CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 18, 2024

The regularly scheduled monthly session of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, June 18, 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

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

Jimmy Moore, Ward 3 Position 2

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

Sheila Trent, Ward 1 Position 1

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melissa Sampson, Financial Director

Dena House

Shannon Gregory, Police Chief

Kay Baxter

Darren Fields, Water Superintendent

Derek Schmidt

Alex Walker, Interim Public Works Director

Tammy Watts, Director Ralph D. Graff Library of Mulberry

Jason Sumpter, Assistant Fire Chief

Jason House

Mandy Oestreich

Scott Oestreich

Sadat Rice

Marie Crandell

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:

Financial Director, Melissa Sampson, conducted the roll call, confirming the presence of a quorum. Council member Sheila Trent was absent due to travel, and Treasurer Carla Dickerson also missed the meeting due to illness. Council member Wilma Peavy arrived late, after the roll call.

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 – Police Chief Shannon Gregory:

- In May, the department responded to 149 calls, conducted fifty-eight traffic stops, issued ten citations, made three arrests (two misdemeanors, one felony), and completed 472 business checks.
- No questions or comments were raised by the council.

Fire Department Report – Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter:

- Assistant Fire Chief Sumpter reported twenty-five calls for May (1 structure fire and twenty-four medical calls).
- He reminded everyone of the annual fireworks show on the 29th.
- No questions or comments were raised by the council.

Public Works Department Report – Interim Public Works Director Alex Walker:

- Interim Public Works Director Alex Walker reported twenty-eight service calls for May, including six sewer calls.
- Alex Walker mentioned ongoing mowing rounds and plans for a new line replacement on Alma Street.
- Kimberly Bruce confirmed that the Jackson Street issues were resolved by the Public Works Department.
- No further questions or comments were raised by the council.

Ralph D. Graff Library of Mulberry Report – Director Tammy Watts:

- Tammy Watts reported a busy month gearing up for the summer reading program. Field trips, STEM programs, and various community activities were highlighted.
- In May the library recorded 1,939 visits, thirty-six programs with 469 attendees, 307 passive program participants, 1,102 books checked out, 1,066 books checked in, 105 computer usage instances, and 958 Wi-Fi usage instances.
- No questions or comments were raised by the council.

Land Use Planning Report – Land Use Planning Consultant Dena House:

- Dena House provided an update on the zoning management project, highlighting the completion of a comprehensive Excel sheet with zoning parcel details and plans to transition to digital mapping.
- No questions or comments were raised by the council.

OLD BUSINESS

- **No Old Business**

NEW BUSINESS

- **No New Business**

MAYOR'S REPORT AND PUBLIC COMMENT

➢ **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Gary D. Baxter provided updates on various city projects and initiatives during the council meeting. Key points included:

- Mayor Baxter announced that the city received a grant from Rural Services for the Senior Center Oven, amounting to $3,847.84, with a 50-50 match.
- New office hours were announced for better coordination between public works and office employees: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday, with employees working 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday, and 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Friday.
- Announcement of a fish fry at 3rd and Main on June 28th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, a day before the Independence Day celebration.

➢ **Public Comment**

- No individuals registered to speak during the session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The next scheduled City Council meeting will be on July 16, 2024.

Minutes written by: Steve Hurley

APPROVED: _____
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: Carla Dickerson
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer