CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – August 19, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, August 19, 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 Mayor	Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer
Shannon Gregory, Police Chief	Kay Baxter
Alex Walker, Public Works Director	Cathy Adams
Darren Fields, Water Plant Superintendent	Lenny Berens
Jason Sumpter, Assistant Fire Chief	Vickie Berens
Tammy Watts, Branch Director of the Ralph D. Graf Library of Mulberry	
Mandy Oestreich	Scott Oestreich
Marie Crandell Brown	Channon Phipps
Jared Entrekin Police Officer	

Call to Order

Mayor Gary D. Baxter called the Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., led in prayer, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

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 Postion 1

With five 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 July 2025 regular meeting and financial statements.

• **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin

• **Second:** Kimberly Bruce

• **Vote:** All present council members voted yes

Departmental Reports

Police Department – Police Chief Shannon Gregory

• July Totals:

- o 111 calls.
- o 220 traffic stops.
- o 24 citations issued.
- o 12 arrests (10 misdemeanor, 2 felony).
- o 769 building checks.
- o 13 clean-up orders issued.

Fire Department – Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter

• July Totals:

- o 1 building fire.
- o 1 grass fire.
- o 1 commercial vehicle incident.
- o 1 personal vehicle incident.
- o 11 emergency medical calls.
- o 1 false alarm.

Public Works – Public Works Director Alex Walker

• July Totals:

- o 19 service calls.
- o 229 meter readings.
- o 14 meter changeouts.
- o 10 shutoffs.
- o 77 visits to recycling center.
- o 3 water leaks repaired.

Library – Library Director Tammy Watts

• July Totals:

- o 2,272 visits.
- o 26 programs with 485 participants.
- o 241 passive program participants.
- o 895 books checked out.
- o 903 books returned.
- o 86 computer sessions.
- o 1,921 Wi-Fi connections.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Appointment of Planning Commission Member

Mayor Baxter requested approval of the appointment of Channon Phipps to the Planning Commission.

- **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Sadat Rice
- **Vote:** All present council members voted yes

Project Updates

Steve Hurley read updates from Engineer Jeremy Shores regarding:

- • Mulberry Water Treatment Plant Improvements – substantial completion expected April 10, 2026; final completion May 10, 2026; projected early finish February 2026.
- • Preload Water Storage Tank and Clear Well Improvements – completion projected February 2026.
- • Highway 64 Waterline Relocation – bid awarded to Premier Facilities Group; ARDOT approved contract.·
- • Highway 215/Main Street Sanitary Sewer Extension – plans to be submitted for review before end of September.
- • City of Mulberry Water Line Replacement – Hawkins Weir preparing cost estimates and extension plans.
- • Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – plans underway to replace 950 linear feet of failing pipe.

Mayor's Report and Public Comment

Steve Hurley reported on the successful "Park Hunger" food drive. Donations will support the City's Fun Park Grant application. Sadat Rice asked about the Ground Penetrating Radar grant; Steve Hurley reported Mulberry was not awarded.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss Jeff Marvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. The next City Council meeting will be on September 16, 2025.

- **Motion to adjourn:** Jeff Marvin
- **Second:** Kimberly Bruce
- **Vote:** All present council members voted yes

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

Carla Dickerson, Recorder-Treasurer