



BALDWIN CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025

Present – Mayor Jay Swanson, City Council; Tom Rush, Alan Walker and Scott Case,

Absent – City Council; Jeff Holm

Also Present – Baldwin City Finance Consultant; Elizabeth Diaz from Ehler's

Call to Order – The November 12th, 2025 special meeting of the City of Baldwin was called to order by Mayor Jay Swanson at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Distribution of Investment Funds – In May of 2023, the city purchased a one-million-dollar certificate of deposit. The entire transaction was recorded within the general fund. This resulted in the general fund's cash balance appearing with a negative balance. Ehler's is proposing to reallocate the one-million-dollar CD and subsequent interest earnings to be allocated among all city funds. This would ensure that future monthly reports and audited financial statements accurately reflect the city's true financial position. **Case/Walker unanimous to approve** up to \$1500 for this expenditure from Ehler's and not to exceed 5 hours.

Discuss Proposed 2026 Budget/Levy – The City Council adopted a preliminary 2026 levy of \$2,026,044 on September 15th, 2025 at a special budget meeting. The City Council and staff have been diligently working on the 2026 budget and levy in preparation for final adoption on December 1st after the required Truth in Taxation Hearing. The preliminary 2026 levy represented a \$268,394 increase over the adopted 2025 levy. The final 2026 levy may be reduced but not increased over the preliminary adopted levy. Rush discussed that he is not in favor of increasing the levy to 12.08%. Rush also discussed that he is not in favor of doing the liquor store feasibility study. Case and Swanson discussed planning for the future if the city will do a municipal liquor store in the City of Baldwin or not. Elizabeth discussed the only option is to cut expenditures or wait to repair the general fund. Rush would like to have the park fund at \$75,000 and Capital Fire to \$50,000. Case would be okay with lowering the Capital Fire to \$50,000. This would change the tax increase for the homeowner from \$49 to \$28 based on a \$404,300 median residential homestead. The proposed 2026 levy would then be \$1,905,044.

PRELIMINARY LEVY 2026

GENERAL FUND 101 – \$590,400

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND 275 - \$800,000

FIRE FUND 250 - \$275,000

CAPITAL FUND 403 (FIRE) - \$125,000

PARK FUND 404 - \$90,000

DEBT SERVICES FUND 301 & 302 - \$119,644

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 250-33420 - \$26,000

TOTAL: \$2,026,044

PROPOSED LEVY 2026

\$945,400

\$450,000

\$240,000

\$50,000

\$75,000

\$119,644

\$25,000

\$1,905,044

Adjourn - Rush/Walker unanimous to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.


Submitted By: (s/) Joan Heinen
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Baldwin


Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson
Mayor
City of Baldwin

12-1-2025
Date

Attendees: Bruce West