

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 20, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Tuesday, December 20, 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 Dickerson	Gary Baxter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley	Sarah Kizer
Shannon Gregory	Dwayne Fields
Rachel Hawkins	Harlene Jackson
JJ Hurley	Cathy Adams
Ronnie Adams	Jason Sumpter
Kay Baxter	Danielle Carty
Sadat Rice	Bob Muntz
Suzy Ferguson	David Ferguson
Victoria Riddle	Olivia Clawson
Justin Trosper	Eli Clardy
Beth Mazzone	Robin Eggerton
Nancy Sanders	Patricia Lyle
Kerry Walters	

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.

Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Sheila Trent 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 114 calls, 24 traffic stops, 3 traffic/criminal citations, 6 arrests, 2 felony, 4 misdemeanor and 89 business checks. Chief Gregory stated that the Christmas with A Badge program had received 501C3 status this year. The Christmas with A Badge program handed out 60 turkey dinners, took 144 children shopping, and had raised \$12,361.77 for the year.

Fire Chief Jeff Brown gave the Fire Report stating the department responded to 25 calls, 20 medical calls, 1 hazardous, 2 service calls, and 2 good intent calls. Fire Chief Brown stated they had the annual Fire Department Christmas Party where the annual awards were given out. Ben Brewer received the 2022 Fire Fighter of the year award. First responder of the year award went to Linda Smith. Jake Pool received the Rookie of the year award and the Chief of the year award. Fire Chief Brown read a statement he prepared about the fire engines not passing certification for the year. Fire Chief Brown stated it was critical that the engines pass these inspections. Failing these inspections could cause the department to fail the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating inspection coming up. The ISO is an independent, for-profit organization, that scores Fire Departments on how they are doing against its organization's standards to determine property insurance. Failing the ISO inspection would lower the ISO rating of the Fire Department. The Mulberry Fire Department currently has an ISO rating of 5 in the city and 6 rural. Fire Chief Brown stated the engines will need to be fixed and will have a request for repairs in future meetings. Discussion ensued.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields stated that the department is doing well and has noticed the water leaks around town have been slowing down. He stated the drainage and sewer work on Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue is ninety percent completed. Further noting that the department still had a need to pave the road and were just waiting on the gravel to settle to complete some work on the drainage over the roadbed. Director Fields stated that the department is planning on taking care of more sewer problems after the first of the year.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2022-15: A resolution for the Adoption of the Municipal Budget for 2023. Steve Hurley read the resolution. Discussion ensued. Wilma Peevy made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-15, Sheila Trent seconded the motion, all present council members voted yes.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Baxter discussed updates concerning all the ongoing projects happening around town currently and discussed projects to begin in the coming year. Mayor Baxter also noted awards The City of Mulberry is to receive.

Kimberly Bruce spoke about the City of Mulberry being awarded Volunteer Community of the Year. This award is in recognition of the amount of volunteer participation the City of Mulberry has engaged in over the year. Councilwoman Bruce asked for volunteers and donations for an upcoming food and non-perishables drive that will take place at the four-way stop on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sadat Rice signed up to speak about "the title", Mr. Rice stated he believes the topic was already discussed and did not feel it need any further discussion.

Eli Clardy signed up to speak about "the employment of Thell Riddle", Mayor Baxter informed him they cannot discuss that issue and employment can only be discussed in executive session of the

council. Mr. Clardy asked if he reworded the topic would he be allowed to speak.

Mayor Baxter stated he would get a reading on this and declared council in recess for 10 minutes at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Baxter declared council back in session at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Baxter granted the request, Eli Clardy spoke about the Annual City of Mulberry Employee Christmas Party.

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

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

These minutes were taken by Sarah Kizer

APPROVED:

  
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer