

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 17, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Center at 606 Church Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jimmy Moore	Wilma Peevy
Bobby Tweedy	Sheila Trent
Stacy Muntz	Kimberly Bruce
Carla Southerland	Gary Baxter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Monica Freeland	Sarah Kizer
Maria Duncan	Cane Slott
Jeff Brown	Tammy Thornton
Sadat Rice	William L. Reed
Robert Muntz	Robert Humphrey
Dwayne Fields	

Mayor Gary Baxter called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sarah Kizer took roll. A quorum was established.

Mayor Baxter announced the changes on page three from the previous month's minutes have changed to read from "exterior ceiling and paneling" to now read "priming and painting." Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which included the financial statements and April council minutes including the May 6 special meeting and the correction to the April minutes. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief Shannon Gregory gave the Police report stating the department had 154 calls, 176 traffic stops, 35 traffic/criminal citations, 9 arrests 1 felony 8 misdemeanor, 240 business checks. Chief Gregory commended the Fire department and Police department that helped with the accident on interstate 40.

Fire Chief Jeff Brown gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 4 fire calls, 2 of which were grass, 1 structure, and 1 other type fire. 17 rescue/emergency calls, 1 service call, 3 cancelled good intent calls, and 2 false alarm calls. Chief Brown stated he has the 1987 Volvo and the 2006 Travel Trailer announced on Facebook that are set up for sealed bids with bid opening to begin Friday June 17th at 10:00 a.m. Chief Brown stated he would like to hold off on the selling of the brush truck bed and tanker. Chief Brown reminded the council of the Independence Day celebration event that

will be held June 25, 2022, at Kirksey Park. The 6 x6 truck that had been donated is in service, just currently with no lights or radio. Chief Brown states he plans to have it completed by next council in hopes of bringing it and showing the public.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields was not present at the current time, Mayor Baxter asked to forgo this report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-02; An Ordinance regulating screens and fences in front yard areas, repealing conflicting ordinances, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes. Mayor Baxter asked Monica Freeland to read the ordinance for the second reading. This second reading contains the amended section as requested by the council in section two. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Ordinance 2022-02 and read by title only. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Monica Freeland read Ordinance 2022-02 by title only. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve, Bobby Tweedy seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. All present council members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought up Public Works Director Dwayne Fields who had just arrived to inform the council of a review of Duncan Rd as well as the Public Works monthly meeting. Director Fields stated the department had accomplished many things, including getting the gravel on Old Wire Road leveled out and fixed. The department was able to get Pleasant Hill graded as well, the hole on 8th street has been filled, as well as completing other projects. Public Works Director Fields stated the department has received a rough estimate pertaining to the amount it would require to fix Duncan Road. The figure quoted was around \$23,000.00. However, with this road being a private road, Mr. Fields stated the city did speak with Ms. Duncan and the city offered to help with the road by cleaning the ditches and leveling out the road. The city also offered to use City equipment to spread out the gravel she planned to buy for the road. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Baxter asked Monica Freeland to read Resolution No. 2022-06; A resolution amending resolution 2022-05 for the purpose of correcting budgets numbers. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to approve, Stacy Muntz seconded the motion, all present council members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought Public Works director Dwayne Fields up to review a proposal for the sewer pond maintenance. Director Fields stated he currently had one bid and is in the process of obtaining another and would like to delay this subject until next month's meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Bruce gave a report about the spring clean-up day.

Jimmy Moore asked about Alma Street and pickleball.

Mayor Baxter presented Monica Freeland with an award for her service to the city.

Mayor Baxter gave updates on the projects that are currently in process for the city and upcoming projects.

Jimmy Moore asked about Kirksey Hospital.

Bobby Tweedy asked about ArtUp.

Mayor Baxter spoke about the new bridges that will be going in at Little Mulberry Creek and Bluff Hole.

Attorney Sean Brister arrived and announced Mr. Bagby, the attorney for the Hacklers, had contacted Mr. Mann, the attorney for the city of Mulberry through the Arkansas Municipal League, and advised Mr. Mann the Hacklers have decided to accept the City's last offer that had previously been approved by the city council of \$5,000.00. Mr. Brister brought to the council that Mr. Mann be able to draft a settlement agreement and dismissal to resolve the matter and Mayor Baxter and the secretary/treasurer Carla Southerland be allowed to sign said documents agreeing to resolve the matter. Stacy Muntz made a motion to allow Mr. Mann to draw any necessary settlement documents and give permission for Mayor Baxter and Carla Southerland to sign. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Discussion ensued

With no further business to discuss Kimberly Bruce made a motion to adjourn, Stacy Muntz seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

These minutes were taken by Sarah Kizer

APPROVED: 
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Carla Southerland, Recorder-Treasurer