



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

9/16/2024

Town of Baldwin
30239 128th Street NW
Baldwin Township, MN 55371

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon—Fri
Summer Hours on Friday
8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Phone 763-389-8931
Email:
town.clerk@baldwintwpmn.com

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jay Swanson, Chair —763-631-8545
Tom Rush, Vice Chair—763-389-8931
Scott Case—763-350-0374
Jeff Holm—763-389-8931
Alan Walker—763-389-8931

CLERK / TREASURER

Joan Heinen—Clerk/Treasurer
Kayla Nielsen—Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

FIRE STATION

****EMERGENCY DIAL 911****
Scott Case, Fire Chief
763-350-0374

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Zachary Good, Supervisor
763-389-8931

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE:
www.baldwintwpmn.com

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP FACEBOOK:
[www.facebook.com/
BaldwinTownshipMinnesota](https://www.facebook.com/BaldwinTownshipMinnesota)

Calendar of Events for 2024 (unless otherwise noted all meetings start at 7:00 p.m.)

September 18	Special Planning Commission Meeting
September 19	Park Committee Meeting
September 23	Town Board Meeting
September 25	Planning Commission Meeting
September 28	FUNFEST AT YOUNG PARK 11am-3pm
October 7	Town Board Meeting
October 16	Special Planning Commission Meeting
October 17	Park Committee Meeting
October 21	Town Board Meeting
October 23	Planning Commission Meeting
October 31	Halloween
November 5	GENERAL ELECTION
November 11	Veterans Day OFFICE CLOSED
November 13	Special Planning commission Meeting
November 14	Park Committee Meeting (if needed)
November 18	Town Board Meeting
November 20	Planning Commission Meeting
November 28	Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED
December 2	Town Board Meeting
December 12	Park Committee Meeting (if needed)
December 16	Town Board Meeting
December 25	Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED
December 31	New Years Eve

**Burning Permits are available at the Town Hall or online at
www.dnr.state.mn.us.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT IN BALDWIN

BALDWIN FUNFEST—SEPTEMBER 28TH AT YOUNG PARK—11-3
Come join us for some fun—We are looking to grow this event
next year and we need your help! Sign up to be a volunteer at our
booth during FunFest!

BALDWIN MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL Q & A

On July 16, 2024, Baldwin was officially granted incorporation status and will operate as a city when a Mayor and City Council are elected and seated. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

The candidates running for Baldwin Mayor/Council seats were invited to share their responses to three questions to give Baldwin residents a better idea of the candidate's backgrounds and views. Their responses are shown below along with the positions the candidates are running for.

Question 1: Why are you running for Mayor/City Council?

Question 2: What do you feel makes you qualified to run for Mayor/City Council?

Question 3: Many residents are concerned with Baldwin retaining its rural community environment. What steps or actions do you feel are necessary to achieve that while still balancing growth?

MAYOR CANDIDATES

Jay Swanson

Question 1 Answer:

My values align with what the people are looking for and my track record proves it. My wife and I moved to Baldwin in 2001. I moved my business to Baldwin's commercial park in 2005. I ran for the Baldwin Township Board and won seat "E" in 2009. I've been on the Town Board for 15 years and have served as the chairman for 11. Last March, I was elected for my 6th 3 year term. As we begin our new City, the rural character does not have to change. If elected Mayor I will continue to ensure it doesn't.

Question 2 Answer:

Judge Jessica Palmer-Denig's order (MBAU Docket I-75) granting Baldwin Township's petition to incorporate says it best on page 25, line 117; "Currently, the Township's tax rate is lower than that of all of its surrounding cities, and lower than all but one of its surrounding townships." I've spent the past 15 years safeguarding that very thing for all of the residents of Baldwin Township. As Mayor, by continuing the same commitment to these conservative values, it will be my mission to ensure no one feels any difference after the Township becomes a City.

Question 3 Answer:

It starts by maintaining large lots, low taxes and small government. I believe 2.5 acres is a proper minimum. It affords space to enjoy toys and an out building. Our hobby farms and agricultural production must be supported as well. These characteristics are essential and must be continued. It's what people want. It's why WE moved here. Government's place is to keep our roads maintained and our taxes low. According to the Judge we are doing just that. As Mayor I will continue to uphold the rural character of our City and ensure that government stays as small as possible.

Travis Ekbohm

Question 1 Answer:

Like many residents, I disagree with the decision to incorporate. Moreover, blindsiding the town with that decision has created deep distrust throughout the community. I'm running for mayor to make sure we start Baldwin right, with transparency and fiscal responsibility. I believe I can provide the judgement and prudence necessary to restore trust and get us off on the right foot.

Question 2 Answer:

I understand the difference between management and leadership. If we're going to keep Baldwin rural, it's going to require leadership committed to that end. If we settle for a manager who just wants things to develop smoothly, then we're going to lose the rural character that we cherish. Furthermore, as a CFO I'm very comfortable overseeing the financial side of an operation to maximize efficiency and minimize overhead.

Question 3 Answer:

I reject the premise of the question. Our mission is to maintain the quality of life we have, not to determine which sacrifices are to be made in the name of growth. The natural tendency of cities is to confuse greater density and higher tax revenues with success. I don't believe higher taxes or apartment complexes will mean Baldwin is succeeding. Just the opposite. I won't be seeking a new balance. I'll be deliberately working for stability.

City Council (Two Year Term)

Matthew Johnson

Question 1 Answer:

I am running for City council because I Moved here in 2021 and Love it here. As a homeowner and parent, I want to keep this now city a great place to raise a family. I have the experience in finance and community service as a Firefighter/EMT to be an effective City Council member. I will work hard and make sure your voice is heard.

Question 2 Answer:

I have several years as a member of management with several companies. Everything from employee relations to budgeting and scheduling,. Recently I've gained experience with a Mayor and City Council members to make effective policy changes for its employees and citizens.

Question 3 Answer:

I believe that it is essential for all voices to be represented in the decision-making process. As a city council member, I would ensure that citizens have multiple opportunities to provide input and feedback on policy initiatives. This could include public forums, town hall meetings, surveys, and other methods of gathering information from and for the community.

Bruce West

Question 1 Answer:

I am running for City Council to be a voice for the citizens and work hard to keep our rural community values alive and well in the City of Baldwin. I want to be part of the decision process to keep our current minimum lot size of 2 1/2 acres in place to ensure our rural beauty to enjoy and raise a family. If elected I will work to keep our taxes low, be fiscally responsible and address the issues our newly formed city government will face.

Question 2 Answer:

Over 40 years of local and state government experience in public safety. My fire service career started in the Anoka Champlin Fire Department for 16 years. I was the Elk River Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for 15 years. For 12 years I worked for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety in various positions, Minnesota State Fire Marshal for over 6 years and DPS Assistant Commissioner of Emergency Services for 3 years. During my 40 year public safety career, I frequently faced challenging budget issues, but most importantly ensured good communication with staff, supervisors, local and statewide constituents

Question 3 Answer:

My first priority will be to listen to the concerns of the City of Baldwin residents surrounding the key issue of retaining our rural community environment. I am in favor of retaining the current minimum lot size of 2 1/2 acres and not reducing it to 1 acre in size. Many citizens favor the rural community environment and feel strongly that it is the responsibility of the newly elected mayor and city council members on November 5, 2024 to maintain the status quo on minimum lot size.

Tom Rush

Question 1 Answer:

I am running for City Council to Continue my leadership, experience, and knowledge of local government, and smooth transition from township to city government. My focus will be using the MSA (Municipal State Aid) monies \$500k awarded for becoming a city for road construction and preventative maintenance of our 80 miles of roads. My vision is to maintain the rural character of Baldwin as it exists today, To strategically plan and manage the growth for the future of Baldwin. If elected I will continue to be fiscal responsible, keep taxes low, common sense spending and transparency to the public.

Question 2 Answer:

I believe with my 15 years of being on the town board and 5 years of Chair of Sherburne County Association of Townships makes me qualified to run for City Council. My experience and understanding of local, state and county government would be beneficial to the city. I also have 28 years of banking and financial services background.

