

City Council Minutes

Monday, January 29th, 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 Al Peer, Michael James, Mark Tiner, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Councilors Clarissa Pace and Cedric Leonard were absent.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Wigley moved to approve the December minutes, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, and the minutes passed unanimously.

Mayor Akers asked to amend the agenda to include updates from Department Heads. Mark Tiner moved to amend the agenda to allow the presentations, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the agenda was amended.

New Business

a. Reading of the Legislative Audit

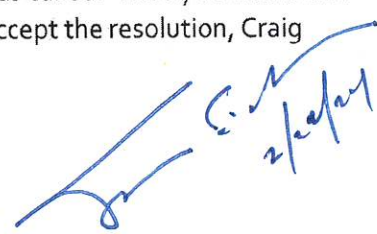
Mayor Akers reported the findings and responses to the findings for the 2023 year. Finance had 2 unauthorized transactions of \$1768 (check #17772) and \$5200 (check #18772). Union Bank reached out the City due to the checks looking fraudulent. The accounts were reconciled in a timely manner, Monticello Police took a report, and the City did not lose any money. Human Resources had one reportable finding. The IRS fined the City \$5170 due to failure to report payroll taxes. The City worked with the IRS to fix the error and extra measures are being taken in the department to prevent this instance from happening again.

b. Resolution Updating and Adjusting 2023 Operating Budget

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

c. Resolution Updating and Adjusting 2023 Sales and Use Tax Budget

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. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Craig



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McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

d. Resolution Removing Certain Positions from General Fund Pay Scale

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. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner reminded the council that this subject was discussed in the HR Committee meeting. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

e. Resolution Removing Fire Dept. from General Pay Scale

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. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner reiterated that this subject was also discussed in the HR Committee meeting. 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.

f. Resolution Adopting 2024 Operating Budget

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

g. Resolution Authorizing the Contract for Economic Development Services

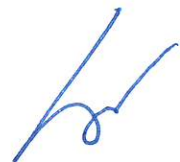
Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The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

h. Resolution Adopting 2024 Sales and Use Tax Budget

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

i. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Vehicle

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 mentioned that this was discussed in the Finance meeting and is paid for out of one cent sales tax. Mayor Akers added for clarification that the City is in possession of 5 non-operable vehicles that they are going to trade in for this new vehicle. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.



j. Resolution to Utilize State Aid Money for City Project

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, including that this money will be used for the Monticello overlay project of Hyatt St. Craig McRae pointed out a typo of two "section 1's" that would need to be fixed. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

k. Resolution Authorizing Water Purchase

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. Mayor Akers clarified that this contract renews annually, every 40 years. Water Office Manager Andrea Chambers added that this contract follows the City water rates. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

l. Planning Commission Ordinance Modification

Mark Tiner introduced the ordinance and moved to read the ordinance in its entirety, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers explained that the Planning Commission was originally a 10 member board. They currently have 6 members and agree that it is easier to make decisions with a smaller group. It is also difficult to fill 10 positions on the Commission. Mark Tiner moved to accept the ordinance, waive the 3 readings, and enact the emergency clause, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the ordinance passed.

m. Department Head Updates

Mayor Akers explained to the Council that he spoke with department heads, and they all agreed to let him highlight some of the accomplishments that were achieved in 2023.

Water Office: \$18,000.00 were collected in delinquent water debt, implemented Christmas Tree program for Senior Citizens Center, utilized Edge software to map out water and sewer lines, \$24,000 in low-income assistance was used. In 2024 the Water Department will get a new server, paid for by one cent sales tax, will continue to collect unpaid water debt, and will continue to improve internal efficiency.

Water Quality: Well #4 was repaired and saved the City 1.4 million dollars, installed drain cleanouts for Railroad St., Conrad St. water tower is getting repainted with a UAM logo, the lead and copper line removal grant is moving forward. In 2024, they will continue to work on water quality and stay in compliance, implement an apprentice program for water operators, and to implement electrical projects at the well houses.

Public Works: Transfer station is in compliance, assisted engineering firms with projects using institutional knowledge, completed several drainage projects. In 2024, they will continue to work on drainage projects, establish maintenance projects,



relocate the City Warehouse to the armory, and complete West Plant aeration projects.

Finance: Consolidated over 100 electric bills into one, assisted the mayor with cost benefit analysis, reallocated personnel, streamlined internal processes researched overpayment, and expanded HR roles to help the Finance Department. In 2024, they will complete the 2023 carryover projects, conduct more in-depth budget meetings, and complete a simplified pay scale.

Police: Implemented digital evidence recovery, expanded the drone program, added a generator, and obtained 100,000 in grant funds. In 2024, they will continue to add traffic cameras to areas that are not covered, continue to lower traffic incidents through education, improve domestic violence incidents through proper prosecution and utilizing our resources, such as Options Inc., obtain traffic control power back up options, and continue to meet state accreditation requirements.

Fire: Chief Chisom named to Fire Dept Hall of Fame, sold unused fire station, repurposed revenue to support burn building, and streamlined code enforcement. In 2024, they will finish the burn building, obtain a grant for side by sides, and streamline policies of condemnation.

Parks: Took over reporting to ArDoT for lake trails, painted the skate park and park equipment, scoreboards and sprinkler systems installed on field 8, new diving board, new goals at soccer fields, and removed hazardous trees from parks. In 2024, they will complete Miracle League field lighting, install work out equipment in our parks, and complete sidewalk connect ability at the sports complex.

Senior Citizen Center: Served over 20,000.00 meals, turned profit on meals, experienced 3 medical incidents where they had to call an ambulance and potentially saved 3 lives, saved \$1500 a year by buying a dishwasher instead of leasing, cut fuel costs in half by obtaining fuel efficient vehicles. In 2024, they will conduct more fundraising events, install a generator, and address more budget issues.

n. MEDC Update with Nita McDaniel

Mrs. McDaniel briefly informed the council of the 2023 accomplishments. They had 9 inquiries for information, 4 of which are carrying over into 2024. Delta Data Services has a new facility and employs 2 citizens, Stokers Diesel is fully operational with 6 full time employees, Seark Boats expanded and added 50 new employees, and Pepsi expanded and added close to 50 employees. New businesses came to town, such as Arby's, Take 5, and Shoe Sensation. Targeted ads are being utilized and research is still happening in order to bring more retail in.

State of the City Address

Mayor Akers started off the State of the City with a presentation a PowerPoint showing the amount of grant money received (2,227,400.00), infrastructure savings (2,755,807.00), liquidation profit (171,000.00), ineffective spending consolidation (386,000.00), and innovation



savings (1,672,000.00). He continued by informing us that the City was in above average shape, with over 14 million in our accounts and in CD's, and 1.5 billion in one cent sales tax. In the year 2024, he hopes to continue several projects until they are completed. Including replacing copper and lead lines, replacing sewer lines, several overlay projects, drainage projects, and painting stripes on several streets. He also will work diligently to keep all departments in compliance with state regulations. Mayor Akers implemented City processes and policies that have streamlined many different areas of City functions. He would also like to see more public engagement in Council meetings, citizens must speak up and be heard.

Meeting Adjourned

Craig McRae moved to adjourn the meeting, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the meeting was adjourned.

