

**City of Baldwin City**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 1st, 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, and Scott Lauridsen.

Also, attending: Russ Harding-City Administrator; Amara Packard-City Clerk; City Attorney-Jessica Wortham; Pat Toth-Community Development Director; Kevin Watts-Public Works Director; and Chief Pattrick-Police Department.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Peter Wentz moved and Cory Venable seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passes 4-0.

**C. Consent Agenda**

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to approve the consent agenda with the modification that we have conditionally approved for last year's map for the marching band festival. If it deviates, we will need to come back. Motion passes 4-0.

1. Minutes 8.18.2026
2. Scheduled Claims List
3. Special Event-Baker University-Marching Band Festival
4. Liquor License Application - Baldwin Beverages

**D. Public Comment**

**E. Special Reports or Presentations**

Rebecca McMillen-1102 Dearborn St.- Becky has been working on the Save The Lake Project since November 5th 2024. The committee has put in hundreds of hours of labor cleaning up trails, rebuilding foot bridges, clearing an old staircase built in the 1930's, and so much more. Kenny Niehoff has applied for several grants for the project, and was awarded \$15,000.00 from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Becky asked for support from the city park budget to help fix the spillway.

**F. Old Business**

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral**

Mayor Cullumber opened the hearing at 7:07pm.

No public Comments

Mayor Cullumber closed the hearing at 7:07pm.

Matt Lawn with Baker Tilly explained exceeding revenue neutral is and how it affects the city budget.

### **2. Resolution 2026-10 - Exceeding Revenue Neutral**

Scott Lauridsen moved and Peter Wentz seconded to pass resolution number 2026-10 with the ability to exceed the revenue neutral rate. Motion passes 3-1.

Scott Lauridsen-yes, Cory Venable-yes, Peter Wentz-yes, and Jay King-no.

### **3. Hearing for 2027 Budget**

Mayor Cullumber opened the hearing at 7:19pm.

Jim Brightman-505 10th St.-He stated he has no idea what is being said because of all of the acronyms and codes. And is unsure who Matt is, that has been speaking about the budget. He doesn't know how to ask questions when he is unsure of what they are talking about.

Matt Lawn with Baker Tilly explained revenue neutral in depth, and explained the neighborhood revitalization program.

Jeff Flory-215 HWY 56-Had a question on page 18 of the budget packet; under totals it has 18 million to 21.8 million for proposed 2027 budget.

Matt Lawn explained that it is a budget for expenditure authority, which means they are approving what they give themselves the opportunity to spend. When building a budget, they are also building in their reserve fund balance. They are budgeting their fund balance as an expenditure.

Mayor Cullumber closed the hearing at 7:38pm

### **4. Resolution 2026-11 - 2027 Budget**

Scott Lauridsen wanted clarification on Jay King's no vote on exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Jay King explained his reasoning for his vote, and that it was essentially to correct a vote he regretted earlier in the year for exceeding the revenue neutral rate. The 4 council members in attendance were not for raising the mill levy.

Cory Venable moved and Jay King seconded to approve Resolution 2026-11, adopting a mill levy not to exceed 42.268 mills, not raising the mill levy and adopting the 2027 budget.

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

### **5. Council Appointment to Interview Board for Open Library Board Position**

Jay King offered to fill that role. The council members in attendance were appreciative to Jay for offering to fill that role.

## **H. Committee Reports**

### **1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Peter Wentz**

- Reviewed July year to date financials
- Discussed utilities

Next meeting 9/18/2026 at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall

### **2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Peter Wentz**

- Discussed some upcoming projects

Next meeting 9/21/2026 at 4:00pm, second floor of City Hall

### **3. Public Safety - Jay King/Cory Venable**

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

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

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**

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 the City Clerk will be attending the Budget and Finance Committee meetings going forward, and thanked the fire department for their water fights with the kids during the Third Friday event, fun was had by all. He also thanked the council members for their hard work and dedication on the budget.

## **K. Executive Session**

## **L. Adjourn**

Cory Venable moved and Scott Lauridsen seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 4-0.  
Time: 8:04 p.m.

Attest:

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Amara M. Packard

City Clerk