Question 3 Answer:

The steps to maintain our rural community and balance growth was taking over Planning and Zoning from the County, The city will keep the minimum lot sizes to 2.5 acre lots to maintain our rural community as the County is considering 1 acre lot sizes. My vision is to maintain the 2.5 acre lots and work with our Planning Commission to maintain and strategically plan our growth commercially and residential. To have common sense ordinances that preserve Baldwin's rural character and country feel.

Lance Valerius

Question 1 Answer:

I am running for the two-year City Council term position, because I want transparency as to what is going on with our newly founded Baldwin City and to try to maintain our previous lifestyle before we became a city.

Question 2 Answer:

Unable to submit by deadline.

Question 3 Answer:

Rightfully so, as am I and this is the reason I am running for council. I like many of the people who moved out here want to avoid city taxes and a city lifestyle. My goal and hope with Baldwin being a city now is that we remain as we were before the change. I know growth is inevitable, but some growth isn't necessary or avoidable and other growth is necessary. If I were elected, I would do my best to ensure our growth as a city is only necessary,

Mark Bavier

Question 1 Answer:

I have lived in Baldwin Township for 29 years and I am at a point in my life where I want to give something back to the community. I am running for a two-year term Council Member as I believe that I can offer my leadership and communication skills to effectively collaborate with the new Mayor and the other City Council members while making sure I am working on behalf and in the best interests of the citizens of our new city.

Question 2 Answer:

I currently work for a successful nationwide construction company which I have been employed with for the past 27 years. I have worked in both project management and operations, currently holding the position of VP of Operations where I oversee 125 employees. I am also currently part of the company Leadership Team. I believe I can use my business and leadership experiences to be an effective member of the city council. Furthermore, I believe I can represent the residence of Baldwin as someone who leads with a commonsense approach with no preconceived personal agendas.

Question 3 Answer:

I too share some of the same concerns about what it means to becoming a city and how it will impact our current way of life. The rural community lifestyle with less government is what brought so many of us to this area, As we move forward as a city, we need to carefully scrutinize allocations that brings more overhead and more unnecessary services. This must be done with fiscal responsibility by focusing on community needs and not wants. I will involve the residence by listening to their concerns, so they feel involved as we make decisions on their behalf.

Jeff Holm— (Unable to submit by deadline.)

City Council (Four Year Term)

Scott Case

Question 1 Answer:

I want to maintain Baldwin's current way of life by preserving our rural character, 2 1/2-acre minimum lot sizes, and the basic services which we currently have. We need to keep our tax rate low which is lower than any nearby city and all but 1 township. I believe a smooth transition (to) a city is important to achieving these things.

Question 2 Answer:

I have over 38 years of public safety experience. I retired from the St. Paul Fire Dept. after 30 years as a district fire chief so I feel I can deal with any situation that may present itself. As a current township supervisor for over 2 years and Baldwin's fire chief for almost 8 years, I believe I have shown the ability to communicate with the residents on issues and understand various points of view.

Question 3 Answer:

We love our rural lifestyle, so we need to control where growth occurs by thoughtful planning and seeing to our current residents needs and concerns. Baldwin's population has almost doubled since I moved here 24 years ago. I am opposed to any apartment complexes in Baldwin. I believe any commercial growth should be limited to the 169 corridor with single family residential dwellings in other areas.

Cartrell Cooper

Question 1 Answer:

I am asking for your vote as a candidate for Baldwin City Council. I'm running as a concerned resident with a deep appreciation for our rural lifestyle. I'm passionate about preserving our way of life. The community fears that a group could transform Baldwin into a suburb of the city to our north. My 45 years of experience in customer service have honed my listening and communication skills. understand what to look out for, which will guide my work on the council. I aim to enhance public communication and protect our rural character. Vote for Cooper to keep Baldwin strong.

Question 2 Answer:

My experience with Blaine City Development projects, I have seen firsthand how developers like ERA Muske and or other Groups get on council, and often fail to deliver on their promises, and I'm determined to ensure Baldwin doesn't face the same issues. My service in the Air Force, Hennepin County Sheriff Department, and with the Centennial Volunteer Fire Department has instilled in me strong leadership and dedication to public service. My background in real estate, education through MBR- Course Cultures Customs and Communication, 45 years of customer service, teaching, and running Big D'S Dog Training, make me uniquely qualified for Baldwin Council.

