

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 15, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, November 15, 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 Dickerson
Gary Baxter	Stacy Muntz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley	Sarah Kizer
Shannon Gregory	Dwayne Fields
JJ Hurley	Darren Fields
Cathy Adams	Ronnie Adams
Kay Baxter	Jason Sumpter
Cornell Cross	Sherry Jones
Jason Sumpter	Harlene Jackson
James Dreher	David Rivera

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. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. 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 99 calls, 22 traffic stops, 8 traffic/criminal citations, 4 arrests, 1 felony, 3 misdemeanor and 88 business checks. Chief Gregory stated they would have their annual chili supper/pie auction on November 20 at 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 pm. The cost would be \$5.00 per person for the Chili Supper and would be followed with a pie auction to start at 12:30. The Polar plunge will be held on December 3rd at 10:00 am at Bluff Hole Park. December 16th they will be handing out Christmas dinners at the Senior Center from 10:00am to 4:00pm. On the 17th at 10:00 am they will be taking the kids, that have signed up for Christmas with a badge, shopping at the Walmart in Ozark. Applications for Christmas with a badge will continue to be accepted until December 1st. Currently they have fifty-seven kids signed up.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 25 calls, 4 grass fire calls, 15 medical calls, 1 Stand by Natural gas call and 5 cancelled calls.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields stated that the 10th street project is complete, but they still need to clean up the ditch, and will be putting out reflectors. He also noted that they have repaired several leaks and are averaging at least 1 a week. The repairs for Mulberry Ave and Hamtown are waiting on approval from the state engineer. Dwayne Fields talked about the new backhoe and thanked the council for approving the new item at the last council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-04: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE FINES/PENALTIES FOR PERMITTING DEBRIS TO ENTER STREETS OF MULBERRY, AMENDING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mayor Baxter spoke with the city attorney and Chief Gregory about amending the ordinance. They advised that the amendment to be included was already built into the ordinance. Mayor Baxter asked Steve Hurley to read the ordinance. Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-04. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. All present council members voted yes.

Wilma Peevy made a motion to approve the emergency clause. Bobby Tweedy seconded. All present council members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter brought up James Dreher with Landmark Engineering to give an update on the pickleball court. James Dreher gave the council a handout of pricing information on each item and total cost. He informed the council that supplies have gone up 12.4% and 8.6%. He suggested the city increase their contribution and have the city do more of the dirt work to help lower the cost of the project. Jimmy Moore asked when they plan to start this project. James stated that they can start immediately weather permitting. Discussion ensued. Kimberly Bruce asked where the extra money for the price increases would be coming from. Mayor Baxter explained it would be coming from parks and rec fund of \$63,316.07 which the city has already fenced off for this project. After the \$63,316.07 is removed from the Capital improvement fund that would leave the fund with \$496,995.54. Discussion ensued. Bobby Tweedy made a motion to move forward. Jimmy Moore Seconded. All present council members voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Baxter Brought up Steve Hurley to speak about updating city equipment for cyber security. Steve Hurley informed the council that the server at the city complex is unable to receive security updates because it is so old and Windows won't support it anymore. He noted that the last security patch was May 10th and there will be no more security patches. The last major upgrade to the city's firewalls and servers was over 8 years ago. Steve Hurley brought up Cornell Cross and David Rivera from Apprentice to speak about the services they can provide the City. Mayor Baxter asked what the cost would be for Apprentice to meet the need of the city. Steve Hurley informed the council, that to get the city up to where we need to be, would cost \$22,837.47 in hardware, and then a monthly information technologies (I.T.) monitoring fee, that would start in 2023, of \$1,074.50. Discussion ensued. Kimberly Bruce asked where the funds for this would come from. Mayor Baxter informed her that the funds would come out of the Capital Improvement Fund which has a balance of \$496,995.54. Stacy Muntz made a motion to move forward with Apprentice. Sheila Trent seconded

the motion. All present council members voted yes.

Resolution No. 2022-14; A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF MULBERRY TO UTILIZE STATE AID STREET MONIES FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY PROJECT: MULBERRY OVERLAY. Steve Hurley read Resolution No. 2022-14. Discussion Ensued. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve. Kimberly Bruce seconded.

Ordinance 2022-10; AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A VARIANCE TO THE ZONING MAP OF ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 142-204 WEST 4TH STREET. Steve Hurley read Ordinance 2022-10. Kimberly Bruce made a motion to suspend the second and third reading to read by title only. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes. Steve Hurley read Ordinance 2022-10 by title only. Discussion ensured. Jimmy Moore made a motion to approve. Kimberly Bruce seconded the motion. All present council members voted yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Baxter congratulated the elected council. Mayor Baxter informed the council that he would be looking for bids for covers for the playground equipment. He spoke about the Boos Cruise event being a success, and noted, that the rain did not stop anyone from coming out. The food pantry went out for bids which came back high. They will be having rebids on November 22nd and possibly in December. Mayor Baxter informed the council about the text alert system. As of today, we have 89 residents signed up. Mayor Baxter gave an update on the house on the corner of Carter and Hwy 64, they have completed moving the new trailer in but have been having issues with moving the other trailer out. Chad and Megan Harris have sold the old trailer and the new owner states she can have it moved by the second week in January, Mayor Baxter informed her that he does not have the authority to extend the time frame due to it already going to council who gave the original move by date.

Stacey Muntz asked if every sewer line has its own connection to the main line. Dwayne Fields answered that everyone should have their own connection.

With no further business, Jimmy Moore made a motion to adjourn, Kimberly Bruce seconded the motion, and all voted yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

The minutes were taken by Riley Walker

ATTEST: Carla Dickerson
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

APPROVED: Gary D. Baxter
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor