

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Chase called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called the roll.

Attendees

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

Reports and Presentations

a. Fire—Eric Chisom

Fires have been down. Only 17 calls last month, and they have been working on the brickwork around the station. The delay is due to trying to match the brick. The overhead door is waiting on parts and should be finished soon. They are also testing two new firefighters this week. Mark Tiner asked if either have had previous experience. They have not.

b. Police—Jason Akers

T Narc training starts tomorrow. The grant for the body cams has been awarded, and they are waiting for a total. The USDA grant for new vehicles is moving along. The crime tip line was helpful in stopping meth from coming into town and the department has new software that will allow them to present some detailed statistics next month. They also have completed all the repairs they needed to do from the lightening damage last month.

c. Public Works—Charlie Hammock

They fixed 74 leaks, responded to 12 service calls, installed four meter taps, fixed sewer lines, replaced 120 ft of sidewalks, worked on right of ways, and have been smoke testing.

d. Water Operator—Wayne Morphis

The wells are staying okay with the heat, and they are waiting for some parts for the repairs approved last month. They have a booster pump they are trying to make last and all of the water levels are in good shape.

e. Senior Citizen Center—Cindy Villarreal

They served 2079 meals in July and have stopped doing the drive through because of the reduced COVID restrictions. They have 70 meals for home delivery at the moment, and Mark Tiner complimented them on making a \$8600 profit.

f. Parks Commission—Taylor James

They talked about the leaks in the pool and closing down for the winter. They are starting to plan for their budget season. Mayor Chase reminded everyone that most of the lights in McCloy park are done. The trenches have been dug and the conduits have been laid. Mark Tiner asked if the lights will be on 24/7—no they will turn on and off with the sunrise and sunset. Craig McRae asked about outstanding projects—they have a few because it's hard to make improvements while ball season is happening.

Mayor Chase pointed out they are looking to replace several awnings and Mark Tiner asked about what the numbers are for both softball and baseball.

g. Planning Commission—Dan Boice

They are working on an RFP for the old armory building. Once the drafts are finalized the RFP will be publicized for 30 days. When they get the bids, they will present them. They are also working on the comprehensive plan for the city. Mark Tiner asked if we were trying to sell the property—we are.

h. City Inspector—Brian Rodgers

They've had two 630 ordinance violations, one was slated for tonight, but they are in compliance now. There have been 13 756 violations. He brought up the asbestos change to the 630 form and reminded the council that it would cost the city between \$800-1000 dollars to bring in a specialist per demolition whereas he can do it in house and save the citizens money. Mark Tiner asked if the City attorney had gone over the language. He had. Mike Wigley expressed support of the idea. Cedric Leonard asked who would cover the cost of the test—the homeowner. Mike Wigley moved to approve the resolution, Mark Tiner seconded, an aye/nay vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

i. MEDC—Nita McDaniel

They have four active prospects two of which they are talking to daily. Burkes Outlet has opened, the new carwash is under construction, the new storage unit place is waiting on materials, and another new business has purchased land. Scoggin Drive has been pushed to November, and the Monticello Bypass is going to bid next month—that's a 20 mile stretch of road that will eventually be an interstate. Two people are interested in the spec building and the youth shooting sports team is getting a 1000 mini grant.

Unfinished Business

A. Trash Truck Lease

Mayor Chase needs permission to enter an agreement to get trucks next year. The financing and payment numbers presented are just for information. Last year, the city went with local banks for better figures. The reality of the issue is that the new company probably won't be any better about getting loaner vehicles because there are very few out there due to COVID production issues. However, our guys like the trucks provided by the other company better than the ones we have now. Mike Wigley asked about the terms with the local banks, and right now there is a two-year contract at 1.9%. Mark Tiner asked about the Balloon Payoff, those figures were not available. Mark Tiner moved to approve, Mike Wigley seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed with Cedric Leonard as the only negative vote.

B. Authorizing Loan Application with Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for Main Street Project

Craig McRae moved to introduce the motion and read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked how much we are applying for—We get told what they will pay. Craig McRae asked if we send estimates—We do. Mark Tiner moved to approve, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- A. Resolution accepting a contract renewal with area agency on aging
Mark Tiner introduced the motion and that it be read by title only, Cedric Leonard seconded, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner moved to approve, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Resolution amending 2022 adopted budget and expending the \$5000 police stipend
Craig McRae introduced the motion and that it be read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked if we were responsible for the APERS contributions. We are. He then moved to approve, Cedric Leonard seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Resolution accepting bid for East Plant Baffle System
Craig McRae introduced the motion and that it be read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked if we have the funds—yes through 1 cent sales tax. He then moved to approve, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. Resolution Amending One-cent Sales Tax Budget for 2022
Craig McRae introduced the motion and that it be read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner wanted to know why the funding was more than what was expected. Finance Director Vickie Norris pointed out that when council approved the resolution in March for McClellan to start the process of the engineering, they did not have Work Order No. 8, to go forward with the engineering and when the work order came in, it added up to the \$3,724,333. Mayor Chase pointed out how prices have gone through the roof. Mark Tiner moved to approve, contingent on confirming the engineering rate based on the cost of the project, Craig McRae seconded, City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Chase asked to amend the agenda to add one more item. Mike Wigley motioned to approve, Cedric Leonard seconded, and aye/nay vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

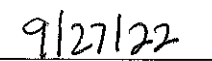
1. Water Bills

Bills for the water went out as usual, but about 1000 of them got stuck in Little Rock. Ordinance 722 requires us to add a late fee and collect monies, but it doesn't seem fair to do so if they didn't get their bills. Mike Wigley moved to authorize the mayor to credit accounts back with the late fees. Claudia Hartness seconded. City Clerk Jessica Hylton called roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Cedric Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike Wigley seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.


City Clerk


Date of Approval