CITY OF MULBERRY, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 19, 2026

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:

Ronnie Adams, Ward 1 Position 2
Jake Copeland, Ward 2 Position 1
Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2
Daimien Sadat Rice, Ward 3 Position 1

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Seth Fisher, Ward 1 Position 1
Jeff Marvin, Ward 3 Position 2

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Hurley, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Melissa Sampson, Director of Finance
Shannon Gregory, Police Chief
Alex Walker, Public Works Director
Darren Fields, Water Treatment Superintendent
Jason Sumpter, Fire Chief
Tammy Watts, Branch Director of the Ralph D. Graf Library of Mulberry

Sheila Pannell	Cathy Adams
Marie Crandall Brown	Kathie Cunningham
Linda Garvin	Kay Baxter
Barbara Smith	Michael Harp
William Kennard	Lisa Verity
Kevin Wilson	Sherry Jones
James Cletcher	Riley Walker
Larry Hart	Vicki Bare

Call to Order

Mayor Baxter called the Mulberry City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. A prayer was offered, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronnie Adams, Ward 1 Position 2
Jake Copeland, Ward 2 Position 1
Kimberly Bruce, Ward 2 Position 2
Daimien Sadat Rice, Ward 3 Position 1

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Seth Fisher, Ward 1 Position 1 Jeff Marvin, Ward 3 Position 2

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

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the April regular minutes and April financials. Council Member Rice requested a correction to the spelling of his first name from "Damian" to "Daimien" in the minutes.

Motion: Kimberly Bruce
Second: Ronnie Adams
Vote: Approved unanimously (Jake Copeland-yes, Damien Sadat Rice-yes, Kimberly Bruce-yes, Ronnie Adams-yes)

Departmental Reports

Police Department – Police Chief Shannon Gregory

- 171 calls for service in April
- Forty-six traffic stops with twenty-five citations issued
- Eleven arrests (five felonies, six misdemeanors)
- 499 building checks conducted
- Noted increased activity typical for springtime

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jason Sumpter

- Eighteen total calls in April (thirteen medical, one structure fire, one motor vehicle accident, two smoke investigations, one power line down)
- Continuing preparations for annual fireworks show
- Tickets available for the fireworks fundraiser

Public Works – Director Alex Walker

- Thirty-four service calls in March
- Fifty-three meter readings
- Fourteen water shut offs performed
- Ninety-eight people participated in recycling
- Two water leaks repaired
- Discussion of fallen trees in Bluff Hole requiring heavy equipment removal
- Water quality has improved following tank cleaning

Additional Reports

Library – Library Director Tammy Watts

- Caldecott Award winner Andrea Rogers author visited on April 1
- Easter egg hunt held April 2

- New Thursday preschool program with Miss Mariah
- "Echoes in the Jurassic" program by Channon Phipps on April 21
- Table to farm program partnership with Mulberry Community Food Pantry on April 27
- New team member Leah Willis added
- 2,151 library visits
- Thirty-nine programs with 583 in attendance
- 196 passive programs
- 767 books checked out, 779 checked in
- Sixty-seven computer usage sessions
- 485 Wi-Fi usage sessions

Old Business

Ordinance 2026-04: Alcoholic Beverage Permit Process – Second Reading

Motion to read by title only for second reading: Kimberly Bruce
Second: Daimien Sadat Rice
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Steve Hurley read Ordinance 2026-04 establishing a permitting process and privilege permit for selling or dispensing any controlled beverage within the City of Mulberry by businesses licensed by the state to sell alcoholic beverages, levying permit fees, and a city supplemental tax of 2% upon the annual gross receipts.

Motion to amend the tax from 2% to 4% if legally possible: Jake Copeland
Second: Kimberly Bruce
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Resolution 2026-09: Police Department Policies and Procedures

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2026-09 adopting updated policies and procedures for the Mulberry Police Department, authorizing implementation, and directing the Mayor or Recorder/Treasurer to maintain copies with official city records.

Motion to approve: Kimberly Bruce
Second: Ronnie Adams
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

New Business

Four Way Stop Project Presentation by Friends of Mulberry

Larry Hart presented on behalf of Friends of Mulberry, regarding a proposed four-way stop project using pavers or bricks on all four corners of the Highway 64 intersection. The project would be constructed entirely on the state right-of-way and is estimated to cost approximately $20,000. The organization has surveyed the area and created renderings showing low-maintenance landscaping solutions that would eliminate grass cutting and provide an attractive entrance to the community.

Motion to approve proceeding with the project as presented: Jake Copeland
Second: Kimberly Bruce
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Resolution 2026-10: Correction of February Meeting Description

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2026-10 correcting the description of the February 25, 2025, City Council meeting from "special called meeting" to "regular scheduled meeting" that was postponed from February 18, 2025, due to snow conditions.

Motion to approve: Kimberly Bruce
Second: Ronnie Adams
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Resolution 2026-12: Acceptance of Property Donation

Kathie Cunningham offered to donate property located at 9 East Second Street Mulberry, Arkansas (lots ten and eleven and north half of lot nine, block nine, Mulberry Original) to the city. The property is located behind Citizens Bank and contains an old house that would require demolition. Steve Hurley read Resolution 2026-12 accepting the donation of the real property subject to proper documentation and review.

Motion to approve: Ronnie Adams
Second: Jake Copeland
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Resolution 2026-11: Inter-Account Transfers

Steve Hurley read Resolution 2026-11 ratifying, approving, and authorizing inter-account transfers made prior to May 19, 2026, for city projects and unexpected expenses as detailed in Exhibit A.

Motion to approve: Kimberly Bruce
Second: Ronnie Adams
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

Citizens Signed Up to Speak

Vicki Bare

Ms. Bare reported on the successful first annual Mulberry Queen event organized by Friends of Mulberry. The event raised over $4,000 total, with $1,800 going to the fairgrounds for repairs to the pageant building. The event featured a parade and had excellent public turnout. She and Sheila Pannell appeared on Northwest Arkansas television to promote the event, and the TV station plans to return to feature Cre8ive Arts. Commemorative shirts from the event are available for fifteen dollars.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion: Jake Copeland
Second: Kimberly Bruce
Vote: Adopted unanimously (Jake Copeland – yes, Daimien Sadat Rice – yes, Kimberly Bruce – yes, Ronnie Adams – yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes were taken by: Steve Hurley

Gary D. Baxter, Mayor

Carla Dickerson, Recorder/Treasurer