CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – January 23, 2024

The regularly scheduled monthly session of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 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:

Jimmy Moore, Ward 3 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	Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley, Executive Assistant to the Mayor	Eric Pierce
Shannon Gregory, Police Chief	Mandy Oestreich
Dwayne Fields, Public Works Director	Scott Oestreich
Darren Fields, Water Superintendent	Sadat Rice
Derrick Bryant	Emily Bryant
Tammy Watts, Branch Director of Mulberry Public Library	Greta Bugg
Katie Cunningham	Tom Bugg
Jose Aguirre	Lena Pinkerton

Call to Order

Mayor Baxter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., leading the gathering in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Steve Hurley, conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

Council Member Jimmy Moore moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the minutes from the previous month, seconded by Council Member Kimberly Bruce. The motion passed unanimously among the council members present.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department Report – Chief Shannon Gregory:

- In December, the department responded to 118 calls, conducted forty-seven traffic stops, issued six citations, and made five arrests (three misdemeanors, two felonies) and did 444 business checks.
- In 2023 the department responded to 1,648 calls, conducted 850 traffic stops, issued 173 citations, made ninety total arrests (57 misdemeanors, thirty-three felonies), and did 4,499 business checks.

Fire Department Report – Fire Chief Jeff Brown was unable to attend Steve Hurley read the Fire Department Report:

- Addressed thirty-two total calls: twenty-five medical calls, two vehicle fires, two motor vehicle calls with injuries and three cancelled calls.

Public Works Department Report – Public Works Director Dwayne Fields;

- Reported several calls for temporary shut offs due to freezing temperatures causing water leaks.
- Called citizens to let them know if a spike in water use was showing that could be indicative of a leak.
- Repaired a large leak on Church Street on Saturday the 13th.
- Council member Kimberly Bruce asked about the water discoloration. Mr. Fields noted that the lake had turned over due to the temperature swings and faucets dripping and went on to note that manganese was the reason for the water discoloration and that the amount of manganese in the water was not enough to be harmful.

MULBERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT – Branch Director Tammy Watts

- Patrons checked out 1,140 books and checked in 849 books.
- The library recorded 1,345 visits.
- Program attendance reached 224, and 320 participating in passive programs.
- Computer usage was recorded at 78 people.
- 865 people utilized wi-Fi usage.
- Discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS

- **No Old Business**

NEW BUSINESS

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE RULES OF PROCEEDINGS FOR 2024 COUCNIL MEETINGS.**
  - Jimmy Moore motioned to approve the resolution. Sheila Trent seconded the motion.
  - There was no discussion.
  - All present council members voted yes.
- **Jeremy Shores with Hawkins & Weir Engineers.**
  - Mr. Shores discussed that the bids for the Water Treatment Plant Expansion would be coming after the date for the February City Council meeting and suggested moving the meeting in February to the end of February so that the bids could be discussed.
  - Wilma Peevy motioned to move the meeting date for the February City Council meeting from February 20th to February 29th. Sheila Trent seconded the motion.
  - There was no discussion.
  - All present council members voted yes.
- **Recommendation from Planning Commission on Turkey House Property.**
  - Kimberly Bruce stated that based on what she heard at the Planning Commission meeting, that approval of the request for Turkey Houses was necessary to avoid lengthy court trials.
  - Discussion ensued.
  - Derrick Bryant came to the podium to discuss what roads will be used by the trucks servicing the turkey houses.
  - There was no further discussion.
  - Stacy Muntz motioned to approve the turkey houses to be built. Jimmy Moore seconded the motion.
  - There was no discussion.
  - Sheila Trent voted no. All other present council members voted yes.
- **Recommendation from Planning Commission to update records to reflect new zoning categories.**
  - Jimmy Moore asked if the zoning changes would affect taxation on the land. Mayor Gary D. Baxter answered that it would not affect taxation rates.
  - Discussion ensued.
  - Sheila Trent motioned to approve the planning commission to update records to reflect new zoning categories. Stacy Muntz seconded the motion.
  - There was no discussion.
  - All present council members voted yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Public Comment**
  - Greta Bugg who resides at 1570 Alma Avenue came to the podium to speak. She stated that the City failed the residents effected by the turkey houses decision.

- **Council Comment:**

  - Kimberly Bruce stated that she had applied for and received a grant for the mini pantries. The grant was for five hundred dollars to be used on stocking the mini pantries. She also stated that the food drive held on Martin Luther King Day had ten volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. The next scheduled City Council meeting will be on February 29, 2024.

Minutes recorded by: Steve Hurley

APPROVED: _____
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: Carla Dickerson
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer