CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – July 15, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, July 15, 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

Bobby Tweedy, Ward 2 Position 1

Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2

Damien Sadat Rice, Ward 3 Position 1

Jeff Marvin, Ward 3 Position 2

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley, Assistant to Mayor

Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer

Shannon Gregory, Police Chief

Kay Baxter

Alex Walker, Public Works Director

Cathy Adams

Darren Fields, Water Plant Superintendent

Kent Corkum

Jason Sumpter, Assistant Fire Chief

Shirley Tweedy

Ben Brewer, Fire Chief

Scott Oestreich

Tammy Watts, Branch Director of the Ralph D. Graf Library of Mulberry

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:

- **MEMBERS' PRESENT:**
  Ronnie Adams, Ward 1 Position 2
  Bobby Tweedy, Ward 2 Position 1
  Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2
  Seth Fisher, Ward 1 Position 1
  Jeff Marvin, Ward 3 Position 2
  Sadat Rice, Ward 3 Position 1

- **MEMBERS ABSENT:**
  None

- With six out of six Council Members present, a quorum was established.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

The consent agenda included the approval of minutes from the May regular meeting and financial statements.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Department – Chief Shannon Gregory:

- June Totals:
  - One hundred eleven calls for service.
  - One hundred thirty-six traffic stops.
  - Twenty-five citations issued.
  - Ten arrests (five misdemeanors, five felonies).
  - Six hundred forty-seven business/building checks.
  - Twenty-seven cleanup orders (with flexibility due to weather conditions).

Fire Department Report – Fire Department Chief Ben Brewer:

- Fifteen total incidents in June:
  - One building fire.
  - One grass fire.
  - One commercial vehicle incident.

- One personal vehicle incident.
- Eleven emergency medical calls.

Public Works Department Report – Public Works Director Alex Walker:

- June Totals:
  - Thirteen service calls.
  - One hundred eighty manual meter readings.
  - Discussion on Main Street sewer repair and Vine Prairie treated water leak.
  - Confirmed coordination with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

Library – Tammy Watts:

- June Totals:
  - Twenty-four hundred visits.
  - Thirty programs with seven hundred seventy-two attendees.
  - Two hundred fifteen passive program participants.
  - One thousand forty-five books checked out.
  - Nine hundred seventy books returned.
  - Sixty-three computer sessions.
  - One thousand nine hundred twenty-one Wi-Fi connections across one hundred ten unique devices.
- Highlighted community engagement events and commended library staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Alma Avenue Waterline Infrastructure Project:

- Hawkins-Weir Engineers are finalizing cost estimates. No vote was taken.

Parcel Conveyance Acknowledgment – Resolution 2025-12:

- Steve Hurley read Resolution 2025-12 acknowledging reversion of title to Today's Bank as per 1976 deed conditions.
- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Seth Fisher
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-13 Adoption of Crawford County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2025-13, which authorizes the City of Mulberry to adopt the Crawford County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan, ensuring eligibility for FEMA funding related to flood and disaster preparedness.

- **Motion to approve:** Seth Fisher
- **Second:** Jeff Marvin
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

Resolution 2025-14 – FUN Park Grant Resolution

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2025-14, which authorizes the City of Mulberry to apply for a no-match FUN Park Grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism to fund a new ADA-compliant playground for ages 2–5 at City Park.

- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Ronnie Adams
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

Resolution 2025-15 – Generator Grant for Senior Center and Storm Shelter:

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2025-15, which allows the Mayor to seek a $15,000 grant from the Arkansas Rural Community Grant Program for the installation of a natural gas backup generator at the Senior Center and Storm Shelter, with the city providing matching funds up to $20,050.

- **Motion to approve:** Seth Fisher
- **Second:** Ronnie Adams
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Baxter provided the following updates and announcements:

- Received $7,649 Marine Fuel Tax Grant for ADA fishing pier at TJ House Reservoir.
- Water Treatment Plant Phases one and two were both ahead of schedule, aiming for February 2026 completion.
- Main Street sanitary sewer project progressing; bid advertisement expected August.
- Youth Shelter opening delayed pending Health Dept. licensing.
- Little Mulberry Waterline relocation low bid: $282,970.68 by Premier Facilities Group.
- Laundromat delayed by need for two" water line; aiming for early August opening.
- National Night Out is set for August fifth at the Fairgrounds.
- Future fair and Booze Cruise events noted.

- Sanitary sewer redesign from Main Street to Carter Avenue in development.
- FOIA law changes are to be reviewed countywide, with a report to the Council in August.

- **Public Comment and Council Discussion:**

    - No residents had signed up to speak at the meeting.
    - The council discussed ditch drainage issues and porta-potty request at city lake.
    - Pavilion project at cemetery under review.
    - Gravel work pending dry weather.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss Jeff Marvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sadat Rice seconded the motion. All present members voted yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next regular scheduled City Council meeting will be on August 19, 2025.

Minutes written by: Steve Hurley

APPROVED: _____
Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer