

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 16, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, August 16, 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	Stacy Muntz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley	Sarah Kizer
Shannon Gregory	Darren Fields
Jymebeth Davis	Cathy Adams
Ronnie Adams	Sherry Hesson
Sadat Rice	Kay Baxter
James Medlock	Dwayne Fields
Harlene Jackson	Jason Sumpter
Rosemary Blasingame	Ken Copeland
Nancy Sanders	

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.

Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kimberly Bruce 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 147 calls, 56 traffic stops, 15 traffic/criminal citations, 4 arrests, 3 felony, 1 misdemeanor and 360 business checks. Chief Gregory stated the department had several cleanup orders out.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 45 calls. There were 3 structure fire calls, 6 grass fire calls, 31 medical calls, 3 vehicle accident calls, and 2 cancelled calls. Mr. Sumpter stated the 6x6 tanker is almost completed, the truck still needs lights and sirens. The department had a truck donated to them by Littlefield Oil. The truck is a Peterbilt that the department plans to turn in to a tanker as well. This will give the fire department one tanker at each

of the four stations. Asst. Chief Sumpter stated the Fire Rural Chiefs Association have been getting a proposal together for a new recording system for all departments throughout Crawford County. This system will make the county more uniform, right now each department is able to use their own system. Mr. Sumpter stated the county received the second portion of the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds totaling over six million dollars. With this money the Chief's Association put together a proposal and took it to the Quorum Court for a system that will be used county wide by all departments. The proposed amount for the system, called emergency networking and Chief 360, will include a 3-year contract with software, WI-FI at each fire station in the county, and the hardware for all trucks. This amount totals \$436,000.00. This amount was approved by the Quorum Court and should be put into place on or around January 1. Discussion Ensued.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields stated the department was able to hire new employees Dale Fryar as full time and E.J. Martin as seasonal. With the help of the new employees, the city has been able to trim the trees on Alma Ave, and half of the trees on Church St. Mr. Fields also stated that the department has patched the potholes on the southern half of Alma Ave. and hopes to complete the remainder of Alma Ave soon. Discussion ensued.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Last month the wishes of the council were to have the City Park repairs quote broken down with the mulch and playground equipment on separate quotes. Mayor Baxter presented the council with the updated quotes from ACS playground equipment, and in addition, a quote from Davis Playgrounds. The ACS mulch bid came to \$4341.71 including installation for 139 cubic yards of mulch or \$31.13 per yard. The Davis bid is \$5,411.69 for 100 cubic yards of mulch, but if the city installed the mulch themselves, it would remove a total of \$2,421.00 bring the total for the Davis quote to \$2,990.69 or \$29.91 per yard. Discussion ensued. Mayor Baxter then brought to the attention of the council the quote from ACS for the repairs of the playground equipment of \$2,552.98 including installation. Mayor Baxter stated in the Parks and Recreation fund there is \$ 70,611.23. Discussion ensued. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve the Davis quote with the City doing the installation. Wilma Peevy seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to approve the ACS quote. Stacy Muntz seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-03: An Ordinance Establishing the Fines/Penalties for Operating Combustible Fuel Motors/Engines on T.J. House Reservoir, Amending Conflicting Ordinances, Declaring an Emergency, and for Other Purposes. Mayor Baxter asked Steve Hurley to read the ordinance. Mayor Baxter brought up Darren Fields to speak with the council on the importance of this ordinance. Discussion ensued. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to suspend the rules and to read the second and third reading by title only. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Steve Hurley read Ordinance 2022-03 by title only. Stacy made a motion to approve, Kimberly Bruce seconded the motion. All present members voted yes. Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve the emergency clause, Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

