

City of Baldwin City
Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 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; City Attorney-Jessica Wortham; Pat Toth-Community Development; Kevin Watts-Assistant Public Works Director; and Chief Patrick-Police Department.

B. Approval of Agenda

Cory Venable moved and Julie Constantinescu seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passes 5-0.

C. Consent Agenda

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to approve the consent agenda with the amendment of removing special event Baker University-street closure and Baker University noise waiver. Motion passes 5-0.

1. Minutes 7.07.2026
2. Scheduled Claims List
3. Special Event-Lumberyard Arts Center-Fashion Show Rehearsal
4. Special Event-Lumberyard Arts Center-Fashion Show
5. Special Event-Baker University-Noise Waiver
6. Special Event-Baker University-Street Closure
7. Special Event-Baker University-Noise Waiver

D. Public Comment

Jonathon Smith, representing Lawrence Douglas County Public Health, wanted to introduce himself to the council. Jonathan thanked the council for their public service and all they do for the residents of Baldwin City. He said his team has expanded to Baldwin and every month; they now do WIC appointments at the LMH location in Baldwin City.

E. Special Reports or Presentations

F. Old Business

1. Food Truck Ordinance #1537

Peter Wentz moved and Jay King seconded to approve food truck ordinance 1537. Motion passes 5-0.

Julie Constantinescu-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Peter Wentz-yes, and Jay King-yes.

G. New Business

1. Uniform Public Offense Code-Ordinance #1538

Chief Patrick said that each year, the council must adopt the UPOC and STO books. Every year there is a change in the books of some sort.

Peter Wentz moved and Cory Venable seconded to adopt ordinance Uniform Public Offense Code, Ordinance 1538. Motion passes 5-0.

Jay King-yes, Peter Wentz-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, and Julie Constantinescu-yes.

2. Standard Traffic Ordinance-Ordinance #1539

Jay King moved and Peter Wentz seconded to approve the Standard Traffic Ordinance 1539.

Julie Constantinescu-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Peter Wentz-yes, and Jay King-yes.

3. US 56 Contract Bidding and Construction Engineering

Jason Hoskinson, engineer with BG Consultants explained to the council that this project has been in the works for quite some time. It is Highway 56 between Eisenhower and First Street. This will extend a three-lane section and align some of the intersections. There is a grant from KDOT for this project that was awarded several years ago. KDOT will likely be ready to bid this project out in the next week. KDOT will reimburse \$2 million dollars of the construction cost of the project. BG has included their standard, hourly agreement in the packet that would be with the city from where we are today on the project, to ribbon cutting. This will likely be a 4-month project, likely to begin first of the year.

Peter Wentz moved and Julie Constantinescu seconded to approve the US56 contract bidding and construction engineering. Motion passes 5-0.

Jay King-yes, Peter Wentz-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Scott Lauridsen-yes, and Julie Constantinescu-yes.

H. Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Peter Wentz

- Discussed Budget
- Presentation from the lake committee
- Budget workshop and strategic plan workshop
- Proposed to move the final budget workshop to 6:00 before the August 4th council meeting.

Next meeting 7/24/2026 at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall

2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Peter Wentz
Next meeting 7/27/2026 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall
3. Public Safety - Jay King/Cory Venable
Next meeting will be TBD at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall
4. Public Works and Utilities - Julie Constantinescu/Jay King
 - Working on chip and seal. Taking out bad sections and leveling.
 - Opened the restroom in Firetree. It had been closed for 6 weeks due to vandalism.
 - Replaced broken fire hydrant at 9th and Indiana.
 - Installed 3 new water services.
 - Removed Burr oak tree at the cemetery at cost of \$4500.
 - Got a transformer set at the high school addition, prepped it to pull wire there and also at the new substation.
 - On July 8 pulled wire on 3rd from Orange to High Street. Pulled 2700 feet of wire in 9 and half hours.
 - Cleared creek crossing at old substation for line to go through.
 - Blinks that were happening were caused by trees burning on the wires and also because of high wind causing new wire to slap against the new neutral wire. Removed the primary wire and rerouted them to the Northeast circuit. That cleared the blinks that were happening.

Catalyst compliance testing:

 - Units 7 and 8 were tested and passed with room to spare. Units are good for another 5 years.
 - A caterpillar 2MW generator in a container has been found that could be an option to add more generation.
 - Newton substation: 3 potential transformers have failed giving incorrect voltage monitoring, which could create problems while attempting to generate. Mid States looking for replacements.

Next meeting 8/13/2026 at 8:30am, 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
 - The committee has not met due to budget meetings, but the \$10,000 that the city is putting towards the lake, will show a big leap of faith to the community and will hopefully generate more donations, and help with the grant process.

Next meeting TBD at 6:00pm, Executive Room at the Community Center

I. City Administrator and Staff Comments

J. Council & Mayor Comments

Mayor Cullumber asked if there were any numbers yet for the 4th of July event. Jay King said the rough estimate for the event was 11,800 people in attendance.

Mayor Cullember talked about the meet and greet that was held on Saturday the 18th. He said it wasn't as well attended as he had hoped, but he appreciated Julie attending.

K. Executive Session

Julie Constantinescu moved and Scott Lauridsen seconded to move into executive session with the mayor, city administrator, and the city attorney to discuss a privileged and confidential legal matter of the city. The open meeting will resume in 10 minutes, at 7:37. Motion passes 5-0.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 7:37.

Jay King moved and Cory Venable moved to enter back into executive session for 15 minutes for attorney client privilege communications until 7:53. Motion passes 5-0.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 7:53.

L. Adjourn

Julie Constantinescu moved and Cory Venable seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 5-0. Time: 7:54 p.m.

Attest:

Amara M. Packard
City Clerk