

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, August 27th, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Akers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., City Clerk Taryn Wigley called the roll.

Attendees

Council Members Clarissa Pace, Cedric Leonard, Al Peer, Michael James, Mark Tiner, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present.

Approval of Minutes

Mart Tiner moved to accept the minutes, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the minutes passed.

New Business

a. Resolution Authorizing Application for Park Grant

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to read it in its entirety due to the lack of a title, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. This resolution was discussed previously in the Finance Committee meeting. Finance Manager Ashley Rodermund confirmed that the max amount awarded is \$250,000.00. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

b. Resolution Amending 2024 Airport Improvement Project Fund Budget

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. They aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

c. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 122 Circle Acres

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. City Inspector Brian Rodgers informed the council that this is the second time that the City has had to clean up the property. Mr. Rodgers has not been able to get in contact with the owner and district court was unable to locate him. Mark Tiner moved to pass the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

d. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 554 S Gabbert

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, the aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. City Inspector Brian Rodgers informed the council that the property is currently unoccupied and the lien is about to mature. The invoice for the property is over \$1000.00 and district court has been unable to find the owner. Mayor Akers added that this house has been used as a drug house in the past, and he heard that the owner was possibly living in Texas. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

e. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 235 E Jackson

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. City Inspector Brian Rodgers informed the council that the property was torn down over a year ago, and there was a mess left that the city had to clean up. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

f. Resolution Declaring 1232 E Railroad St. a Nuisance

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Andrea Thomas, the owner's daughter was present, since the owner is deceased. Ms. Thomas informed the council that the property has been boarded up and the mess has been cleaned up. She does not plan to turn on utilities to the property since no one will be living in the house. Brian Rodgers added that the state law requires the house to be "habitable". Cedric Leonard stated, in the past, that properties that are not habitable, but kept clean have been allowed to remain standing. Clarissa Pace added that she does not mind if the house stays where it is, as long as the property is kept clean. The owner does not have any current plans with the property. Mark Tiner moved to table the discussion for one month to look further into the laws that would apply to this situation, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution was tabled.

g. Resolution Amending RS-2015-24 Prescribing Ancillary Fees

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers explained that the prices listed on the resolution and the prices being charged by the city were not matching, so this resolution is to update the prices. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

h. Ordinance Establishing Procedures for Approving Projects Requiring Obstruction

Mark Tiner introduced the ordinance and moved for it to be read in entirety, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers explained that there have been issues with third party contractors coming into the city that have caused damage, blocked roads, and left equipment on citizens' property. He would like to implement a permit to solve the problem. Fire chief Eric Chisom researched other towns of similar size and obtained this sample ordinance. Michael James requested that instead of requiring a bond, that certificate of insurance needed to be provided, which included general liability, workers compensation, and commercial auto insurance. He also added that he would like the permit to be tied to one specific project. He also saw the opportunity to clarify "Director of Public Works" and "City of Monticello Representative". City Attorney Whit Barton recommended changing it to "Agent of City of Monticello". Chief Chisom closed out the discussion with the pricing of the permit. The permit will cost \$500 for the entire project. He added that there are cities in Arkansas that charge per hole dug, and the price for our town would be for the entire project. The council agreed to close out the first reading and move on to the next item on the agenda.

Mayor Akers asked to amend the agenda to add a resolution that came in last minute. Claudia Hartness moved to amend the agenda, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the agenda was amended.

i. Resolution to Execute Agreement to Provide Financial Assurance

Mayor Akers explained that the city has to have funds on hand in case of a closure of any transfer station. This is an updated contract from ADEQ. Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

Mayor Comment

Mayor Akers updated the council on a few ongoing projects. The armory roof will be completed shortly. The cost of the roof is \$61,000.00, and they got 66,000.00 from insurance. After the roof is fixed, the public works department will move into the armory. He also added that the Main St. water line project will go out for bid in the next month.

Meeting Adjourned

Cedric Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the meeting was adjourned.

