council for approval prior. Clerk will draft an ordinance for review and further discussion at the 5-23 meeting.

307 Independence Building Permit & Variance Application – City Clerk informed council that a variance request has been submitted for the property.

412 Independence Building Permit – Discussion held on building permit application due to illegal placement of a storage container brought onto the property. A stop work order has been issued for the property and a variance application has been submitted. Discussion held on Board of Adjustment power of authority in relation to City council power of authority for variance process. Clerk will confirm the process of approval.

Consent Agenda – None.

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

Mayor’s Report – None.

Other Business – None.

Public Comments – None.

Lokenvitz moved to adjourn. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Mayor Bryan DeJong

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Katie Wilson, City Clerk