

CITY OF BALATON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 08, 2024, 7pm

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Balaton City Council was called to order at 7pm on Monday January 08, 2024, by Mayor Lonnie Lambertus.
- 2) **ROLL CALL**
- a) **Present:** Mayor Lonnie Lambertus, Council Members: Dylan Fricke, Curt Paradis, Greg Erickson, Scott Wood
- b) **Absent:** none
- c) **Also Present:** Sgt Eric Wallen-Lyon County Sheriff's Department, Kasey Holm-Fire Chief, Kimberly Wall-Clerk/Treasurer, Josh Torgeson-Public Works, Michael Wall, Darrell Crumrine, Denise Crumrine.
- 3) **APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Curt Paradis to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2023, Special Meeting(s) on December 27, 2023. Motion carried by all present.
- 4) **FINANCIALS:**
- a) No questions or corrections. A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Scott Wood to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried by all present.
- 5) **RESOLUTION 2024-01 STATING ORGANIZATIONAL FORMAT – A** motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Curt Paradis to adopt the Resolution 2024-01 Stating Organization Format. Motion carried by all present.
- 6) **2024 FEE SCHEDULE:** A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Scott Wood to approve the following increases. Motion carried by all present.
- 1) One Day Events from \$60 to \$75/per day
 - 2) Special Use Permit Fee - \$300.00
 - 3) Variance Fee - \$300.00
 - 4) Zoning Fee – from \$25/\$50 to \$50/\$75
- 7) **2024 COUNCIL DUTIES:** A motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Curt Paradis to approve and remove Cable TV and Care Center Facility from the Committee Responsibilities list; no other changes were made to the Committee Responsibilities list. Motion carried by all present.
- 8) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - nothing**
- 9) **REQUESTS & COMMUNICATIONS**
- a) Darrell and Denise Crumrine submitted a request/proposal to purchase the property Balaton was gifted from the Lila Lee Trust for \$1,500.00. Darrell advised that he would like to purchase the property to add a driveway. Darrell advised that he understands that due to easements, state highways and county roads, he will not be able to build and will tear down existing building. Dylan Fricke asked if there's a reason that the city will need to hold on to the property. Per Josh, no. Josh Torgeson advised the council and Darrell Crumrine that he will not be able to build anything on that parcel due to variances. All surveying has been completed. A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to accept Darrell Crumrine's offer of \$1,500.00 for the corner lot (no parcel number assigned by county) property that is adjacent to 320 2nd Street East Balaton MN 56115. Motion carried by all present.
- 10) **REPORTS – OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES**
- a) Water/Sewer/Garbage Delinquent Accounts – shut offs scheduled for January 10, 2024.
- 1) Lonnie Lambertus informed the council that on the mayor's website, many cities are no longer shutting off water; all delinquent balances (at the end of the year) are being assessed to taxes and then start at zero balance at the beginning of the new year. Per Josh, there are some properties that they cannot shut off due to infrastructure. Concerns are that delinquent bills would take years to be paid off, that it would be more difficult for someone to pay a large delinquent bill (end of year) rather than a monthly balance. Scott Wood suggests that the curb stops that are not working properly, to get them fixed (spring) and if not paid by the homeowner, assess those charges to taxes. No decision has been made at this time, no changes to the current process.
- b) City Personnel - Employee Hours YTD – nothing
- c) Public Works:
- 1) Mitchell Hurst 90-day review. The council agreed to set up a separate ninety (90) day review. Date to be determined.
 - 2) Josh Torgeson informed the council that he told ISG not to attend the meeting.
 - (i) DGR Preliminary Engineering Report on Water and Sewer Projects – Josh Torgeson stated that the preliminary report would show realistic numbers. Grants are available up to seventy-five (75) percent which would start in 2025. The entire process would take approximately two to three years. Scott Wood suggested to look into everything except the old well. Josh suggested a clear well, holding tank for back washing. A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to have DGR draw up the Preliminary Engineering Report on Water and Sewer Projects. General categories of improvement desired:
 - (a) New Auxiliary Lift station (East Lift).
 - (b) New auto dialers across several areas (lift station, wells, water, plant, etc.).
 - (c) Cast Iron water main replacement in 10-15 block area.
 - (d) New Generators.
 - (e) Rehab water treatment plant (filter media replacement, replacing piping/valves as needed, new controls, painting, etc.
 - (f) Abandon well, construct new well.
 - (g) Main lift station updates.
 - (h) Updated controls and alarms for list stations, water treatment plant, etc.
- d) EDA - Monthly Report - nothing.
- e) Zoning- Josh discussed the cost of zoning, variances, and special permits. Lonnie questioned fee cost, per Josh, approximately \$300.00 for each zoning/variance for entire process. Concerns were discussed that the zoning and variances also takes a lot of time from start to finish. Matt Gross advised that a new fee can be set in the January council meeting.
- f) Lyon County Sheriff Department
- 1) Eric Wallen gave handouts of December incidents totaling twenty-three (23). Handed out a breakdown of hours spent in Balaton. Handed out 2022 and 2023 incident reports for comparison. 2023 ambulance were up in numbers, everything else about the same. Eric stated no general concerns for Balaton. Scott Wood asked about

winter parking tickets. Eric advised that tickets were given out and will be out the next day for follow-up. Greg Erickson stated that he did hear that the radio station did announce that Balaton was in a winter storm warning emergency. Curt Paradis advised the council that Mark Galbraith's semi-truck has been parked on side streets again, suggested that clerk send letter to resident to inform him of street parking ordinances and where he is allowed to park semi-trucks.

g) Liquor Store

- 1) **Kathy Olson – Vacation Hours:** Scott Wood told the council that she was unable to use all of her vacation hours last year due to nobody being able to work daytime hours. Per city code, an employee may carry forty (40) hours into the following year however, the suggestion was made to allow Kathy Olson to carry over 142 hours into January 2024 while training the new hire. Per Scott Wood, Kathy said she would need to train throughout the month of January so she would be able to use some of her vacation hours. A motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve the 142 vacation hours to roll over into 2024 and prorate the 2024 new vacation hours for the month of January and will be paid the extra salary (\$214.50) and TASC funds. Motion carried by all present.
- 2) **Starting Cash Drawer:** A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Scott Wood to approve increasing the daily cash drawer from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and the community center cash drawer from \$300 to \$500. Motion carried by all present.
- h) **Care Center:** Lonnie Lambertus informed the council that Matt Gross has a call into the surveyor (Bueltel-Moseng Land Surveying) as Ken Holms requested another easement drawn up in reference to the testing well. When the surveyor's report is completed, Ken Holm, Josh Torgeson, council member and Bueltel to determine property lines/pins. Scott Wood advised that Ken Holm would also like the lines cleared behind the shed, wants to make certain lines are clear. This should be the last item to sort through before signing at the end of January 2024.
 - i) **Fire/Ambulance Department**
 - 1) **New Elected Officers –** A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Scott Wood to approve the 2024 Elected Officers. Motion carried by all present.
 - (i) Balaton Fire Department Chief: Kasey Holm
 - (ii) Balaton Fire Department Assistant Chief: Jason Swan
 - (iii) Balaton Fire Department Training Officer: Teri Hively
 - (iv) Balaton Ambulance Captain: Jacob Hively
 - 2) **Balaton Golf Course – Food and Liquor at the Balaton Fire Department Golf Tournament:** The council agreed to allow the Balaton Golf Course to serve food and liquor at the Golf Tournament event in February 03, 2024
 - j) **Nuisance – nothing.**
- 11) **Public Hearing –** a motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Greg Erickson (7:36) to close the public hearing regarding ESST. Motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to
- 12) **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a) **Legion Flags –** the council agreed to let the American Legion (Post 237) to sell American Flags. The City Hall will no longer sell flags due to poor quality.
 - b) Lonnie Lambertus received a thank you letter from the American Legion thanking the mayor, council members, fire hall, nursing home, community center for everything they've done for the American Legion throughout the 2023 year.
 - c) **Board of Appeals and Equalization Certification:** Dylan Fricke stated that he is certified. Curt Paradis informed the clerk to send information and he would look in to becoming certified.
 - d) **Rural Rock Red Water (water rate increase):** Josh Torgeson stated rates increase every year by approximately seven (7) percent. A motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Curt Paradis to approve the seven (7) percent increase on water sales for 2024. The motion was carried by all present.
- 13) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 - a) **TASC:** TASC informed city clerk that they do not prorate balances per employee. All TASC cards will be front loaded \$1,716.00 for the 2024 year.
- 14) **MISCELLANEOUS:** nothing
- 15) **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson. Motion was carried by all present. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.


 Kimberly Wall, City Clerk-Treasurer


 Lonnie Lambertus, Mayor