

**City of Baldwin City  
Minutes from the March 06, 2018  
Regular Council Meeting**

The Baldwin City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. at the Baldwin City Public Library, 800 7th Street, with Mayor Casey Simoneau presiding.

Present were Council Members: Tony Brown, Brian Cramer, A.J. Stevens and Susan Pitts. Also, attending: Glenn Rodden-City Administrator; Laura Hartman, City Clerk; Ed Courton, Community Development Director; Brad Smith, Finance Director; Brandon Sharp, Police Department; Kenny Oshel, Public Works Director; Rob Culley, Electric Production Director; Chris Croucher, Utility Distribution Director and City Attorney, Blake Glover. David Simmons was absent. Tony Brown was not in the room at the time of the calling of the meeting to order.

- A. Call to Order: Mayor Casey Simoneau called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda: Susan Pitts moved and Brian Cramer seconded to approve the March 6, 2018 agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 3 yes and 0 no.
- C. Consent Agenda: Council considered Minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting. Brian Cramer moved and A.J. Stevens seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yes and 0 no.
- D. Public Comment: Tony apologized for his late entry and introduced the girl scouts as visitors to observe what a Council Meeting does. Tony had been meeting with the scouts prior to the start of the meeting.
- E. Special Reports or Presentations: none given
- F. Old Business:
  - 1. Council retreat - Mayor Simoneau asked for input from Council regarding a Council retreat to be held in Westin, Mo. The Mayor suggested the retreat be in the town of Westin. Council had discussion. Glenn and the Mayor will work on getting dates sent out to council.
  - 2. Jay Wachs was present to discuss the equipment and installation for live streaming council meetings. A.J. Stevens moved and Susan Pitts seconded to approve \$9,699.85 to purchase and install equipment for live streaming council meetings from Jay Wachs, Baldwin City Radio. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yes and 0 no.
  - 3. Glenn talked with the council regarding the RFP's for an efficiency study requested by Council. Mayor asked for discussion. Susan asked when the last study was done. Glenn said there was no evidence of such a study. Brian said he had looked for other cities our size that have had such a study and asked if this was something commonly done. He also said he would like to have some time to research this further. A.J. said he was on board with having a study done. Tony said he was having a hard time getting on board with this, stating the cost seemed costly and would need further evidence

on how this would pay for itself. Susan also said she was on the fence and would need additional time to research. Citizen, Peter Sexton, 904 Orange Street, stated his support for the audio system. Mayor thanked everyone for their comments and will bring this back to the table for further discussion.

4. A.J. Stevens recused himself from discussion for a conflict of interest. Council continued discuss regarding the Midland Railroad and the role the City would play in assisting in repairing tracks damaged by a storm in June 2017. Dave Hill, 328 E 2100 Road, Baldwin City representing Economic Development Corporation(EDC) spoke on the benefits of the program EDC has develop to support the Midland Railroad. Council members had the information provided by the EDC in the council packet. Dave said they are looking for commitments and does not want to see this get lost. Council ensued discussion. Brian asked how long it would take. Tim Demott 1104 Dearborn, President Midland Railway, stated 30-40 days to get trains operational. Lucretia Carlson, 1514 N 600th Road, Co-Chair of tourism board. She read a statement from the board stating the strong support of this endeavor, however, cannot make a 4 year commitment. Phil Hannon, 1305 10th Street, Chamber of Commerce President. He read a statement from their board. They recommend the City upfront the funds to provide funding for the repair of the tracks. Community strongly supports the Midland Railway. Chamber will discuss its involvement with supporting this endeavor. Mike Bosch, 227 Sante Fe, board member of Midland Railway. Spoke about the changes made since his involvement in Midland Railway. Mike thanked the EDC, Mid-America Bank and others for stepping up to support the railway. The goal is to keep Kansas Belle in this community. Mayor asked for Council comments. Susan said Midland is vital to Baldwin City and agrees we should act on this quickly. Brian said it is tuff and where does the financing come from and can we afford to do this. Glenn said, we can pull funds, however it will stretch our reserves. This can also be put on a bond. Recovery from organizations of the funds would be expected. Tony shared concerns that 3 of the 5 members making such a decision is considerable. Tony asked to delay until the next meeting, when we have at least 4 members of the council. Susan shared her concerns of the urgency of this matter, and should not wait. Dave Hill, said he personally will commit additional funds so the City can take \$45,000.00 away from the \$345,000.00.

Susan Pitts moved and Brian Cramer seconded to pledge the financial support of \$345,000.00 for the repairs of Midland Railroad contingent on an agreement for purchase of an easement. Motion carried with a vote of 2 yes 1 no.

Brian Cramer moved and Susan Pitts seconded to give authority to Glenn and Casey to negotiate with other entities to secure easement of Midland Railroad. Motion carried with a vote of 2 yes and 1 no.

G. New Business:

1. Mayor Simoneau placed the water discussion on the agenda to allow Council to continue discussion concerning water sources for Baldwin City. Glenn shared information regarding additional sources. Council had earlier discussion during a worksession. Glenn said he did not see any point of not going with Lawrence. Mayor suggested we increase our contract length with Lawrence. Council continued discussion. Council agreed to allow Glenn to give the letter of intent by April 1st notifying Lawrence and water office.

H. Committee Reports:

1. Budget and Finance - A.J. Stevens/David Simmons - no report

2. Community Development - Tony Brown/Brian Cramer - The Committee met and had discussion about a memorial plaque for Steve and Alison Bauer brought to the committee from a group, facade and mural program, discussion building a platform for the signage at the entrance to the City, but will revisit these project based on the decision made this evening.
3. Public Health and Safety - Brian Cramer/Tony Brown - Meeting Thursday, 3:00 at City Hall.
4. Public Works - David Simmons/Susan Pitts - no report
5. Utilities - Susan Pitts/A.J. Stevens - no report
6. Legislative - David Simmons/Susan Pitts - no report

I. City Administrator and Staff Comments :

1. Council had financial reports in the packet to review. There was no discussion.

Glenn met with a vendor that does community solar and would like to present to the utility committee.

Brad said the Baldwin Education Foundation lunch is this Friday if any council member would like attend the City has a table.


J. Council & Mayor Comments: There were no comments.

K. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

L. Adjourn – A.J. Stevens moved and Susan Pitts seconded to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried with a vote of 4 yes and 0 no. Time 8:18 p.m.

Approved by the governing board on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Laura E. Hartman, City Clerk

Attest:

  
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Amara Packard, Deputy City Clerk

