

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Work Session  
October 15, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

A Work Session of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair John Westmoreland presiding.

Members Present: John Westmoreland  
Henry Craig  
Emily C. Davis  
Tommy French  
Sammy Hall

Also Present: David McRee  
Carlos Tobar  
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order

Chair John Westmoreland called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m. and yielded to Vice Chair Craig to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Water Ordinance and Water Line Extension Policy

County Manager Carlos discussed a summary of the proposed ordinance as follows: Baldwin County should maintain its water utility on a financially sound and stable basis over the next few fiscal years and into the future. Staff has analyzed the utility's policies and procedures, fees, fines and penalties and compared them to other agencies. One goal is to develop an ordinance, update policies and procedures and develop fair and equitable water meter rates and ensure proper collection of water delivery service.

He presented the following findings of the water rate analysis: Baldwin County does not have a water ordinance. Baldwin County charges commercial customers the same water meter rate as residential customers. Commercial customers require more water and have higher maintenance requirements so should be charged a higher sewer rate. Without an ordinance, updated policies, procedures, fees, fines and penalties, the enterprise fund's projected unrestricted net assets (reserve fund balances) will not improve. An increase in water rates is not recommended at this time because the new automatic water meters should capture water losses currently incurred. Without an ordinance we cannot enforce any policies, procedures, fines or penalties. Solicitor Skye Gess is reviewing enforcement language.

Mr. Tobar stated the findings of this water and sewer department policies, procedures, fees, fines and penalties analysis indicate Baldwin County should consider adoption of the following recommendations: Adopt the proposed water ordinance. Approve the water line extension policy. Increase the water meter rates for commercial customers. The major change on the water meter rate is the monthly charge. Adopt the proposed rate structure. The major change on the conservation rate is to reduce the number of usage categories from five to three

Mr. Tobar discussed a proposed schedule of rates, fees and penalties.

Commissioners discussed the proposed Water Ordinance and Water Line Extension policy and felt that another Work Session was needed to further review any proposed changes.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 5:00 p.m.  
Commissioner Emily C Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland  
Chair

Dawn Hudson  
Assistant County Manager