Ordinance 2022-04: An Ordinance Establishing Enforcement of Parking Rules, Regulations within the City of Mulberry and its Properties, Repealing Conflicting Ordinances, Declaring an Emergency, and for Other Purposes. Mayor Baxter asked Steve Hurley to read the ordinance. Jimmy Moore made a motion to suspend the rules and read the second and third reading by title only. Sheila Tent seconded

the motion. All present member voted yes. Steve Hurley read Ordinance 2022-04 by title only. Wilma Peevy made a motion to approve. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council members asked Chief Shannon Gregory to come and speak. Discussion ensued. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to table the Ordinance. Stacy Muntz seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Kimberly Bruce asked how the fees were going and if people are not paying? Mayor Baxter informed the council he has asked the finance department to provide him a list comparing last years and this year's income from each park, financial advisor Melissa McCullar was out for the day and was unable to provide the Mayor and Council with that information, but he will get it. Stacy Muntz asked if the council could be provided with the amount showing on that report. Mayor Baxter asked assistant Steve Hurley to email the information to the council members that have email and mail the information to the member who do not have email.

Resolution 2022-08: A Resolution Expressing the Willingness of the City of Mulberry to Utilize State Aid Street Monies for the following City Projects. Mayor Baxter asked Assistant Steve Hurley to discuss his conversation with Brian Freely who is with the Arkansas Department of Transportation State Aid Committee in reference to confirming the amount. Steve Hurley stated that Mr. Freely reconfirmed the \$1,400,000. estimated cost for the project. Mr. Hurley explained to Mr. Freely our resolution leaves it open ended for the city and the city was not comfortable with that, Mr. Freely stated this is the first step and the order that we must go in, and that once the City had moved past this step, we would be able to request additional funding from additional sources. Mayor Baxter asked Steve Hurley to read the resolution. Discussion ensued. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve. Bobby Tweedy seconded the motion. All present member voted yes.

Ordinance 2022-05 was listed on the agenda in error and is in fact Resolution 2022-09. A resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Mulberry to apply for a grant on behalf of the City of Mulberry and Pawzatively Canine. Mayor Baxter asked Steve Hurley to read. Discussion ensued. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to approve the resolution, Stacy Muntz seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

Approval was sought for a directional sign cover to be attached to the old digital sign located at Highway 64 and Main St. Discussion ensued. Stacy Muntz made a motion to approve, Kimberly Bruce seconded the motion. All present council member voted yes.

Mayor Baxter confirmed the City Planning Commission Appointments of Tom Smith and Sean Pratt. Sheila Trent made a motion to confirm the appointments. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought up Jymebeth Davis from the Mulberry Senior Center. Mrs. Davis spoke in regards of a garbage disposal that needs repair; However, a new garbage disposal could not be given, Mrs. Davis asked the council to allow a plumber to fix the existing sink so they may be able to use it. Mayor Baxter stated that this request can be approved by the mayor and would send the help requested to get the sink fixed.

Mayor Baxter brought up Rosemary Blasingame to speak on behalf of the new Boys and Girls club located at the Mulberry Elementary School. Mrs. Blasingame informed the council of the benefits of the Boys and Girls club in a community. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Baxter informed the council that per Act 605 of 2021 all current Council members are required to complete retail water provider board training. This training can be completed online or in class at the Council members convenience but must be completed by the end of the year.

### MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Baxter discussed the 2011 Peterbilt donated by Littlefield Oil to the Fire Department stating the tank will be able to hold 2500 gallons on water once the project is completed and the current value of the truck stated by Littlefield Oil is suggested to be around \$25,000.00.

Mayor Baxter stated Hawkins Weir has given an estimate to move the water line located under US Highway 64 over Little Mulberry Creek and that the amount would be over \$300,000.00 with no assistance. Mayor Baxter stated ARPA funds would be used.

Mayor Baxter brought up Channon Phipps to speak on the updates involving the Water Treatment Plant.

Mayor Baxter spoke about the current updates on the projects currently in progress in town.

Wilma Peevy spoke about 204 W 4<sup>th</sup> St.

Jimmy Moore commented on how well the council packets were put together and mentioned the pickleball court.

Bobby Tweedy mentioned trash cans being left out all the time and not brought back up to houses.

Sadat Rice signed up to speak about tickets.

Harlene Jackson signed up to speak about trash cans.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8.57 p.m.

The minutes were taken by Sarah Kizer

ATTEST:   
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

APPROVED:   
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor