

CITY OF BALATON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 09, 2024, 7pm

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Balaton City Council was called to order at 7pm on Monday December 09, 2024, by Mayor Lonnie Lambertus
- 2) **ROLL CALL**
 - a) **Present:** Lonnie Lambertus, Council Members: Dylan Fricke, Scott Wood, Greg Erickson, Curt Paradis
 - b) **Absent:** None
 - c) **Also Present:** Lyon County Sheriff's Department-Coens, Kimberly Wall-Clerk/Treasurer, Alexis Birt-Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Josh Torgeson-Public Works Superintendent, Theresa Zaske, Mitch Holm, Kasey Holm-Fire Department, Mitch Pallansch-Signature Care and Tracy McCloud
- 3) **APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Greg Erickson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 11, 2024 and the Special Meeting November 26, 2024. Motion carried by all present.
- 4) **FINANCIALS:**

No questions or corrections. A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried by all present.
- 5) **REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None
- 6) **Public Hearing – Proposed sale of Lakeview Senior Living**
 - a) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to open the public hearing for the proposed sale of Lakeview Senior Living at 7:02pm. Motion carried by all present.
- 7) **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -None**
- 8) **REPORTS – OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES**
 - a) **Water/Sewer/Garbage Delinquent Accounts** Alexis informed the council that shut offs are on the 11th.
 - b) **City Personnel - Employee Hours YTD – Nothing**
 - c) **Public Works: Nothing**
 - d) **EDA - Nothing**
 - e) **Lyon County Sheriff Department** Sheriff Officer Coens handed out November 2024 report. No concerns on behalf of the council or sheriff.
 - f) **Liquor Store:**
 - 1) The council was informed that Darci Anderson called to remind the city that she will be here on January 02, 2024, to go over inventory for the Balaton Bar. She requested that all inventory be completed by December 31, 2024. Dylan Fricke informed the council that they purchased cameras for the bar.
 - g) **Community Center**
 - 1) Dylan Fricke and Theresa Zaske asked the council for permission to put up new sound panel in the community center. The Balaton Area Community Foundation (BACF) will be funding the project. The council members were all in agreement that the BACF will purchase and install new surround sound speakers.
 - 2) Jamie Bauleke submitted a written request for a refund for the seventy-five dollars (\$75) event that was held in the spring of 2024. The council agreed that they will not refund. Jamie also requested that if a class is cancelled, she would like to forward that date to a future date. The council discussed and agreed that this would not be allowed as it's the same thing as a refund. All members agreed.
 - 3) The council discussed the complaints coming in regarding the stove/oven. The council agreed to have HMI come in and lower the pilot light. Tracy McCloud informed the council that it's a commercial oven, stove will be warm including the griddle due to the pilot light being left on.
 - h) **Fire/Ambulance Department:**
 - 1) **Expert Billing:** Matt Gross informed the council that the city clerk has exhausted all options of getting the existing accounts at Expert Billing to be transferred to RCB (collection agency). The council agreed to do nothing right now.
 - i) **Nuisance:**
 - 1) Josh informed the council that the nuisance properties have gotten better. There is one property from the nuisance properties list that has not complied with removing a vehicle, all other properties have been making progress. Matt Gross informed the council that it would not be cost effective to file just one property that is not compliant with the city codes.
- 9) **Resolutions**
 - a) **Resolution 2024-39 - Resolution Accepting a Donation of the City of Balaton**
 - 1) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to accept the Southwest Initiative Foundation payment of two thousand eight hundred forty-six dollars and fifty cents (\$2,846.50) for the Fire Turnout Gear. Motion was carried by all present.
 - b) **Resolution 2024-40 - Resolution Approving Temporary Off-Site Gambling**
 - (i) A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Curt Paradis to allow Balaton American Legion Post 237 to conduct Off-Site Gambling (Bingo) on December 31, 2024, at the Community Center. Motion carried by all present.
 - c) **Resolution 2024-41 – Resolution Accepting a Donation of the City of Balaton**
 - (i) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Dylan Fricke to accept two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) from Thersa Zaske for the 607 Fire Truck. Motion carried by all present.
 - d) **Resolution 2024-42 - Resolution Accepting a Donation of the City of Balaton**
 - (i) A motion was made by Dylan Fricke and seconded by Greg Erickson to accept one hundred dollars (\$100.00) from Roberta Joehnck for 607 Fire Truck. Motion accepted by all present.

10) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Approving to Renew Balaton Bay Golf Course LLC Liquor License
 - 1) A motion was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Curt Paradis to approve the renewed liquor license for Balaton Bay Golf Course, LLC. Motion carried by all present.
- b) Fee and Notice Schedule
 - 1) Dylan Fricke suggested that they increase the community center rental cost for weddings to five hundred dollars (\$500) for the weekend (Friday-Sunday). One day wedding rental will increase to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). All members agreed.
- c) LMCIT – the council approved insurance listed amounts. All members agreed.
 - 1) The council elected to decline the addition of a one-million-dollar umbrella for 2025. All members agreed.
- d) Unused Capital Outlay
 - 1) 101-43100-580 Streets \$3,000.17
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put three thousand and seventeen cents (\$3000.17) into the existing snowplow CD. Motion carried by all present.
 - 2) 101-43125-580 Snow \$21,000
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000) into the existing snowplow CD. Motion carried by all present.
 - 3) 101-45200-580 Parks \$4,500.50
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put four thousand five hundred dollars and fifty cents (\$4,500.50) into the existing snowplow CD. Motion carried by all present.
 - 4) 101-41942-580 Community Center \$10,000
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put the balance of ten thousand dollars into general savings. Motion carried by all present.
 - 5) 102-42200-580 Fire \$17,208.09
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put seventeen thousand two hundred eight dollars and nine cents (\$17,208.09) into a Fire CD. Motion carried by all present.
 - 6) 103-43125-580 Ambulance \$4,000.00
 - (i) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to put four thousand dollars (\$4000.00) into the existing ambulance CD. Motion carried by all present.
- e) Swearing in New Council Members
 - 1) Lonnie Lambertus (Mayor), Greg Erickson (Council Member) and Tracy McCloud (Council Member) read through the Oath of Office and signed forms.
- f) Storm Sewer Fee
 - 1) Josh Torgeson discussed with the council and requested to add a monthly storm sewer fee to the utility bill. Josh provided hand out to compare prices with other small towns in the area. Josh suggested a three-dollar (\$3.00) monthly fee due to aging infrastructure as the storm sewer affects all properties. A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to add a three-dollar (\$3.00) fee to the utility bill effective January 01, 2025. Motion carried by all present. A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to amend the first motion as the council requested Josh to go through a list and determine if there are any properties that should be exempted from this charge. Motion carried by all present.
- g) Mitch Holm – parcel 21-146051-0 (de-annexation parcel 21-146051-0 from the City of Balaton)
 - 1) Mitch Holm requested to de-annex parcel number 21-146051-0 from the City of Balaton, tax related. He explained that he does not have sewer (property has its own septic tank), no storm sewer, no curb and or gutter, no street or roadway maintenance. He stated that he does have city water, however it installed at no cost to the city and is maintained privately. The only full service he would receive if fire and ambulance. He is requesting something that would reflect the number of services he received within the taxes for parcel 21-146051-0. He did speak with Mark Buysse and it would not be an issue on the county side but more so on the municipality side. Matt Gross informed the council and Mitch Holm that the city would have to tax all classified properties the same. Matt informed Mitch that he could challenge his property taxes to lower the valuation during the spring (2025) Board of Appeals Meeting with the county assessor. Matt also informed Mitch that he can submit a petition to the Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit, the agency that approves all annexations and detachments; this would be initiated by Mitch Holm.
- h) Approve Truth in Taxation 2025 Proposed Levy \$631,770.90
 - 1) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to approve the Truth in Taxation 2025 Proposed Levy of \$631,770.90 which totals a 2.08% increase. Motion carried by all present.

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) **Lakeview Senior Living**
- 1) A motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Dylan Fricke to approve the Quit Claim Deed of the Lakeview Senior Housing to the EDA. Motion carried by all present. A second motion was made by Curt Paradis and seconded by Greg Erickson to approve Mayor Lonnie Lambertus and City Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Wall to sign the Quit Claim Deed for the resolution. Motion carried by all present.
- b) **Committee Responsibilities assignment for 2025.**
- 1) The council agreed to assign the newly appointed council member Tracy McCloud to take over all committees that were previously assigned to Scott Wood. They also agreed to add a nuisance committee and assigned Dylan Fricke and Tracy McCloud.
- c) **Vacation**
- 1) The council discussed vacation hours. Scott Wood informed the council that he was misled, misinformed and didn't understand. He said that it was his understanding from the November 26, 2024, meeting was that everyone's vacation would be given on the first of the year and not on employees' anniversary dates. Curt Paradis explained that a new employee would receive vacation on their anniversary date and then would need to wait an entire full year and then additional earned vacation would be applied the following January. The council agreed that there would be a maximum of three weeks' vacation. Matt stated he would write up the Notice of Public Hearing of an ordinance to amend section 206.13, subd.3. for publication. Public Hearing will be January 13, 2025 to make final determination.
- 1) **MISCELLANEOUS:** nothing
- 2) **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Greg Erickson and seconded by Curt Paradis. Motion was carried by all present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.


Kimberly Wall, City Clerk-Treasurer


Lonnie Lambertus, Mayor