

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Akers called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll.

Attendees

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

Approval of Minutes

Before the minutes were introduced, Mayor Akers addressed that there would be two additions to the agenda; the first of which was the potential sale of Fire Station 3 presented by Fire Chief Eric Chisom, and the second which was a resolution to accept the Community Block Grant. Mark Tiner moved to accept the amended agenda, Craig McRae seconded the motion. A yay/nay vote was called, and it passed unanimously.

Craig McRae moved to approve the January minutes, Clarissa Pace seconded, a yay/nay vote was called and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

a. Resolution filling vacancy in office of City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Akers presented that there were two interested parties, Kirstin Garrison and Taryn Wigley. He confirmed with City Attorney, Whit Barton, that the temporary vacancy will be filled until the 2024 general election. Cedric Leonard moved to go into special session, Clarissa Pace seconded the motion. When the audience was called back into the council room, Mayor Akers informed everyone that the council would vote in public on the matter. Clarissa Pace moved that Taryn Wigley become the new City Clerk, Craig McRae seconded, and a yay/nay vote was called. City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll, the resolution passed with Cedric Leonard in opposition and Mike Wigley recused himself from the vote.

New Business

a. Resolution declaring 938 East College Street a nuisance

Mayor Akers introduced City Inspector Brian Rodgers in case there were any questions regarding the property. Craig McRae asked those in attendance if the owners of the property were present at the meeting, but no one responded. Mr. Rodgers stated that he sent letters to an address in Rison, but the letter was unclaimed and there was a letter posted to the property. Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved that the rules be suspended and read by title only, Michael James seconded. The aye's had it and City

Tiner moved to pass the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, and the resolution passed unanimously.

e. Potential sale of Fire Station 3

Eric Chisom presented that the City purchased the property roughly 22 years ago, hoping to open another station, but the idea never came to be. Office of Emergency management has been in the building for 8 years and have taken over payments off utilities and maintenance-the City has been providing insurance. Chief Chisom would like to sell the building and used the proceeds from the sale to build a live burn building to improve the insurance (ISO) rating. The County offered \$85,000.00 for the building which is less than what the building appraised for, but it is enough money to fully complete the live burn building. Chief Chisom listed that the materials would cost around \$43,000.00 and they would do most of the labor themselves. Craig McRae asked what the appraised value of the building was, and Chief Chisom confirmed it to be \$124,000.00. Without further questions, Mayor Akers stated that they would be in contact before the next meeting.

f. Community Block Grant Resolution

Nita McDaniel explained that this ties back to the resolution that was previously passed for the "War Chest" funds, and that this is the grant that matches it. This current resolution will allow the Mayor to execute documents for the grant. Clarissa Pace introduced the resolution and moved the rules be suspended and read by title only, Mark Tiner seconded. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers called a yay/nay vote and the resolution passed unanimously.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Akers briefly mentioned a resolution that was presented to him prohibiting the use of excessive force on citizens during a non-violent civil rights demonstration. He stated that the guidelines in the resolution have already been adopted into City policy. He also briefly touched on the 10 year plan concerning item seventeen, replacing well #4 for \$1.9 million. After speaking with Ideal Pump Company, they have discovered that they will not have to replace the well, just replace the pump. Mayor Akers is working to get them at the next meeting to present their evaluation. He has also been in contact with the engineers concerning the sidewalk project that was started in 2019. The engineers ensured that they would have plans sent to ARDOT within the week.

Mark Tiner moved to adjourn the meeting, Clarissa Pace seconded. The aye's had it and the meeting was adjourned.

Joseph Wigley

Jason E. Akers 3/29/2023