CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – February 25, 2025

The special called meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened on Monday, March 10, 2025, 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:

Seth Fisher, Ward 1 Position 1

Ronnie Adams, Ward 1 Position 2

Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2

Damien Sadat Rice, Ward 3 Position 1

Jeff Marvin, Ward 3 Position 2

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Tweedy, Ward 2 Position 1

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley, Assistant to the Mayor

Shannon Gregory, Police Chief

Alex Walker, Public Works Director

Darren Fields, Water Plant Superintendent

Captain Jake Pool, Fire Department

Scott Oestreich

Chanon Phipps

Timothy Brasuell

Cathy Adams

Kay Baxter

Isaiah Fields

Beth Rice

Cherie Brasuell

Claude Kirby

Mandy Oestreich

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:

Steve Hurley, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, called the roll:

- Present: Ronnie Adams, Kimberly Bruce, Seth Fisher, Jeff Marvin, Sadat Rice
- Absent: Bobby Tweedy
- A quorum was declared.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

The council reviewed the minutes from the January Regular meeting and the January Financial Statements.

- **Motion to approve:** Kimberly Bruce
- **Second:** Jeff Marvin
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department Report – Police Chief Shannon Gregory:

- 128 calls for service
- Seventy traffic stops
- Seven citations issued
- Ten assists to outside agencies
- Twenty-three reports filed
- 523 business and building checks conducted
- Announced the resignation of Officer Mongold, who is transferring to the Ozark Police Department. Recruitment for a replacement is underway.

Fire Department Report – Captain Jake Pool:

- Nineteen total calls in January
  - Three fire calls (residential, RV, and grass fire)
  - Thirteen emergency medical calls
  - One good intent call
  - Two motor vehicle accidents
- The department is fully staffed and operational.

Public Works Department Report – Public Works Director Alex Walker:

- Eleven service calls
- 156-meter readings (23 required rechecks)
- 104 visitors to the Recycling Center
- Eight water leaks repaired
- Working on various infrastructure projects, including locating old and mismarked water lines.
- Water Department – Superintendent Darren Fields came to the podium to answer questions.
- Manganese levels have stabilized in the city's water supply.
- Issues with downtown water pressure fluctuations were discussed.
- The possibility of installing monitors to track pressure fluctuations was considered but deemed expensive.

Library – Director Tammy Watts

- Successful outreach programs and community events.
- 2,072 visitors in January.
- Twenty-five programs held with 340 attendees.
- Planning the "Mulberry Show & Tell" program in April to focus on local history.
- Master Gardeners assisting with landscaping projects.

OLD BUSINESS

- **None**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-07 (Amendment to 2024 Budget)

- This resolution amends the 2024 budget to reconcile beginning fund balances and provide the most accurate financial data.
- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Kimberly Bruce
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0)

Resolution 2025-08 (Application for Ground Penetrating Radar Grant)

- **Purpose:** To apply for a grant for ground-penetrating radar equipment to help locate underground utilities.
- **Motion to approve:** Kimberly Bruce
- **Second:** Jeff Marvin
- After discussion regarding equipment costs and alternatives, a motion was made to table the resolution for further research.
- **Motion to table:** Kimberly Bruce

- **Second: Sadat Rice**
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0)
- **Special Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM** to revisit the grant application.

Resolution 2025-09 (Sale of City-Owned Property at 210 N. Main St.)

- **Buyer:** Brasuell Properties, LLC
- **Sale Price:** $30,720
- **Purpose:** To be renovated and converted into a laundromat.
- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Seth Fisher
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0)

Approval for Water Valve Installation (Eighth Street)

- **Purpose:** To install a valve to allow for more efficient water shutoffs during repairs.
- **Cost: $8,500** (funds available in the budget)
- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Seth Fisher
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval (5-0)

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Baxter provided the following updates and announcements:

- **Baseball Field Dedication:** Scheduled for Friday at 3:00 PM.
- **Upcoming Projects:** Edamame Festival planned for April 26, 2025.
- **Public Concerns:** Discussion on water bills and potential leaks, with a suggestion to send informational sheets with water bills on detecting leaks.
- **Infrastructure and Community Updates:**

  - Water treatment plant construction progressing.
  - Dollar General Market project is underway.
  - The pickleball lighting project is nearing completion.

  - **Public Comment Period:**

    - No residents had signed up to speak at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

This meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regular scheduled City Council meeting will be on March 18, 2025.

Minutes written by: Steve Hurley

APPROVED: _____
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer