

**CITY OF BALATON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

January 13, 2025 - 7pm

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Balaton City Council was called to order at 7pm on Monday January 13, 2025, by Mayor Lonnie Lambertus
- 2) **ROLL CALL**
 - a) **Present:** Lonnie Lambertus, Council Members: Dylan Fricke, Tracy McCloud, Greg Erickson, Curt Paradis
 - b) **Absent: None**
 - c) **Also Present:** Lyon County Sheriff's Department-Wallen, Kimberly Wall-Clerk/Treasurer, Theresa Zaske, Mitch Holm, Kasey Holm-Fire Department, Jacob Hively-Ambulance and Michael Wall
- 3) **APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Greg Erickson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 09, TNT Meeting December 09, 2024, and the Special Meetings December 16th and 23rd, 2024. Motion carried by all present.
- 4) **FINANCIALS:**

No questions or corrections. A motion was made by Tracy McCloud and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried by all present.
- 5) **REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
- 6) **Public Hearing – Ordinance amending Section 206.13 Subd.1 of the Balaton City Code**
 - a) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to open the public hearing at 7:01pm for Ordinance amending Section 206.13 Subd.1 of the Balaton City Code. Motion carried by all present.
- 7) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –None**
- 8) **REPORTS – OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES**
 - a) **Water/Sewer/Garbage Delinquent Accounts - Nothing**
 - b) **City Personnel - Employee Hours YTD – Nothing**
 - c) **Public Works:**
 - 1) Dylan advised the council that Josh Torgeson is asking the council if they want Mitch Hurst licensed for water and sewer. (testing in March) Lonnie, Dylan and Tracy agreed for Mitch to go through testing and become licensed.
 - d) **Zoning: Nothing**
 - e) **EDA**
 - 1) Greg Erickson informed the council that Signature Care will be signing. Matt Gross informed the council that Signature Care will need title insurance and to get that, they will need the abstract title from the City of Balaton which will cause a delay. Matt informed the council that there was never an abstract title drawn up. Matt Gross will order from the state to which closing will be delayed for four (4) weeks. The council can approve the sale however the closing date will be at a later time.
- f) **Lyon County Sheriff Department**
 - 1) Sheriff Officer: Wallen handed out a December 2024 report, 40 incidents reported. Eric provided a 2023 and 2024 incident analysis report: 2024 increased by 143 calls. Eric also handed out the City of Balaton 2024 Contracted Hours which averaged out to 32.65 hours a week.
- g) **Liquor Store:**
 - 1) Lonnie Lambertus informed the council that he and Dylan Fricke met with two applicants (January 13, 2025) and expressed that he and Dylan concluded who they would like to hire. Lonnie informed the council that the applicant is requesting twenty-eight dollars (\$28) an hour starting wage as she is making twenty-seven dollars (\$27) at her current place of employment. Lonnie and Dylan did advise both applicants that the City of Balaton does not offer any benefits except Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) and a Health Care Savings Plan (HRA Card). Dylan Fricke informed the council that the applicant, that they are suggesting, has a lot of experience managing people, product ordering as the other applicant has less experience and they did not care for her interview responses. A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Greg Erickson that they choose the manager between the two applicants, Emily Monson and Ashley Haroldson. A second motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Lonnie Lambertus to hire Ashley Haroldson (ninety (90) day probationary period) as the new Balaton Municipal Liquor Store manager at the starting wage of twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$27.50). Motion carried by all present.
 - 2) Lonnie Lambertus informed the council that Ashley Haroldson is seeking approval of on-sale, off-sale and Sunday sales at the Balaton Liquor Store for football games, etc. A motion was made by Tracy McCloud and seconded by Dylan Fricke to permit the bar to be open on Sundays during football games, etc. Motion carried by all present.
- h) **Community Center**
 - 1) Contract: Inclement Weather
 - (i) No change to the current contract. Refunds will be allowed due to inclement weather only (schools closed/events cancelled) and or be able to reschedule to a future date.
- i) **Fire/Ambulance Department:**
 - 1) 2025 Elected Officers
 - (i) Kasey informed the council that the treasure/relief association trustee is Jeremy Swenson, and the secretary position will be filled by Joshua Torgeson, Chief is Kasey Holm, Training officer is Jared Hively. The assistant Chief is Jason Swan. A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Greg Erickson to approve the 2025 elected officers. Motion carried by Curt Paradis and Tracy McCloud abstained from the vote.
- 2) Turn Out Gear:
 - (i) Kasey informed the council that the turnout gear arrived and has been issued January 07, 2025. The City of Balaton is still waiting for the transfer of funds from FEMA.
- 3) Retired Ambulance/Firefighters Spouse Benefits
 - (i) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke that if the active or retired member of the Balaton Ambulance/Fire Department passes away, the spouse will continue to receive the ambulance benefits. Motion carried by Curt Paradis and Tracy McCloud abstained from the vote.

