

City Council Minutes

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Chase called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll.

Attendees

Council members Cedric Leonard, Michael James, Al Peer, Mark Tiner, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley and Claudia Hartness were in all in attendance. Clarissa Pace was absent.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Tiner moved to approve the November minutes, Craig McRae seconded, an yay/nay vote was called for, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution declaring 1100 N Samuel St a nuisance
1100 N Samuel Street is now in compliance and no formal action is required.

New Business

- a. Ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan for Monticello
Mark Tiner introduced the ordinance and enacted the emergency clause, waiving the three readings and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Craig McRae seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Craig McRae made a motion to approve this ordinance, Mark Tiner seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution to pay for the surveying of Monticello Lake Dam
Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Al Peer seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. City Attorney Whit Barton stated that there were two proposals one to do the cross section for the repaired section at \$5,500.00 and the other is for the entire dam for \$15,000.00. Michael James asked if we were doing the surveying at the request of the engineer – yes, the survey is the baseline so we can see if the dam is changing over time. Mike Wigley asked if we would have to go back and survey the dam again after this initial survey – yes, it would have to be done periodically. The survey can be loaded into Edge and will also be scanned into LaserFiche so that it can be easily found. Mike Wigley stated that he was for the surveying of the whole dam, as there have been issues twice within the last 10 years. Michael James asked if the dam had to be inspected by a state agency – it does, by ANRC, but they took five months to inspect it after it was discovered it was failing. Mike Wigley made a motion to pass this resolution and that the dam be surveying in its entirety for \$15,000.00, Mark Tiner seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.
- c. Resolution to employ EFS GeoTechnologies to perform aerial photography
Claudia Hartness introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Al Peer seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Chase invited Logan Hancock from EFS GeoTechnologies to present the options for aerial photography for the city. Logan informed the council that the State of Arkansas would be flying the entire state at 9 inch resolution and

that counties around the state will be doing aerial photography of their counties at a higher resolution. Logan Hancock presented two choices on resolutions and pricing to council; 6-inch for \$4,183.39 or 3 inch for \$8,366.77. Mayor Chase stated that the imagery from the ariel photography is loaded into Edge, which we use quite frequently. Mike Wigley asked how we would use this around the city – depending on the resolution, we can see things clearly on the ground that we normally would not have been able to see on a map. Mark Tiner made a motion to approve the resolution for the 3-inch resolution for an amount of \$8,366.77, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

d. Resolution authorizing Sr Citizens Center to purchase passenger wagon

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. This was not included when the One Percent Sales Tax 2023 budget was approved and this is gives the Senior Citizen's Center permission to start looking for a van and to order it. Mark Tiner made a motion to approve the resolution, Cedric Leonard seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

e. Resolution to restructure and add Brian Rodgers to the City's Budget

Claudia Hartness introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Al Peer seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton called roll. Cedric Leonard asked how much Brian Rodger's pay would be - \$40,575.30 a year, which would put him on the pay scale at a Grade 5, Step 2. Craig McRae made a motion to approve the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

f. Resolution authorizing due diligence for municipal purposes

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Craig McRae seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner made a motion to approve the resolution, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

g. Accepting a new bid for electrical work at Well #4

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Chase stated that on the original bid specs, that all work must be completed within three months of bid acceptance and bid was accepted in June, with no work having been started and that she had called the highest bidder, Ross Electric, to see if they were still interested and whether or not they could have the job completed in the time frame. Ross Electric stated they could have it completed for the same amount bid at \$45,036.93. Mayor Chase expressed that this is a job that needed to be done because all electrical at Well #4 was bad. Mark Tiner made a motion to approve the resolution, Al Peer seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

h. Resolution to purchase new carpeting for Old Historic Post Office

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Mike Wigley seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Chases pointed out that she was able to reduce the cost on the job by removing the taking up of the old carpet and moving the furniture, as Public Works can get the job done. Craig McRae stated that the math on the bid amount was incorrect and that the actual amount would be \$8,927.72, which he verified with Paint & Lighting Plus Inc. before the meeting. Mark Tiner asked what fund this would come out of – One Percent Sales Tax.

Claudia Hartness made a motion to approve the resolution in the amount of \$8,927.72, Mike Wigley seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

i. Resolution authorizing annual pump testing

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked if we did this annually – we have not and what is driving this was Michael James asking for pump testing in a previous meeting. The total cost for the annual pump testing of all six wells is \$16,800.00, which would come out of Water Works. Mark Tiner made a motion to approve the resolution in the amount of \$16,800.00, Michael James seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

j. Resolution regarding City of Monticello Street Improvement Fund

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mike Wigley stated that he wanted the city in 2024 to start focusing on fixing the streets and hoped that we could start accruing money throughout 2023 to start on streets in 2024. Mark Tiner made a motion to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

k. Resolution authorizing purchase of vest and vest carriers for Monticello Police Department

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Michael James seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mike Wigley asked Police Chief Jason Akers what a vest carrier was – it holds the panel, which is Kevlar and bullet resistant. The total cost is \$32,783.58 for a 21 bulletproof vests and vest carriers. Mark Tiner made a motion to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

l. Resolution to amend and upgrade the current position of Police Department Administrative Assistant

Al Peer introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Craig McRae seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mike Wigley asked what the current rate of the Police Department Administrative Assistant – Grade 3, Step 1. The proposed change would move the position up to Grade 4, Step 3. Mark Tiner made a motion to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

m. Resolution certifying government endorsement of SeaArk Boats (SeaArk, LLC) to participate in Tax Back Program

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Michael James seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Nita McDaniel introduced SeaArk, LLC's consultant, Andrea Pasch, who stated that the expansion that SeaArk Boats was building onto their existing space, would add 50 new job opportunities in the community and nearly \$1,300,000,000.00 in new investment, almost doubling their boat building capacities over the next couple of years. Cedric Leonard asked if SeaArk Boats was asking for a tax break – there is an option within the state of Arkansas for manufacturers to receive a rebate on sales tax that they have spent on new equipment and items for manufacturing purposes and the State has already approved their portion. Mark Tiner made a motion to accept the resolution, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

- n. Resolution authorizing payment to SeaArk Boats (SeaArk, LLC) from War Chest for improvements and modernization

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Craig McRae seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Nita McDaniel pointed out that this resolution would approve for the city to match a discretionary incentive that the State of Arkansas has already committed, which would match at fifty percent or \$150,000.00 from the War Chest. Mark Tiner made a motion to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed with only Cedric Leonard in opposition.

- o. Discussion to lower speed on N Hyatt from 30 to 20 MPH

Mayor Chase asked if council would be interested in lowering the speed limit in the Pauline Church area from 30 to 20 miles per hour. Michael James asked if it had already been discussed to turn the area into a school zone – it was not clear that that is what was wanted. Mayor Chase said she would look into making it a school zone.

Closing Remarks

A Budget Meeting was set for Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 5:30 PM for the first Budget Meeting of the year.

Mayor Chase made her closing remarks, marking this as her last council meeting as mayor. She read a personal statement, reflecting on her time as mayor, expressing her love for the city and all she has accomplished in her time.

Craig McRae presented Mayor Chase with a plaque thanking her for her service to the city. It was an emotional event.

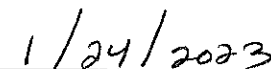
State of Financial Interest Forms were included in Council Packets this month.

Adjournment

Cedric Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting, Al Peer seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



City Clerk



Date of Approval