

**City of Baldwin City**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 5, 2025**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

The Baldwin City Council was called to Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. at the Baldwin City Community Center, 712 Chapel Street, with Mayor Casey Simoneau presiding.

Present were Council Members: Jay King, Susan Pitts, Cory Venable, Scott Lauridsen, and Julie Constantinescu.

Also, attending: Russ Harding-Interim City Administrator; Amara Packard-City Clerk; Shiloh Afonja-Deputy City Clerk; Lynn Meador-Communications Director; and Chief Patrick-Police Department.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Cory Venable moved and Susan Pitts seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

**C. Consent Agenda**

Julie Constantinescu moved and Jay King seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

1. Minutes - 7.15.25
2. Scheduled Claims List

**D. Public Comment**

Jerry Smith-1308 High St.- Jerry asked if the 56 Highway project was still set to begin in August, and if the city had the 2 million dollars to get it going.

Mayor Simoneau stated that they will answer these questions at the end of the meeting during council comments. During public comment, the council is to hear comments, it is not a back and forth discussion.

Jerry also asked about the solar panel project, if the city will need a third generator, and how far along the city is with the substation project.

Scott Lauridsen reiterated that they would answer the questions at the end of the meeting, that this time was for public comment only.

**E. Special Reports or Presentations**

Proclamation-Douglas County Community Foundation

Mayor Simoneau proclaimed August 5th 2025, DCCF and Baldwin City, 25 years of charitable action week, and encourage all citizens to recognize and support the impact that Douglas County Community Foundation and its donors have in our community.

Heather Hoy-Director of Philanthropy and Community Relations with DCCF, and also runs Leadership Douglas County. Heather said there will be a party in Sullivan Square on Thursday evening, August 7th with 300 scoops of free ice cream. There will be music and fellowship from 5:30-7:30.

Lori Trenholm-Director of Community Investment with DCCF-works with the money out, such as grants and scholarships. Lori also invited everyone out to the party at Sullivan Square celebrating 25 years as the Community Foundation of Douglas County.

## **F. Old Business**

### **1. Council Hiring Committee**

John Deardoff with the League of Kansas Municipalities, gave the council an overview of what the process is to start the candidate search for the City Administrator. John said they would love the opportunity to work with Baldwin City in the search for the new City Administrator.

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to approve hiring the Kansas League of Municipalities for the hiring process of the new city administrator. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

### **2. Brick Street Project-Brick Color**

The council needed to pick a color of brick for the intersection at 8th and High Street. The council had several different options on colors. After a lengthy discussion, the council came to an agreement that the leaf will be in the old brick, and the bordering square will be in the dark ironspot.

Jay King moved and Cory Venable seconded to approve the design with the leaf inside, with the square being the dark ironspot brick and the leaf being our old bricks and everything outside the square, old brick. Motion carried with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Final Plat**

The final plat is for the Elwood Addition located north of Highway 56, between Eisenhower and Washington Street. The parcel is currently zoned commercial. This plat is for potential duplexes. It went before the Planning Commission on July 8th, and passed unanimously.

The developer for this project spoke about this Moderate Income Housing Project. There will be four structures, eight units. They just finished the same project in Garnett Kansas.

Susan Pitts moved and Julie Constantinescu second to approve the final plat for the Elwood Addition at Highway 56 and Eisenhower as presented. Motion carried with a vote 5 yes and 0 no.

### **2. Rezone Ordinance**

The rezone is for the four lots at the back of the Elwood Addition. The frontage will stay commercial. The four lots will go to R-2 which is for duplexes. This rezone was seen at the Planning Commission on July 8th, and passed unanimously.

Cory Venable moved and Scott Lauridsen seconded to approve ordinance number 1514. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Julie Constantinescu-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Susan Pitts-yes and Jay King-yes.

3. STO Ordinance

The Standard Traffic Ordinance updates our codes to match what state law and state legislature passed this year.

Cory Venable moved and Susan Pitts seconded to approve Standard Traffic Ordinance 1515 as presented. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Julie Constantinescu-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Susan Pitts-yes and Jay King-yes.

