

# City Council Minutes

## Tuesday, November 15, 2022

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### Call to Order

Mayor Chase called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll.

### Attendees

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

### Approval of Minutes

Mike Wigley moved to approve October minutes, Clarissa Pace seconded, an yay/nay vote was called for, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### Reports and Presentations

- a. Senior Citizen's Center – Cindy Villarreal

No report was given

- b. Fire – Eric Chisom

No report was given

- c. Parks – Taylor James/Gerald Shepherd

No report was given

- d. Water Operator – Wayne Morphis

No report was given

- e. Public Works – John Daves

We've been working hard to raise meter boxes and changing out any line they see that may have leaks. With the trash truck down, the guys have been working hard and have been running late. They just finished at 5pm when the usually get finished at 2pm. Mike Wigley mentioned that council had heard from previous meeting, good things about his and others training and asked if since then, has there been any change in the past month – he'll be going to a class in December to get his Treatment 3 certification. Council expressed their congratulations. Mayor Chase stated that she had previously talked about the hard work of all the employees who have taken the initiative to further their education by going to Human Resources and asking to take classes.

Mayor Chase took the opportunity to address all City of Monticello citizens, to make them aware of the fact that our trash truck is still down. We had the opportunity to rent a used trash truck for \$6,000.00 a month, while continuing to pay our lease payment at over \$2,000.00 a month or to borrow a trash truck from Drew County, which they offered free of charge, with the exception of the upkeep and we're able to use it for as long as needed. This has left Public Works without two men, as they're having to throw trash by hand. Rules have been in place for years, since before she was mayor. The trash rules are on our website at [www.monticelloarkansas.us](http://www.monticelloarkansas.us) that has a banner across the top, that is used in emergent situations. All trash should be bagged because men are literally picking up trash by hand and cannot stand

their emptying one citizen's trash can for thirty minutes. Our employees are starting at 7:30am and picking up trash as long as needed. Please be patient with us while we're working through this adjustment. Mike Wigley added that he agreed with everything she said, but there was a communication problem, as trash was previously picked up even if it wasn't in trash bags and asked if we could put it out there the requirements for trash – it's out there and has been posted in multiple different places. Trash has to be bagged because when it isn't, trash blows out of the trash trucks and litters our city streets. Mike Wigley also stated that we should send a letter out to citizens who don't have their trash picked up due to their trash lids not being closed or lose trash, so there is no confusion – this causes problems as well and citizens will still complain.

Mayor Chase gave an update on the mulcher at the Transfer Station. We have spent a lot of money on trying to get the mulcher fixed and have removed the wiring harness to send it off to get fixed, hoping that is the problem. We got in trouble with ADEQ because when our mulcher broke, we continued to pick up and the un-mulched pile grew out of hand but we continued to pick up in order to not upset our citizens. Our new operator babies the mulcher, but it still broke. The leaves and limbs were falling off of the concrete pad and ADEQ said it was not in compliance. When we have the space, we will start picking up again.

f. Police – Jason Akers

There was an 80 call reduction for the month of October from September. The Police Department did a Safe Halloween Program with the school, with all grades at Monticello Elementary School, where they handed out reflective candy bags and discussed safety. It was a quiet month. They are working with the school district to have Critical Response Stations in case there is a situation at a school where law enforcement has to gain access to the school. They are working with a few other entities in order to provide a box that would have first aid equipment for them to access at the school. They'll be locked and all law enforcement officers will be able to gain access to them. They're proud of the reduction of calls, it says a lot for our town.

g. Planning Commission – Dan Boice

The RFPs for the Armory are due by December 1<sup>st</sup> and they're hopeful they'll have a couple of proposals to present to the council at next month's meeting. A couple of weeks ago, the Planning Commission passed their Comprehensive Plan for the City of Monticello for the next 2 years, which will come up for vote at December's meeting. There was an essay in the Democrat Gazette, by Rex Nelson called *Attracting the Talent* about what cities have to do to survive and cities have to attract business and young people, which is the key to staying alive and moving forward. Their plan will help to do that, as it helps to set guidelines for the next 25 years. It addresses transportation, quality of life, neighborhoods, and infrastructure.

h. A&P – Ryan Copico

No report was given

i. MEDC – Nita McDaniel (Bennie Ryburn)

There is a lot going on. Scogging Drive and a lot of other projects are in play, with a lot of positive for our town. SNAP filled all 16 positions within the first hour on the day they opened their applications. It helps low-income seniors to have necessary home repairs that they wouldn't have been able to do without the program. They got their audit back with no findings.

j. City Inspector – Brian Rodgers

The SNAP Program started October 3<sup>rd</sup>. They can only help 16 people a year and they filled all positions in the first hour. They have 4 in reserve in case any of the original 16 don't work out. Council had asked for an update on Turtle Creek, his contact information was lost but he sent a letter and is hoping for him to contact him when he receives it. There were four Ordinance 756 complaints.

## Unfinished Business

a. Drew Memorial Lease Agreement Renewal

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and motioned that they suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded, the ayes had it, and City Attorney Whit Barton read. This is a month to month. Claudia Hartness stated that it includes utilities as well – yes, it's item number 2. Craig McRae asked if we decided on the 30-day notice to vacate – City Attorney Whit Barton stated, "it was mutual to both parties". Mike Wigley asked if the hospital is in agreement if they have to get their stuff out of there within 30-days – it wasn't presented to them. It was brought up in conversation with Drew Memorial Hospital that their lease agreement was coming up for renewal and that they are looking for RFPs for somebody to purchase it, but it was not discussed at their board meeting, so it's doubtful they're aware of them having to vacate within 30-days of notice. City Attorney asked if they were aware of the lease being switch to month-to-month – there was no discussion with them as the revised lease agreement was not received until the night before the meeting, leaving no time to present it to the hospital. We can change the agreement if needed and if a counteroffer is presented. Clarissa Pace made a motion to accept the lease agreement as presented, Mark Tiner seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and the motion passed unanimously.

## New Business

a. Permission to bid for exterior cleaning and recoating of Lacey-Ladell and Conrad Water Towers

Mayor Chase asked council if they would grant permission to put a bid out for an exterior cleaning of the Lacey-Ladell and Conrad Water Towers. City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and all voted unanimously to grant permission to put bids out for this project.

b. Resolution certifying balance owed for 127 Park Street

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and motioned that the rules be suspended and be read by title only, Clarissa Pace seconded, the ayes had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked why there were two different amounts listed, \$264.80 and \$294.80 – the \$294.80 includes the Lien Fee. Craig McRae made a motion to approve, Clarissa Pace seconded, City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll and it passed unanimously.

c. Resolution to offer \$150,000 pit pf "War Chest" to Seark Boats

This resolution was removed from the agenda

d. Resolution accepting bid for HVAC at Senior Center

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

e. Resolution accepting bid for HVAC for Water Office


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 called roll. Mike Wigley asked what this bid was for exactly, outside units, window units – it's the unit that heats and cools the Water Department and a crane will be needed. Craig McRae asked if it was the only bid received – yes. Craig McRae made a motion to pass this resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

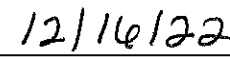
f. Resolution appointing member to Parks Commission

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 with Clarissa Pace in opposition and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked who Daniel Garrison was – he is a sheriff deputy that lives in Tanglewood, who has four young children that use our parks and he showed an interest in serving. Craig McRae made a motion to passe this resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded and it passed with only Clarissa Pace in opposition.

## Adjournment

Craig McRae moved to adjourn the meeting, Al Peer seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Date of Approval