

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 21, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, June 21, 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
Kimberly Bruce	Carla Southerland
Gary Baxter	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Riley Walker	Steve Hurley
Kay Baxter	Jeff Brown
Tammy Thornton	Sadat Rice
Jason Fitzgerald	Officer Riddle
Lairy Hart	Shelia Pannell
Dwayne Fields	Darren Fields
JJ Hurley	Jerry McKinney
James Medlock	Justin Anthony
Lejuan Wilson	Ken Copeland
Victoria Riddle	Harlene Jackson

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

Mayor Baxter announced that Stacy Muntz was on vacation which is why she was not present. Jimmy Moore made motion to approve last months minutes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Officer Thell Riddle gave the Police report stating the department had 122 calls, 42 traffic stops, 21 traffic/criminal citations, 5 arrests 1 felony 4 misdemeanor and 313 business checks.

Fire Chief Jeff Brown gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 2 fire calls, 23 rescue/emergency calls, 1 service call, 2 cancelled good intent calls, and 1 false alarm call. Chief Brown stated the sealed bids did well selling the 1987 Volvo for \$6,000 and the 2006 Travel Trailer

sold for \$4,641. Chief Brown reminded the council of the Independence Day celebration event that will be held June 25, 2022, at Kirksey Park. The 6x6 truck that had been donated is in service, just currently with no lights or radio. Chief Brown stated he plans to have it completed by next council in hopes of bringing it to the meeting and showing it to the public. Chief Brown stated we have had 2 drownings in the last month at silver bridge. He has been in contact with Judge Bowman of Franklin County about an agreement between the county and fire departments to clear an area for a boat ramp, as the only way currently to get a boat in silver bridge is to carry one. Chief Brown stated that there is a radio communication issue going on between Franklin County and Mulberry Fire Department.

Wilma asked about putting up a sign about dangerous swimming at silver bridge

Mayor stated he has spoken with Crawford County to send Smith communications out to check our repeaters.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields was not present at the current time due to a water leak on Main St, Mayor Baxter asked if council had any questions he could relay back to the Public Works Director.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery rules, the cemetery committee had met prior to the city council meeting to evaluate the rules. They had made some adjustments to present to the council. Mayor asked Steve Hurley to read the new cemetery rules.

Kim asked about the committee contacting people who had questions at the public meeting and inquired about whether the rules had been sent out in the water bill.

Discussion ensued.

Council tabled approving the new cemetery rules until next month.

Mayor Baxter spoke about resolution 2022-07 for selling and donating vehicles.

Steve Hurley read resolution 2022-07. Wilma made motion to approve. Kim seconded. All present council members voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Baxter brought Justin Anthony CPA of Hubs and Hall whose firm completed the water, sewer, and sanitation audit. Justin presented the water audit. Justin reported no findings in our water audit.

Mayor Baxter brought Larry Hart to speak about Art up. Art up is taking a new route; they will still be doing art but will also be doing vocational types of programs also. Larry spoke about building 316 N Main. Art up at one time was going to give that building to the city, but has since given that building to J.B. Production, who is in the process of looking at the building. Art up has reconstructed their board of directors. Larry mentioned the non-occupancy and spoke about the report that Schmaltz engineering did on building at 316 Main. Larry states he found the report both disturbing and unprofessional. Larry read an excerpt from the Schmaltz Engineering report. Larry made several objections to the report, and referenced that occupancy has been revoked for 316, 318, but not for 314. Larry stated he believes the documents and reports will not stand up in court.

Mayor read a letter from the City Attorney Sean Brister to Art ups Attorney.

Mayor Baxter informed the council that the trash contract has expired. Jason Fitzgerald with CARDS came up to talk about CARDS trash service and possible new contract. New contract would come with a 96 Gallon trash can for each household at no charge to the City, free dumpsters for fall and spring clean-up, and some other free services for the city at the same rate.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Baxter brought up Elaina Damante from River Valley Waste management. She gave a presentation on what her company could do for the City.

Discussion ensued.

Kim made a motion to table the decision until the next meeting, Jimmy Second. All present members voted yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Bruce asked about 591 Heard being condemned.

Wilma Peevy spoke about people not stopping at the stop sign at the corner of 9th and Alma Avenue.

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

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

Mayor Baxter spoke to council about adding Juneteenth to the calendar for next year.

Mayor invited Mr. Medlock to speak on the topic of Trash. Mr. Medlock lives on West 7th Street. He had a blue trash can that got thrown away. He called CARDS and they stated they would bring him a new trash can. He noted that he has not received the new trash can. He also mentioned that his trash keeps getting missed on trash pickup day.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The minutes were taken by Riley Walker

ATTEST:


Carla Southerland, Recorder-Treasurer

APPROVED:


Gary D. Baxter, Mayor