

City of Baldwin City
Minutes
Tuesday, August 18th, 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 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

Peter Wentz moved and Jay King seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passes 5-0.

1. Minutes 8.04.2026
2. Scheduled Claims List

D. Public Comment

E. Special Reports or Presentations

Proclamation

On August 29th of 1976, the Beta-Tau Kappa Sigma Fraternity experienced a tragic house fire. In that fire, twenty-two were able to make it out safely, but they lost five friends and brothers; Mark Morris, Stephen Hoge, David Sloop, Stuart McCoy, and Theodore “Ted” Bailey. Dedication from the alumni’s fraternity board, national alumni, and many supporters' generosity, helped rebuild the fraternity house in less than two years.

On August 29, there will be a reception at the Collins House, and a memorial service at Rice Auditorium.

Mayor Cullumber read the proclamation and asked for a moment of silence to remember this monumental event.

F. Old Business

G. New Business

1. Special Event-Wellsville 1st Annual RZR/Ranger Run

This special event request is for the USD 289 school district; they are raising funds to go towards the negative school lunch balances for any families that are in that situation. The Bull Pen is on their route, so they applied for a special event in Baldwin. They are requesting to have the fee waived as they are under a non-profit, and asking to allow for their side-by-sides to be allowed to have other city tags on them and be allowed in Baldwin City for the hour or so they will be in town.

Peter Wentz moved and Jay King seconded to approve the special event Wellsville First Annual Razor/Ranger Run. Motion passes 5-0.

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to waive the city fee for the one-time event. Motion passes 5-0.

2. Douglas County Emergency Management Board Appointment

Police Chief Mike Patrick has agreed to stay on this board for another 1-year term.

Cory Venable moved and Julie Constantinescu seconded to appoint Mike Patrick, Chief, to the Douglas County Emergency Management Board. Motion passes 5-0.

3. KMGa Board Appointment

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to approve Russ Harding and Jeff Winkler for the KMGa Board Appointment. Motion passes 5-0.

4. Common Consumption Special Event

This special event has already been approved through the Consent Agenda and was approved. It was not realized at that time that they were requesting the common consumption area, so it needs to go back through as the council requested for common consumption events.

Peter Wentz moved and Cory Venable seconded to approve the common consumption special event as proposed. Motion passes 5-0.

H. Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Peter Wentz

Next meeting 8/21/2026 at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall

2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Peter Wentz

Next meeting 8/24/2026 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

3. Public Safety - Jay King/Cory Venable

- Working on scooter and e-bike ordinance

Next meeting will be 8/20/2026 at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall

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

- Regrading and adding ditches on 1st St next to the Police Station.
- Algae in the fountain has been an issue causing it to be drained and cleaned more often.
- 3 water leaks have been worked on.

- Flushing hydrants in west Baldwin which helps to maintain chlorine residual in the system and helps to keep them functioning properly.
- 104 non reads this month.
- Chapel substation:
- Fiber crews have been working to install fiber from the ground vault at 1st and Dearborn to the Sub.
- Pat's crew continues to make progress on the SE feeder reconductor from 3rd and Orange to approx the east end of Baker Stadium.
- Mid States has done some work on the switchgear. At that point, they will be done until we get the site energized.
- Newton substation:
- Mid States has made temporary repairs to connections on the transformers that were giving incorrect voltage signals on the SCADA.
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- Capacity testing:
- All 7 of the units passed the annual capacity testing required.
- July 28th dispatch:
- 2 registered units were dispatched for approx 7 hours in Real Time.
- Unit offers to the market were updated in 2022 to make sure that our costs were covered for almost any scenario after a dispatch. This 7-hour dispatch allowed us to cover our input costs and realize another \$9K in profit.
- Gas prices, reduced GRDA contract and generation offer curves that all played a part.
- Next month will be the first negative PCA charge in a year.

Next meeting 9/10/2026 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

Unofficially they were approved for a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Donations are still rolling in. The lake committee volunteers have put in over 225 volunteer hours at the lake. Hopefully in 2027 they can get things in order to get the spillway fixed. Donations can be sent to Baldwin State Bank. They may have a chance to get some new disc golf baskets.

Next meeting 9/15/2026 at 6:00pm, Executive Room at the Community Center

I. City Administrator and Staff Comments

J. Council & Mayor Comments

Mayor Cullumber said that setting the budget is not as easy as it seems. There are a lot of moving parts in the budget process.

K. Executive Session

L. Adjourn

Julie Constantinescu moved and Jay King seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 5-0. Time: 7:32 p.m.

Attest:

Amara M. Packard
City Clerk