4. UPOC Ordinance

Uniform Public Offense Code update for 2025 from the State.

Julie Constantinescu moved and Jay King seconded to approve ordinance number 1516. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Julie Constantinescu-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Susan Pitts-yes and Jay King-yes.

5. Vision Zero Transportation Action Plan-Resolution 2025-17

The vision zero transportation action plan was presented by Stephen Mason from the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO. Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin are all participants of this program funded by a grant. The group designed a transportation system that minimizes the consequences of mistakes. The vision is of safe roads, safe road users, safe speeds, safe vehicles, and safe post crash care. The safe action plan is to establish a vision, employ strong data analysis, develop strategies, create an implementation plan and monitor ongoing progress.

Julie Constantinescu asked where the Heritage crosswalk fits into this plan. Mayor Simoneau said that it will be installed this fall, and wasn't a part of the MPO. The application was submitted directly to KDOT.

Jay King moved and Susan Pitts seconded to approve the Vision Zero Transportation Action Plan Resolution 2025-17. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

6. Contract for Motel Lot

The city posted the lot east of the new substation for sale. The policy is to post any city property for sale on the city website for at least 10 days. The city received a contract from Baldwin Economic Development in the amount of \$250,000.00.

Jay King moved and Cory Venable seconded to accept the contract from the Baldwin Economic Development Corp in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the lot off Highway 56 south of the police department. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

**H. Committee Reports**

1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Cory Venable

- Utility billing format for billing
- Electric utility rate increase

Next meeting 8/08/2025 at 7:30am, second floor of City Hall

2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Susan Pitts

- Vision Zero Transportation Action Plan
- Fireworks
- Food Truck Ordinance

Next meeting will be 8/25/2025 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

3. Public Safety - Susan Pitts/Jay King

Next meeting will be 8/12/2025 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

4. Public Works and Utilities - Julie Constantinescu/Jay King

- Have not met, but have a few updates. The delivery for the transformer for the substation has not been set but expect to have it by the end of August or beginning of September. The testing on it has been completed and approved by the engineer. The pad has cured for 30 days and is ready the second half of August.

Next meeting will be TBD at 9:00am, Public Works Conference Room

5. Strategic Planning-Scott Lauridsen/Julie Constantinescu

Next meeting TBD at 2:00pm, second floor of City Hall

**I. City Administrator and Staff Comments**

**J. Council & Mayor Comments**

Mayor Simoneau answered questions that were asked during public comment. The city submitted a request for KDOT to up the funding since this project was approved back in 2014 or 2015, and the engineers estimate has gone up in that time.

The land owners that the city had talked with regarding solar panels decided not to sell their property, and the tax credits will be falling off at the end of the year, so the project has been delayed indefinitely at this point.

Julie Constantinescu said that our Director of Electric Distribution said we may need to look at a third generator if we won't have solar. Mayor Simoneau stated that the director recently said that there had been some incorrect calculations by KMEA and we were pretty good on generation.

Mayor Simoneau would like to have committee agendas posted online 48 hours prior to the scheduled meetings. Communications Director Lynn told the council that there is a section towards the bottom on the city website that has the committee information.

**K. Executive Session**

Scott Lauridsen moved and Julie Constantinescu seconded to go into executive session with the council, the mayor, acting city administrator, Terrell and Shaye to discuss personnel issues for 29 minutes, from 8:21pm until 8:50. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no. Motion passes with a vote of 5 yes and 0 no.

Mayor Simoneau called the meeting back to order at 8:50.

Scott Lauridsen moved and Cory Venable seconded to go back into executive session with the same group, minus Terrell and Russ, for discussion of personnel matters of non-elected personnel, to return at 9:00.

Mayor Simoneau called the meeting back to order at 9:00.

**L. Adjourn**

Julie Constantinescu moved and Jay King seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 5-0. Time: 9:00 p.m.

Attest:

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Amara M. Packard  
City Clerk