Question 3 Answer:

To retain Baldwin's rural community environment while balancing growth, we must prioritize preserving larger acreage sizes, ensuring development aligns with our rural values. Fiscal responsibility is key, watching every dollar spent to maintain our way of life. By carefully managing resources, making services pay for themselves, and making thoughtful decisions, we can protect the charm and character that residents value. As a voice with the people, I will champion these principles, ensuring Baldwin remains a place where rural life thrives alongside mindful progress. Vote Cooper for communication and a balanced approach to growth that prioritizes the community's interests.

Chase Springman

Question 1 Answer:

We choose to live in a township because we all love the rural lifestyle. I am running for office because I feel the tax payers voice has been lost. There has been a major decision made without the consent of a public vote. My stance is the tax payers voice needs to be heard because it's OUR city.. We all live in our means and so should the people that are running our city. We need no more -government. I proudly ask for your vote with the hope 50 years from now our city looks the exact same as today.

Question 2 Answer:

I attended St. Scholastica in Duluth receiving my degree in Business Administration. I currently own Fairway Shores Golf Course a small business in Baldwin Township. With my stake in the community I'm passionately aware at all times what is happening in my local government. I'm currently the president of Lake Place Homeowners Association where I oversee 78 Homes in our community. With my background history I confidently know I can be a voice for the tax payers in our community.

Question 3 Answer:

Retaining our rural lifestyle is a huge concern that weighs heavy on me. With more government comes more services. My goal is to have very limited growth over the next 50 years, If you want bigger and better don't come to our city and expect it because that is not the wish of the people. The main intent is to keep tax payer dollars low. Maintaining our large lot sizes and having the integrity to stand up for the tax payers voice in our community. If you would like information on myself check out our website www.startbaldwinright.com.

Thomas Andrews

Question 1 Answer:

I'm running for City Council to try and make a difference in our community. I've always wanted to help my community when the time was right to do so, and that time is now, Once Baldwin became a city I figured I'd put my experience to use and see how I can help shape our city for the future. I've (been) here for over 20 years and don't want to see our city move in the wrong direction. Keeping the small town feel is very important to me.

Question 2 Answer:

I retired from the United States Marine Corps with over 21 years of experience leading Marines. I've led Marines all over the globe from the platoon level to the regiment level and attended the most challenging enlisted leadership academies. I now work as a project manager in the building automation field. I have excellent leadership skills and pride myself on making sound and timely decisions on a daily basis. Having the skills needed to gather all pertinent information while asking the tough questions ensures a solid outcome.

Question 3 Answer:

Maintaining the rural community we have now is important. As we move toward the future we need to move in the right direction and do so at the correct pace, Taxes need to stay low and if any future development happens, it needs to be for the good of the entire city and not just for a select few. Taking everyone's opinion into account when making these important decisions is vital to our success as a city as well as maintaining our quality of life.

Alan L. Walker

Question 1 Answer:

I lived and raised my family in Baldwin Township for the past 26 years. I am semi-retired and I have more time to get involved in the Baldwin community. I want to keep the rural country living without all the city politics and policies that hinder county style living. My experience with the Parks and Recreation Board and Supervisor position will help me go forward with conservative, common sense transparent approach to our new city status.

Question 2 Answer:

I am currently supervisor for Baldwin Twp for the past 5 months and I was on the Parks and Recreation Board for 1 year. I've attended most meetings since 2021. 've worked for Baldwin Twp plowing snow for the past few years. Along with experience on road construction, concrete and asphalt. I'm involved in district 27B politics, and I've been a delegate and alternate.

Question 3 Answer:

Keep lot sizes at 2.5 acres or more, no city water and sewer. Private wells and private septic's only. No apartment buildings and allow people to have the farms and hobby farms and keep small businesses in the city. And also to keep a good relationship with our Sheriff's department and keep our fire department up to date as needed and our roads repaired and maintained without over budgeting.



Visit baldwintwpmn.com to view the General Election sample ballots.

