

The regular meeting of the Baxter City Council was called to order on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Bryan DeJong. Council members present were Josh Meckley, Tootie Samson, Jason Robinson, and Dan Kunkel. Josh Lokenvitz was absent.

Samson moved to approve the Agenda. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Samson moved to approve Minutes of the January regular and special meetings. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

MSA Professional Services/Nichole Sungren – No report.

Baxter Early Learning Center Board/Marie Van Beek Hometown Pride – Geise Park Shelter House and Playground Presentation – Jenna Stratton and Lindey Butler were present for the BELC Board. Plans for installation of a playground at Geise Park were presented to the Council. A secondary plan for future perpetual care of the playground was also discussed. Van Beek gave a brief presentation on the previously approved shelter house for new Mayor and Council. A question and answer period followed.

Council Approval of Geise Park Shelter House and Playground Site Plan – Meckley moved to approve. Kunkel seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Public Hearing: Proposed Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 – Mayor DeJong called for a motion to open the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. Meckley so moved. Samson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; Lokenvitz. Mayor DeJong called for public comments or concerns. With none, Mayor DeJong called for a motion to close the public hearing at 6:34 p.m. Meckley so moved. Samson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Kunkel, Robinson, Samson, Meckley. Nays; None. Absent; Lokenvitz.

Resolution #18-22; Resolution Approving the Maximum Property Tax Dollars Requested from Certain Levies for the City's Fiscal Year 2022/23 Budget – Meckley presented Resolution #18-22 and moved to approve. Robinson seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Meckley, Samson, Robinson, Kunkel. Nays; None. Absent; Lokenvitz. Resolution #18-22 adopted.

BEDC Report – None

BEDC/TIF Bills Payable – None

Fire and Ambulance Reports – Written reports were reviewed. Meckley reviewed items of discussion from the January Fire & Ambulance Advisory Board Meeting.

Police Report – None. Mayor DeJong informed the Council Samson and Kunkel had agreed to serve on the Review Committee for Chief applicants. Chief Hicks has provided applicant information and review process will begin shortly. Interview travel and moving expenses were discussed. Mayor DeJong reviewed information provided by the Jasper County Sheriff's

Department regarding part-time coverage. Council agreed to proceed with hiring process at this time.

Maintenance Report – Written report reviewed. Public Works Director Bryce Halter in attendance. Items discussed:

1. Recent end loader repairs.
2. Water leak located on Center Street, frozen pit meter. Meter replaced and insulation installed.
3. Working with contractors on estimates for demo and asbestos removal at nursing home property.

Review/Selection of 2022 City Mowing Bid – Meckley moved to approve a bid submitted by Mike Brandt. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Review/Selection of 2022 Street Sweeping Bid – Robinson moved to approve a bid submitted by Quality Striping Inc. Meckley seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Central Pump & Motor LLC – Approval of Annual Pump Maintenance Agreement – Council reviewed two bids submitted by P.W. Director Halter. Upon completion of discussion, Kunkel moved to approve a bid submitted by Central Pump & Motor. Robinson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes.

Approval of Generator Service and Inspection Agreement/Interstate Power Systems – Clerk noted agreement approved in 2021 was for 5 years instead of an annual agreement. No further action needed.

Water/Wastewater Report – Written report.

Resolution #19-22; Resolution Setting the Mileage Rate Reimbursement for the City of Baxter, Iowa – Samson presented Resolution #19-22 and moved to approve. Kunkel seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes; Meckley, Samson, Robinson, Kunkel. Nays; None. Absent; Lokenvitz. Resolution #19-22 adopted.

Approval of 2022/23 City/West Malaka Benefited Fire District Agreement – Mayor DeJong noted the Agreement is only being presented for approval of amended verbiage. The completed Agreement will be on a later Agenda for final approval. Samson noted variations within the agreement as to the actual name of the Advisory Board. Mayor DeJong will advise the City Attorney to make the corrections. Council otherwise agreed with the amended verbiage.

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

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

Mayor's Report – Mayor DeJong noted he is working with the City Attorney regarding adding specific language to the Employee Handbook regarding employee wage increases. Council discussed the addition of merit and longevity increases. The matter will be further discussed at

the next Council meeting. DeJong advised budgetary needs would need to be addressed with the hiring of a new City Clerk pending the current Clerk's retirement in December. Discussion was held, Council will address the matter further at the upcoming budget work session.

Other Business – January Property Inspection Report was reviewed. Yard parking during the snow season was discussed. The Clerk will contact the City Attorney regarding the matter.

Public Comments – None

Kunkel moved to adjourn. Samson seconded. Motion carried, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Bryan DeJong

Attest: _____
Peg Kimberley, City Clerk