4) Ambulance

(i) Jacob Hively informed the council that they received sixty-six thousand six hundred eight dollars and fifty-seven (\$66,608.57) from Minnesota State Aid. Jacob requested from the council that six thousand (\$6,000) be allocated to increase on-call hour wage (increase by one dollar) and fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$14,800) for ambulance personnel that are on the roster to receive compensation/incentive pay (bonus). Kasey and Jacob informed the council that all funds must be used by December 31, 2025; unused funds must be returned to the state. A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars (\$14,800) for ambulance personnel that are on the roster to receive compensation/incentive pay and six thousand (\$6,000) be allocated to increase on-call hour wage (increase by one dollar). Motion carried by all present.

(ii) Kasey Holm asked the council if the ambulance is profitable, can the ambulance take a portion of the profit and move it to a dedicated fund. Curt Paradis informed Kasey Holm that he could request an increase of capital outlay during budget time. Kasey explained that he would like to take the profit generated, not increase capital outlay as capital outlay is budgeted on taxes. Dylan Fricke suggested that they look into what they can do. Matt Gross suggested that they create a reserve account that ambulance generated funds from the runs be transferred to but to check with the city auditor. No decision was made at this time.

j) Nuisance: Nothing

9) Resolutions

a) Resolution 2025-01 Organization Format and Council Duties

1) A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Tracy McCloud to accept the Organization Format by reassigning Scott Wood's committees to Tracy McCloud, no other changes. Motion was carried by all present.

b) Resolution 2025-02 Resolution Accepting a Donation of the City of Balaton

1) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Tracy McCloud to accept a donation of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from CHS (Cenex Harvest States) and two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) from the Wheeler Family and Trust for the Fire Trailer. Motion carried by all present.

10) NEW BUSINESS

a) 2025 Local Board of Appeals – the City Clerk informed the council that the Lyon County scheduled Balaton's Local Board of Appeals meeting April 21, 2025, at 6pm (Monday).

b) 2025 MCFOA Annual Conference (Municipal Clerks and Finance Officer Association)

1) A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Tracy McCloud to approve the City Clerk/Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer to attend the 2025 Annual Conference held March 18-21, 2024. Motion carried by all present. The council agreed to close the office March 18-21, 2024.

c) Kinner and Company Ltd. Audit Bid Letter.

1) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve that the audit will start in February 2025 and issue reports in May 2025. The gross fees, including expenses, will not exceed twenty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$21,500). Motion carried by all present.

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) Mitch Holm – Detachment of parcel 21-146051-0 from the City of Balaton

1) Mitch Holm presented a copy of the petition that was discussed during the December 10, 2024, council meeting. Mitch stated that according to statute, parcel 21-146051-0 is not developed for residential, commercial or urban purposes. He acknowledged that there is a house on this parcel, however it's not developed and lacks public improvements requiring it to be developed such as no streets, curbs or gutters that exist (as an example) in Eastbay and Grandview. Mitch is only requesting the detachment for parcel 21-146051 only. Mitch also informed the council that he has a resolution from Rock Lake Township that they would support the petition to detach parcel 21-146051 from the City of Balaton. Greg Erickson stated that the city has already gone through this process with another property owner and would oppose his request to detach at this time to prevent others from following suit with the City of Balaton. A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke. Motion carried by all present.

b) Clerk Computers

1) A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Tracy McCloud to approve two new computers from Computers and Beyond. Motion carried by all present. The Clerk/Treasurer old computer will be moved to the water plant.

12) Public Hearing

a) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to close the public hearing at 7:59pm. Motion carried by all present.

1) Ordinance amending Section 206.13 Subd.1 of the Balaton City Code

(i) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Tracy McCloud to amend the vacation hour language. The maximum number of days of vacation will be fifteen (15) days per year. Any vacation not taken by December 31 cannot be carried over to the following year or be paid out.

13) MISCELLANEOUS: nothing

14) ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke. Motion was carried by all present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.


Kimberly Wall, City Clerk-Treasurer


Lonnie Lambertus, Mayor