CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 21, 2023

The regularly scheduled monthly session of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at precisely 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the City Council Center, located at 606 Church Avenue, Mulberry.

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2

Bobby Tweedy, Ward 2 Position 1

Wilma Peevy, Ward 3 Position 1

Stacy Muntz, Ward 1 Position 2

Sheila Trent, Ward 1 Position 1

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jimmy Moore, Ward 3 Position 2

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Kay Peevy Rice

Shannon Gregory, Police Chief

Mandy Oestreich

Dwayne Fields, Public Works Director

Scott Oestreich

Jason Sumpter, Assistant Fire Chief

Kay Baxter

Darren Fields, Water Superintendent

Lena Pinkerton

Veronica Robins, Crawford County Emergency Management Director

Joseph Swad

Jill Swad

Greta Bugg

Kathie Cunningham

Derrick Bryant

Nancy Sanders

Tom Bugg

Call to Order

Mayor Baxter called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led in prayer, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Steve Hurley conducted the roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

Kimberly Bruce moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the minutes from the previous month. Bobby Tweedy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously among the council members present.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department Report – Chief Shannon Gregory:

- The department responded to 123 calls, conducted sixty-two traffic stops, issued thirteen citations, and made nine arrests (six misdemeanors, three felonies).
- Performed 348 business checks.
- Announced the Chili Supper and Pie Auction for the Christmas With A Badge event, raised $6,083.
- Noted that tickets were still available for the rifle raffle and the drawing would be December 16th after the Christmas Parade.
- The Police Department will be taking children Christmas shopping on December 16th.
- The Police Department will be giving away sixty full turkey dinners on December 21st.
- Announced that Christmas with a Badge is a recognized 501(c)(3) entity and that donations could be tax deductible.

Fire Department Report – Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter:

- Addressed twenty-six calls: one grass fire, nineteen medical calls, two vehicle fires, three motor vehicle accidents, and one cancelled call.

Public Works Department Report – Director Dwayne Fields:

- Noted that the department had started cleaning the sewers for the fall/winter season.
- Stated that the Sewer machine is working good and is also being used to clean culverts.
- Stacy Muntz asked about 4th Street. Mr. Fields stated that they were waiting on other projects to be completed in order to start on 4th street.

MULBERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

Tammy Watts, Branch Director of the Mulberry Public Library, was unable to attend, but provided a report and Steve Hurley read the report with October's numbers.

- Patrons checked out 1,145 books and returned 1,033 books.
- The library recorded 1,589 visits.
- Program attendance reached 172, with 229 participating in passive programs.
- Computer usage was recorded at 63 people.
- Wi-Fi usage was utilized by 1,091 people.
- Two new Saturday programs were initiated.

OLD BUSINESS

- **No old business was discussed.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Veronica Robins, Crawford County Emergency Management Director, spoke about being prepared for the upcoming solar eclipse.**

2. **RESOLUTION 2023-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE INCURRENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PORTION OF THE COST OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, ENLARGING, IMPROVING, AND/OR EXTENDING THE CITY MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM**

    - Steve Hurley presented Resolution 2023-11, authorizing the Mayor and Treasurer to execute certain documents in relation to funding for the USDA Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Grant.
    - Council Member Bobby Tweedy motioned to approve the resolution, with Council Member Sheila Trent seconding the motion.
    - Discussion ensued.
    - The vote was called. All present council members voted in favor of the resolution.

3. **Acceptance of properties located at 136 West 4th Street and 104 North Main Street**

    - The council addressed the matter of property acquisitions. It was reported that properties located at 136 West 4th Street and 104 North Main Street have been deeded to the City by the current owner.

    - Council Member Stacy Muntz put forward a motion to accept the deeds of these properties. The motion was seconded by Council Member Sheila Trent.

    - This was followed by a discussion among the council members.

    - Upon calling for a vote, all present members unanimously voted in favor of accepting the property deeds as proposed in the resolution.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mayor Baxter addressed inquiries about local properties and recent building sales.

➢ **Public Comment**

- Citizen Joseph Swad, a resident at 1715 Alma Avenue, raised a question regarding the property on Mulberry Wire Road, specifically inquiring about the request to establish Turkey Houses on the site.

ADJOURNMENT

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next scheduled City Council meeting will be on December 19, 2023.

These minutes were taken by Steve Hurley

APPROVED: _____

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer