CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – December 16, 2025

The scheduled meeting of the Mulberry City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Center, 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, Fire Chief	Cathy Adams
Kay Baxter	Mandy Oestreich
Jeremy Shores, Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc	Lenny Berens
Jared Entrekin, Police Officer	Marie Crandell-Brown
Sarah M. Giammo, Friday Eldredge & Clark (Bond Counsel-Virtual)	Vickie Berens

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 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

- 109 total calls for November
- Seventy-four traffic stops; 20 citations
- Eight arrests (1 felony)
- Seventeen cleanup orders

- 479 business checks

Chief Gregory provided an update on the Christmas with a Badge program, noting that 94 children participated this year. Forty turkey dinners will be distributed to families on Friday at the Senior Center, concluding this year's program. Chief Gregory expressed appreciation for the community's support and fundraising efforts.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jason Sumpter

- Seventeen total calls in November
    - Ten medical calls
    - Three Fires (One vehicle fire, two grass fires)
    - Four public service calls (carbon monoxide alarm, lift assists, welfare check)

Fire Chief Sumpter reported on the department's annual Christmas party and awards:

- Curtis Crawford – Firefighter of the Year
- Mary Mask – First Responder of the Year
- Braxton Sumpter – Rookie of the Year
- Mary Mask – Chief's Award

Public Works – Director Alex Walker

November activities included:

- Seventeen service calls
- Two sewer calls
- Eighty-Six Water Meters read
- Six Meter Change-Outs

- Eleven Shut-Offs
- Eighty-Seven Recycling participants

Public Works Director Alex Walker gave updates regarding Industrial Park Road, Ninth and Tenth Street bids, and meter upgrades, noting work is expected to resume following coordination with engineers and contractors.

Library – Tammy Watts

November activity summary:

- 1,993 patron visits
- Thirty-two programs, 377 attendees
- 584 books checked out
- 543 checked in
- Computer usage: 30 sessions
- Wi-Fi usage: 1,263 connections

Cemetery Committee – Ronnie Adams

- Councilman Adams reported that a site inspection for the cemetery pavilion is scheduled, with installation anticipated in early January. Mayor Baxter clarified that no decisions have been made regarding tree removal and that any future improvements would require Council approval.

Old Business

None

New Business

Public Hearing – Water & Sewer Revenue Bond

- Council recessed to open a public hearing regarding issuance of a Water and Sewer Revenue Bond.
- Motion to recess and open public hearing:

    a. **Motion to approve:** Jeff Marvin
    b. **Second:** Damien Sadat Rice
    c. **Vote:** Unanimous - Motion Passed.

- Bond Counsel Sarah M. Giammo presented details of Ordinance 2025-03 about the proposed $940,000 bond, including a 20-year term, 3% interest rate (4% including state service fee), and use for Water Treatment Plant improvements. No public comments were offered.
- Motion to close public hearing and resume Council meeting:

    a. **Motion to approve:** Damien Sadat Rice
    b. **Second:** Kimberly Bruce
    c. **Vote:** Unanimous - Motion Passed.

Ordinance 2025-03 – Water & Sewer Revenue Bond

- Council suspended the rules to read the ordinance by title only.

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

- Steve Hurley read the Ordinance three times by title only.

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

Ordinance 2025-20 – 2026 City Budget

- Council considered the resolution adopting the City budget for calendar year 2026. Discussion included cemetery utilities, senior center acoustics, equipment planning, IT upgrades, library maintenance, animal control costs, street maintenance, and facility rental revenues.

- **Motion to approve:** Ronnie Adams
- **Second:** Kimberly Bruce
- **Vote:** Unanimous - Motion Passed.

Resolution 2025-21 – Federal Surplus Property Program

- Council approved a resolution supporting revival of the Arkansas Federal Surplus Property Program.

  - **Motion:** Kimberly Bruce
  - **Second:** Ronnie Adams
  - **Vote:** Unanimous – Motion Passed.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Baxter provided updates on:

- Industrial Park Road project coordination
- Senior Center generator grant and installation
- Water Meter modernization funding
- Sewer and water line projects pending state review
- Fishing pier grant progress

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Council members discussed community inquiries, including private business updates and infrastructure planning.

Citizens Signed Up To Speak

None

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Jeff Marvin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ronnie Adams. Vote: Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next City Council meeting will be on January 20, 2026.

Carla Dickerson

Carla Dickerson, Recorder/Treasurer

Gary D. Baxter

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor