

City of Baldwin City
Minutes
Tuesday, February 6, 2026
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 Gerald Cullumber presiding.

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

Also, attending: Russ Harding-City Administrator; Amara Packard-City Clerk; Shiloh Afonja-Deputy City Clerk; Mike Patrick-Police Chief; Rob Culley-Director of Public Works and Pat McComb-Electric Distribution.

B. Approval of Agenda

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

C. Consent Agenda

Scott Lauridsen 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 1.20.2026
2. Scheduled Claims List

D. Public Comment

E. Special Reports or Presentations

F. Old Business

G. New Business

1. Holidays

City holidays remained the same as last year. Total of eleven days.

Cory Venable moved and Peter Wentz seconded to approve the holiday schedule. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Council Dates

2026 council dates will be the first and third Tuesdays of every month.

Peter Wentz moved and Cory Venable seconded to approve the council dates. Motion passes 5-0.

3. Community Garden Lease

The community garden lease is with the BPW, Business and Professional Women, and will be for a five-year term. There were no changes from the previous lease except for changing the dates.

Barbara Pressgrove with the community garden spoke on the community garden. This started sixteen years ago. Citizens are able to rent a plot for the season. Barbara said that she had someone reach out in regards to renting out a spot to put their shed on.

Michele Lehnhoff reached out to the BPW and asked if she could rent a spot to put her shed on because she has to move it from the location she had it on in Lawrence, and doesn't want to lose it. Barbara is going to check with their insurance provider to see if they will need liability insurance, and if that will raise their rates.

Cory Venable moved and Peter Wentz seconded to approve the lease agreement. Motion passes 5-0.

4. Pool Project

Jay King recused himself.

The recreation commission and city staff have been looking into a way to help fight the algae bloom that the city pool fights with each year. Staff suggested a chlorine injection system that runs around \$13,000-\$14,000. City staff would need to build a concrete pad to sit on, and a structure to go over it. The typical lifespan of this type of system is about 15-20 years if not longer.

Peter Wentz moved and Cory Venable seconded to approve the pool project. Motion passes 5-0.

Jay King rejoined the meeting.

5. Bond for Projects

Ben Hart, the city financial advisor, went over three projects to be bonded: US-56 Pedestrian Crossing Improvements, US-56 Corridor Mgm't. Project, and the Maple Leaf Trail Phase 2, along with a couple other items: Police Building Overage and the Elm street overage. These will be temporary notes in the term of 2 years. After the state reimburses the city for their portion of the first three projects, then it can go out for bond. The bond will be right around one million dollars. There are no decisions to be made this evening, it is only for transparency. Ben went over the bond process with the council.

6. Utility Rates Discussion

The city should have an idea of where the reserve fund should be at the end of the year, and that will pretty much set the rate for each utility. There is also the possibility of going off of a three-year average.

The wastewater ordinance does not include the automatic MCI increase. Council will need to decide if that should be included in the ordinance.

H. Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Peter Wentz

- A lot of work went into putting together tonight's presentation by the committee, City Administrator Russ Harding, Ben Hart and Matt Lawn, the city's financial advisors.

Next meeting 2/06/2026 at 10:00am, second floor of City Hall

2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Peter Wentz

- Discussed common consumption. An agent from ABC will be at the next committee meeting to discuss what to do next, and answer any questions anyone may have.

Next meeting will be 2/23/2026 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

3. Public Safety - Jay King/Cory Venable

Next meeting will be TBD at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

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

Next meeting 2/12/2026 at 9:00am, Public Works Conference Room

5. Strategic Planning-Scott Lauridsen/Julie Constantinescu

Next meeting TBD at 10:00am, second floor of City Hall

6. Lake Advisory Committee-Jay King/Julie Constantinescu

Haven't had a meeting but got good news. Someone from the county came out to the lake and said the city is in a good position for the grant and it could potentially be used for the match if the city received the federal grant.

I. City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Russ Harding gave an update on the water line from Lawrence. He has been working with a firm out of Lawrence that did the grant writing for the Rails to Trails grant that the city received, and they are looking for grant opportunities for the water project. They are watching those that may be coming up at the end of February or March that could help cover the cost of the design process.

J. Council & Mayor Comments

The city attorney reminded the council that they are all members of the League of Kansas Municipalities where they have very helpful information and training that councilmembers can take advantage of.

Jay King said that he will be bringing an ordinance relating to RFP's to the next meeting.

Cory Venable said he felt the last meeting was very messy. He felt that he was not heard and misunderstood. He felt the discussion was misleading in regards to the committee appointments and how the statute was read.

Mayor Cullumber said he was at the library board meeting last week and said they are a humble group but wanted to let the citizens know some of the awesome things that they did, and went over some of the stats from 2025.

K. Executive Session

L. Adjourn

Julie Constantinescu moved and Jay King seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 5-0. Time: 8:14 p.m.

Attest:

Amara M. Packard
City Clerk