



BALDWIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 7TH, 2026

Present – Acting Mayor; Tom Rush, City Council Members; Alan Walker, Scott Case, and Jeff Holm

Also Present – City Planning & Zoning Administrator; Dan Licht from The Planning Company (TPC)

Absent – Mayor; Jay Swanson

Jeff Holm arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Call to Order – The January 7th, 2026 regular meeting of the City of Baldwin was called to order by Acting Mayor Tom Rush at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Request from Shirley Hines

Additions/Corrections to Agenda

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda With/Without Additions/Corrections - Case/Walker unanimous to approve agenda as presented.

January 2026 Preliminary Treasurer's Report – The Clerk/Treasurer reported a beginning cash balance of \$1,712,954.37, no receipts yet for the month of January 2026, disbursements of \$10,731.51 leaving an unaudited ending balance of \$1,702,222.86. The beginning and ending balance include the CD balance previously reported separately on the cash balance report.

Sheriff's Report - Deputy Wilson reported a total of 207 calls for service in the City of Baldwin for December 2025. There were no burglaries or thefts. These calls consisted of 12 motor vehicle accidents, 21 medicals, 47 traffic stops, 23 additional patrols were performed. The rest were miscellaneous calls for service.

Fire Department Report – Captain Torborg reported 33 calls for December 2025. There were 28 medicals, 1 structure fire, 2 mutual aids, 1 grass/rubbish fire, and 1 alarm. Out of the 33 calls, 6 were for Blue Hill Township. Captain Torborg stated that there were 403 total calls for 2025.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Leave of Absence (LOA) for Assistant Chief; Robin Fischer – Case/Walker unanimous to approve LOA for Robin Fischer.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Proposal from Stinson Electric for \$6495.00 - Case/Walker unanimous to disapprove proposal from Stinson Electric for \$6495.00. This is for 3 door locks at the Fire Department.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Brandon Larson Resignation – Rush/Walker
unanimous to approve resignation for Brandon Larson effective December 31st, 2025.

Jeff Holm arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Public Comment Requests:

Todd Maloney – 10109 297th Avenue NW, Discussion on building a business at PID# 01-00009-4305. Maloney owns North Star Truck Sales and is looking to moving the business. Licht stated that the comp plan is being worked on by the Planning Commission, and this location is proposed for industrial. The timeline that the comp plan would be done is April of 2026. Holm asked if they reached out to MnDOT and Maloney stated he has. Case stated that this would be beneficial to the City.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Case/Walker unanimous to approve Consent Agenda.

- Re-Approve City Council Meeting Minutes for December 1st, 2025
- Approve Special City Council Meeting Minutes for December 8th, 2025
- Approve Resolution 26-02; Adopting the 2026 Final Budget
- Approve Security Reduction for Northland Ponds as Recommended by Acting City Engineer
- Approve Quote from M-R Signs for \$679.58
- Approve Deputy Clerk Attending Ehler's Minnesota Public Finance Seminar February 5th and 6th, 2026

Planning Items:

Discuss Code Enforcement Process – City staff is discussing changes to the process for code enforcement to streamline and make the process more efficient and timelier. Case stated that this new plan should be implemented.

Park Committee Report – Rush communicated that the next Park Committee meeting is January 15th, 2026. Rush stated that the Park Committee will be looking at future plans for the parks in 2026. Rush stated that once the comp plan is done, he would like the Park Committee to have a joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

Cemetery Update - None

Tabled Items:

Discuss Expenditure Policy for Public Works – Rush stated that the Public Works Supervisor should have a \$1000.00 monthly spending expenditure. Rush went on to say that this would be to purchase necessities for day-to-day operations. **Case/Walker unanimous to approve** \$1000.00 monthly expenditure for Public Works Supervisor.

Discuss City Council Goals for 2026 – **Case/Walker unanimous to table** until the January 21st, 2026 City Council meeting.

New Business:

Discuss Landscape and Driveway Escrow Agreement for Betzler Builders – Holm stated that on January 1st, 2026, the City Council adopted to do agreements for driveway and landscape with associated fees in order to receive a certificate of occupancy. Holm requested the agreement be broken down for grass seeding, trees, driveway aprons and the front yard setbacks with associated costs. Licht from (TPC) said the Planning Commission will be reviewing the comp plan. Rush asked how the costs were determined for the driveway and landscape fees and Licht stated that the current costs were received from the City Engineer. Case recommends the Planning Commission review the agreement and breakdown of costs to see if revisions should be made. Jondahl said that they are okay with paying an escrow, but the costs are not realistic. Licht stated that he would be open to reviewing the fees Jondahl recommends and working with the City Engineer on these recommendations. Jondahl stated that the escrow should be approximately \$8000.00. **Case/Holm unanimous to approve** sending this to the Planning Commission to review.

Discuss Time Tracking Method – Holm/Walker unanimous to table until the January 21st, 2026 City Council meeting.

Discuss City Council Re-Organization – No changes to the City Council organization/responsibilities.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Resolution 26-01; Making Appointments to Certain Offices and Positions Within the City of Baldwin for 2026 – Holm/Walker unanimous to approve Resolution 26-01

Schedule Board of Audit – Holm/Rush unanimous to approve February 4th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove January Newsletter – Holm/Walker unanimous to approve January – March 2026 newsletter.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove NSU Summary of Needs and Findings – Natural Systems Utilities has identified needs for the wastewater treatment system at Frontier Trails. **Case/Holm unanimous to approve** up to \$500.00 for a new lid at the south site influent tank.

Holm/Walker unanimous to table the rest of the findings until the January 21st, 2026 City Council meeting.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Exhaust Manifold/Gasket Quotes for Truck # 30 – Walker/Holm unanimous to approve Ralph Biniek's quote for \$3372.60.

Announcements:

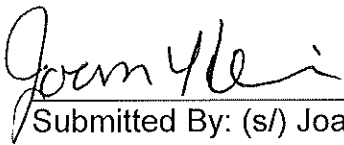
- a. Public Works Attending MN Equipment Show Thursday, January 8th from 8:00 – 1:00
- b. Special Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday, January 14th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

- c. Park Committee Meeting Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- d. City Hall Closed Monday, January 19th, 2026 in Observance of Martin Luther King Day
- e. Next City Council Meeting Wednesday, January 21st, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- f. Baldwin/Blue Hill Township Fire Contract Meeting Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- g. Local Board of Appeal and Equalization April 16th, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

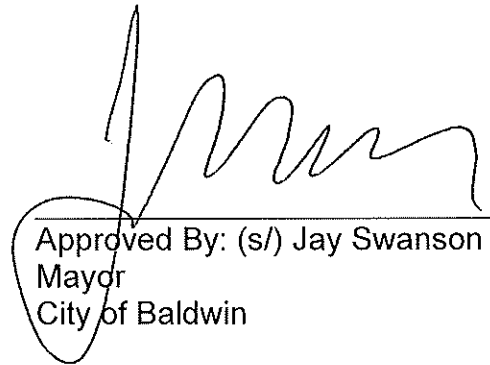
Any Other Business – Rush communicated that the new plow truck is being repaired and the repairs will be covered under warranty. Rush believes the initial build was rushed in order to meet delivery date.

Approve Bills for Payment – Case/Walker unanimous to approve check numbers 29168 – 29222 for \$304,435.54 and 3 EFT Payments for \$4992.21 for a total of \$309,427.75.

Adjourn - Holm/Walker unanimous to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.



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



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

1-21-2026

Date

Attendees: Shirley Hines, Sharon Leider, Bruce West, Ron Messer, Todd Maloney, Joss Jondahl, Jason Betzler and Zac Good.