

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 19, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Center at 606 Church Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jimmy Moore
Bobby Tweedy
Kimberly Bruce
Gary Baxter

Wilma Peevy
Sheila Trent
Carla Southerland
Stacy Muntz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley
Sarah Kizer
Sean Brister
Elaina Damante
Sadat Rice
LeJuan Wilson
Sheila Pannell
Meagan Harris
Ronnie Adams
James Medlock
Tammy Fore
Dwayne Fields

Melissa McCullar
Shannon Gregory
Jason Fitzgerald
Timothy Brasuell
Sherry Hesson
JJ Hurley
Larry Hart
Cathy Adams
Ken Copeland
Jeff Brown
Darren Fields

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

Kimberly Bruce made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Wilma Peevy seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief of Police Shannon Gregory gave the Police report stating the department had 131 calls, 58 traffic stops, 14 traffic/criminal citations, 7 arrests, 3 felony, 4 misdemeanor and 312 business checks. Chief Gregory stated the department had helped with several assists as well. Chief Gregory informed the Council that Officer Billy Mongold will graduate from the academy at the end of the month, Chief

Gregory also informed the Council that the Police department had received a JAG grant in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Fire Chief Jeff Brown gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 1 structure fire, 23 EMS calls, and 2 good intent calls. Fire Chief Brown went on to state the fire department is working on a water rescue trailer that will include a rescue raft with motors, a refurbished flat bottom rescue boat, kayak, and rafts. Chief Brown stated the department is still working on the 6x6 tanker trailer. Chief Brown informed the council he is working on a new grant called the Rural Service Grant. He states with this grant they would be able to purchase a new brush truck with a skid unit on the truck. The grant would be for \$75,000.00 but the city would have to match 10% of the money. Chief Brown also reminded the Council the burn ban is still on.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields stated the department has been very busy this month, they are working with Matheson Air Gas and getting a new water tap set in hopes to recover from the lost water through their leak. Public Works Director Fields stated they are working with the Cold Storage facility tomorrow morning to get the drive completed, the road patching on Duncan and Old Wire Rd completed. He went on to speak about the new part time employee that will be helping cut in the right of way. The Alma St patch should be completed next week as well. Bobby Tweedy commented on trees hanging over the road. Kim Bruce asked about if the city had received the new equipment. Mr. Fields stated they are waiting for the engine to ship and hopefully to have it by the end of August.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Baxter brought up Jason Fitzgerald from CARDS to answer questions regarding the sanitation contract. Discussion ensued. River Valley representative Elaina Damante was brought up. Discussion ensued. Stacy Muntz made a motion to renew CARDS sanitation contract. Bobby Tweedy seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Stacy Muntz, Kimberly Bruce, Jimmy Moore, Wilma Peevy, and Bobby Tweedy voted yes. Sheila Trent voted no.

Mayor Baxter brought back the cemetery rules from last month that had been tabled due to the Council wondering if the city had been notified. The new rules were sent out in the July water bill. Mayor Baxter asked if there was any feedback from the council, which the reply was no. Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve the cemetery rules, Sheila Trent seconded the motion, discussion ensued. All present council members voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Baxter brought to the council the repairs for the city park, the repairs include the replacement of the broken musical instrument, replacing the mulch located around the playground equipment, part replacements on the swings, the rock-climbing panel, and stand up See Saw, and updating all equipment labels. The total amount to repair all the needed areas is \$17,390.08. Discussion ensued. Council asked if the city could get bids on mulch and if public works would be able to remove the damaged equipment. Council agreed they would like to table the matter until a new quote was received from ACS with the removed items and have the installation be broken up and receive bid for new wood carpet.

Mayor Brought up 3 bids concerning a new air conditioning unit for the city complex. The 3 bids received were as follows: Artic Temp Refrigeration & HVAC for a Frigidaire 5-ton 15 KW 14 Seer unit with a 10-year warranty for \$7,500.00 including tax. Bradley's Heating & Air Conditioning LLC

for a Ruud 5-ton 20 KW 14 Seer unit with a 5-year warranty for \$8,260.88 including tax. McCollum Heating and Air for a Goodman 5-ton 15 KW 14 Seer unit with a 5-year warranty for \$8,260.88 including tax. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve the Artic Temp Refrigeration & HVAC quote for \$7,500.00 including tax. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought before the council a request for a new mobile home be brought in to replace the current mobile home located at 205 E Hwy 64. Planning and zoning have already met and approved the application to have the area rezoned back to and R4 with the stipulation of the building on the lot that is in poor condition be removed by September 30, 2022. Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve the request with the caveat. Stacy Muntz seconded the motion. All present council member voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought up Larry Hart from Art-Up to discuss the occupancy of the Art-Up building. Mr. Hart read a statement he had prepare for the council. Sean Brister was in attendance. Mr. Brister advised the council the procedurally if the council wanted to move forward making this an agenda item, they would need to make a motion and vote on it or if they did not want to do anything about the item they would just move forward in the meeting. Council moved forward with meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Baxter stated the sidewalk project was sixty percent designed at this time. The pickleball contract is being signed then will be ready to proceed. Funds for the American Rescue Plan Act have been received by the County and we are requesting funds for a new emergency generator at the Senior Center and a Police vehicle.

Sheila Trent stated the house on the south side of 7th street the weeds were very tall.

Jimmy Moore spoke about a house on Hwy 64 past Hamtown with very tall grass.


JJ Hurley signed up to speak about Mayor Baxter and the city council.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The minutes were taken by Sarah Kizer

ATTEST: 
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

APPROVED: 
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor