**CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2025**

The scheduled meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened on Tuesday, September 16, 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, Executive Assistant to the Mayor | Carla Dickerson, Recorder/Treasurer |
| Shannon Gregory, Police Chief | Darren Fields, Water Plant Superintendent |
| Jason Sumpter, Assistant Fire Chief | Tammy Watts, Branch Director of the Ralph D. Graf Library of Mulberry |
| Kay Baxter | Mandy Oestreich |
| Marie Crandell | Cathy Adams |
| Brunchel Gilstrap | Brandy Gilstrap |

**Call to Order**

Mayor Gary D. Baxter called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 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 Position 1

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

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the approval of minutes from the August 2025 regular meeting and financial statements.

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

**Departmental Reports**

**Police Department – Police Chief Shannon Gregory**

August Totals:

- 113 calls.
- 93 traffic stops.
- 19 citations issued.
- 7 arrests.
- 686 building checks.
- 36 clean-up orders.

Preparing for Christmas with a Badge; pie auction expected the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

**Fire Department – Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter**

August Totals:

- 31 calls (27 medical, 4 fires – 3 grass, 1 cooking).
- 2 motor vehicle accidents (1 with injuries).
- Equipment and trucks in good condition.
- Awaiting county installation of additional repeaters for improved radio communications.

**Public Works – Mayor Gary D. Baxter (on behalf of Director Alex Walker)**

Director Alex Walker was excused (working on emergency project on Fifth Street).

- Cleanup orders enforced with liens filed where necessary.
- Bids for Ninth and Tenth Street pending follow-up.
- Alma Street project remains with engineers.

**Library – Library Director Tammy Watts**

August Totals:

- 1,907 visits.
- 17 programs with 221 participants.
- 210 passive program participants.
- 698 books checked out.
- 662 books returned.
- 79 computer sessions.
- 656 Wi-Fi connections.
- New programs: Chair-ercise (low-impact exercise), Library Thrills (kids cooking), crochet, candle making, karaoke, book club, bingo for books.
- New refrigerator purchased via OG&E Community Stewardship Grant.
- Attended National Night Out and hosted Girl Scout informational meeting.
- Expressed gratitude for City support.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## New Business

### Resolution 2025-16 – Establish 2025 Millage Rates

The Council considered the 2025 Millage Rates as presented for adoption.

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

### Property Purchase – 121 East Seventh Street

Proposal from Brunchel Gilstrap to purchase city lot at $2,700, contingent on clearing the property within 30 days.

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

### Mayor's Report and Council Comments

- Mayor Baxter recognized Constitution Day and expressed appreciation for freedoms and public servants. Emphasized teamwork and blessings within the City of Mulberry.
- Ronnie Adams: Report on Cemetery Committee progress toward pavilion construction; pavilion ordered and paid for; concrete contractor engaged.
- Kimberly Bruce: Announced City Cleanup Day – October 4, 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at fairgrounds, volunteers needed.
- Sadat Rice: Suggested expanded marketing strategies to promote Mulberry attractions (Kirksey House, Vine Prairie Park, City Lake, archery, disc golf, pickleball, camping). Proposed flyers, pamphlets, and interstate promotions.

### Citizens Signed Up To Speak

- None

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Seth Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sadat Rice. Vote: Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. The next City Council meeting will be on October 21, 2025.

Carla Dickerson, Recorder/Treasurer

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor