CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2025
The scheduled meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. 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, 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
Riley Walker	Cathy Adams,Planning Commission Member
Alex Walker, Public Works Director	Justin Anthony, CPA Hubbs and Whitehead
Scott Oestreich	Channon Phipps, Planning Commission Member
Terri Cooper	Kent Cokrum
Shirley Tweedy	

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
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

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

Consent Agenda

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

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

Departmental Reports

Police Department – Police Chief Shannon Gregory

• September Activity:

- 123 calls
- 70 traffic stops
- 13 citations
- 3 arrests
- 515 building checks
- 31 cleanup orders / 27 rechecks

Shop with a Cop:

- Applications: Nov. 3 – Dec. 5 (firm cut-off)

- Chili Supper & Pie Auction: Nov. 23, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (auction 12:30 p.m.)
- Shopping Day: Dec. 3, 10 a.m. at Ozark Walmart
- Turkey Dinner Giveaway: Dec. 19, 10 am - 3 pm at Senior Center

No further questions.

Fire Department – Assistant Fire Chief Jason Sumpter

• September Activity:

- 31 total calls
- 8 fires (1 structure fire requiring multiple mutual-aid visits)
- 22 medical calls
- 1 canceled call
- 1 Motor Vehicle Accident with injuries; 1 without

Upcoming Event:

- *Candy Hop "Booze Cruise" Trunk or Treat* – Saturday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m., with costume contest and burnout contest (8 p.m.).

No further questions

Public Works – Public Works Director Alex Walker

• September Activity:

- 22 service calls
- 71 meter readings
- 30 meter change-outs
- 12 shut-offs
- 79 recycling center patrons
- 1 water leak

Council Questions:

- Street patching quotes are being gathered; Ninth & Tenth Street concerns noted.
- Ditch repair on Alma Street pending scheduling.
- Wire Road ditch mowing delayed due to staffing; now resuming.
- Discussion held on mileage/use of city trucks; clarified that take-home vehicles are for on-call response and are taxed per IRS rules.

Motion to approve: Seth Fisher

- **Second**: Kim Bruce
- **Vote**: Unanimous - Motion Passed

Resolution 2025-18 – Intent Regarding Water Treatment Plant Improvements

Steve Hurley read the resolution authorizing reimbursement of project expenditures from existing approved bond funding related to SCADA upgrades and security improvements.

Discussion:

- Water Superintendent Darren Fields explained the critical need to replace the obsolete SCADA system.
- The new system includes modern controls, secure access gate, cameras, and razor-wire fencing.
- Training for staff is included.
- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture approved the funding structure.

Motion: Jeff Marvin
Second: Kim Bruce
Vote: Unanimous – Resolution Adopted.

Mayor's Report and Council Comments

Mayor Baxter provided updates:

A. Water Treatment Plant Expansion

- **Schedule 1 (Crossland Heavy):**
    - Substantial Completion: April 10, 2026
    - Expected Early Completion: February 2026
- **Schedule 2 (Preload Storage Tank & Clearwell):**
    - Substantial Completion: April 1, 2026
    - Expected Early Completion: Feb. 13, 2026

B. Hwy 64 Water Line Relocation

- Construction complete; bacteriological tests pending.

C. Hwy 215/Carter Avenue Sewer Extension

- Submitted to ADH for review.

D. East 5th & Carter Sewer Rehabilitation

- Survey scheduled for next week.

E. Hwy 64 Sidewalk Project (Senior Center to Dollar General)

- City awarded grant of **$77,000**.
- Survey to run concurrently with sewer surveys.

F. Industrial Park Drive Reconstruction

Mayor provided detailed explanation of delays and upcoming corrections:

- Concrete cracking led to dispute between contractor and engineers; resolved after joint meeting.
- Both sides of road will be reconstructed with heavier base material.
- One lane to be graveled for traffic while work progresses.

G. Fishing Pier

- Engineering team has all documents needed; project is in queue.

H. Senior Center

- New Director: **Suzanne Cunningham**

I. Business & Development Updates

- Mueller Manufacturing pulling permits for a new 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse.
- Youth Shelter approved by state; not yet housing youth.
- No update on restaurant project at Industrial Park.
- Four potential industrial prospects currently in early discussions.

Citizens Signed Up To Speak

Concern regarding Miller Branch runoff (Terry Cooper):

- Resident expressed worry about potential stormwater contamination from the new truck stop site.
- Mayor directed Public Works Director to meet with the resident, gather concerns, and coordinate with engineers/contractor to review protections and provide answers.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Seth Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Damien Sadat Rice. Vote: Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next City Council meeting will be on November 18, 2025.
Minutes were recorded and prepared by Steve Hurley, Executive Assistant to the Mayor for the City of Mulberry.

Carla Dickerson, Recorder/Treasurer

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor