

City of Baldwin City
Minutes
Tuesday, September 15th 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; Chase Lamaster and Officer Zweydoff-Police Department.

B. Approval of Agenda

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

C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes 9.01.2026
2. Scheduled Claims List

D. Public Comment

Henry Johns introduced himself to the council. He is running for 5th House District. He applauded the council for allowing public comment during council meetings allowing citizens to use their first amendment rights of free speech.

E. Special Reports or Presentations

Ken Niehoff presented what the lake committee has accomplished in a little over a year. He presented pictures of the current state of the spillway that has 90 year old concrete. The middle section of it gave way about seven years ago causing the water to drop three feet. There is an account set up at Baldwin State Bank accepting donations to help with the repairs needed. Ken applied for a grant that has been approved for the lake repairs. Together with the grant and the donations, there should be enough to cover the repairs of the spillway. There are numerous other things to fix, but this is the first big repair that needs to be done.

F. Old Business

G. New Business

H. Committee Reports

1. Budget and Finance - Scott Lauridsen/Peter Wentz
Next meeting 9/18/2026 at 9:00am, second floor of City Hall
2. Community Development - Cory Venable/Peter Wentz
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
 - Substation update:
 - Mid States has about 2 weeks of items to get done and then will be done until the Chapel Substation is energized.
 - There is a new fiber line from Chapel Sub to Power Plant #1 downtown. Fiber is done except hanging splice boxes at each building.
 - Pat's crew is mostly done except reconducting the old SE feeder from open wire to Hendrix.
 - Outifi is ready to release an update that would show actual energized and de-energized meters on the map, instead of only those that have submitted outage information. More research will be done on other options before bringing them to council.
 - A used 2MW generator has become available.
 - Southwest Power Pool Z2:
 - SPP assessed some extra transmission charges on the majority of utilities served by them in 2016. Baldwin's share of those costs was \$11,293.
 - Utilities filed disputes on the charges and a settlement was reached this year.
 - Baldwin is estimated to receive back about \$7, 773 plus an additional \$5,538 in interest. Not sure if it will be returned in one payment or split up over the next few years.

Next meeting 10/08/2026 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
 - Discussed everything that was presented to the council this evening.Next meeting 10/20/2026 at 6:00pm, Executive Room at the Community Center

I. City Administrator and Staff Comments

City Administrator Russ Harding wanted to let everyone know that the fall citywide cleanup is going to be October 10th from 8am to 1pm, at the Public Utilities location at 1015 Orange Street.

City Attorney Jessica Wortham wanted to point out scammers are on the rise and for everyone to be fully aware of what they are opening in their emails. E-invites are really popular scams right now that when you click on them, they steal your information. There are lots of scam calls going on as well.

J. Council & Mayor Comments

Mayor Cullumber said it has been a very hot month and that if any citizens are having trouble paying their utility bill, or need financial assistance, please contact city hall. City Hall will point you in the direction of several different organizations that may be able to help you. He also wanted to thank Public Works for their help with the Library staff.

K. Executive Session

L. Adjourn

Cory Venable moved and Peter Wentz seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion passes 5-0.
Time: 7:26 p.m.

Attest:

Amara M. Packard
City Clerk