

CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 23, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Mulberry City Council was held Thursday, February 23, 2023, 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	Mandy Oestreich
Shannon Gregory	Dwayne Fields
Justin Trosper	Darren Fields
Olivia Clawson	Sadat Rice
Scott Oestreich	Rebecca Aldridge
Robin Egerton	Ronnie Adams
Sherry Hesson	Cathy Adams
Sean Brister	Donna Moore

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

Bobby Tweedy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and previous months minutes. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion. Stacy Muntz requested that minutes reflect that at the last meeting Wilma Peevy had asked a question about parking at the new duplexes. All present council members voted yes with the addition of Wilma Peevy's question to be added.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chief of Police Shannon Gregory gave the Police report stating the department had 122 calls, 46 traffic stops, 1 traffic/criminal citation, 2 arrests, and 182 business checks and issued 20 clean up orders.

Public Works Director Dwayne Fields gave his report stating the department had multiple projects that were waiting on dry weather to be started or completed. He noted that the sewer between Carter and Heard streets had been repaired. Stacy Muntz asked if the City had the new sewer machine in operation yet. Dwayne Fields stated that the rear working lights had been wired directly and this caused a fire hazard on the machine. He went on to say that the machine was under warranty and repairs would be covered. Stacy Muntz asked about the water lines on Carter Street. Mr. Fields said that there were no problems and as soon as the sewer machine was in operation they would continue cleanouts. Stacy Muntz asked if the addition of the duplexes would cause a strain of the current sewer system. Dwayne Fields stated that the duplexes should not cause a problem.

There was no report given from the Fire Department. The County Fire Department meeting was held in Mulberry on this night, so there were no representatives available to give the report.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

## NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02: A resolution to amend resolution no. 2021-14, the budget resolution for 2022, reconciling beginning fund balances and for other purposes. Discussion ensued. Wilma Peevy made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all present members voted yes.

Mayor Baxter discussed the changing of the regularly scheduled City Council meetings from Thursdays to Tuesdays as voted on at last meeting. Mayor Baxter contacted City Attorney Sean Brister after the January meeting and informed him of the council's intentions. Sean Brister replied via text, that he would charge \$1,500.00 per month to attend the meetings. Mayor Baxter wanted to make sure that the City Council knew this and brought it up for discussion. Discussion ensued. Jimmy Moore made a motion to move the regularly scheduled City Council meetings back to the third Tuesday of each month. Sheila Trent seconded the motion. Stacy Muntz stated that she felt it would be worth the extra money to have Sean Brister present at the meeting. Discussion ensued. Stacy Muntz voted no, and all other present members voted yes.

## MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Bruce mentioned that April 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a community Easter egg hunt at Kirksey Park. Candy Hopp is leading this event. Mrs. Bruce asked that the public watch for more details and ways to help coming soon.

Jimmy Moore asked about a trailer that had been moved from the end of Hamtown road and discussed that the area was left in a very messy state. Chief Shannon Gregory said that a cleanup order had been issued to the property owner.

Olivia Clawson spoke on secession planning.

Rebecca Aldridge spoke on duplexes and zoning.

Sadat Rice played an audio recording prepared by Beth Rice.

Robin Egerton passed.

The Mayor spoke on the progress at the Industrial Park, the Mulberry Community Food Pantry and the Pickleball courts. He went on to say that there is a meeting scheduled to discuss the overlaying of the streets on the eastern side of the town. He also noted that the state is almost through with the review of the sidewalk project on Church Street. Mayor Baxter then stated that the Water Treatment Plant project is progressing with the engineers and that progress is coming along nicely. Mayor Baxter said we should be receiving a letter from the Federal Government any day now about replacing Industrial Park Drive's existing asphalt surface with concrete. He then updated that some of the bridge replacements have been postponed to 2024. And ended by saying that there is a lot of great things going on. Pointing out the growth in the new duplexes as well as other areas.

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

These minutes were taken by Carla Dickerson

APPROVED:   
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer