

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, July 23rd, 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, Cedric Leonard, Michael James, Mark Tiner, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Craig McRae was absent, and Clarissa Pace was tardy.

Approval of Minutes

Michael James moved to accept the minutes, Mike Wigley seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the minutes passed.

Old Business

a. Fired Up Pizza Ordinance – 2nd reading

Mark Tiner introduced the Ordinance and moved to read it in entirety, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers clarified that this ordinance does not allow the owner of Fired Up Pizza to sell alcohol, it is a part of the permitting process that will allow him to get his alcohol license with ABC. Brian Smith, the owner, commented that it would be at least another 60 days before he received the license if the ordinance was to pass in this meeting. Mark Tiner addressed the council, informing them that there are currently private clubs in Monticello that didn't have to go through this process, and Mr. Smith would only be selling beer and wine to patrons who purchased food. He also mentioned that this is a local business, and that he would like to waive the 3 readings and enact the emergency clause. Cedric Leonard asked why the emergency clause is being brought up if this is not an emergency to the City. Mark Tiner answered that the ordinance only had a second reading because this is the first time the City has had to pass an ordinance to allow a business to apply for an alcohol license, and Mr. Smith had already been in compliance with the state, but was given the wrong license. Cedric Leonard stated that there needs to be an outline for what is an emergency. Mike Wigley moved to waive the 3 readings and pass the ordinance, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, there was one opposing vote. City Clerk Taryn Wigley called roll. There were six councilors that voted "yes", Cedric Leonard voted "no". Mark Tiner moved to pass the ordinance, Mike Wigley seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the ordinance passed. Mike Wigley moved to enact the emergency clause, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, there was one opposing vote. City Clerk Taryn Wigley called roll, there were six "yes" votes and one "no" vote with Cedric Leonard in opposition.

New Business

a. Resolution Authorizing Outdoor Recreation Grant

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.

b. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Bid for Replacement of Armory Roof

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers informed the council that this is to accept the bid from Arkansas Strong Roofing for \$61,820.00. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

c. Resolution Declaring 221 S Conley St. a Nuisance

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 the owner of the property, Belinda Wells, was present and would like to address the Council. Mrs. Wells advised the council that she received the letters from Mr. Rodgers, and would like to get the property in compliance, but would need time. Mrs. Wells and her family have decided that they are going to demolish the property. Mark Tiner moved to table the discussion for 90 days, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution was tabled.

d. Resolution Declaring 1232 E Railroad St. a Nuisance

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers advised the council that the mail has been received, but he has not had contact with the owner. Cedric Leonard informed the council that the listed owner is deceased. Cedric Leonard moved to table the discussion for 30 days to attempt to find out who is receiving the mail, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution was tabled.

e. Update on EPA Lead and Copper Line Removal Program

Water Office Manager Andrea Chambers gave a brief update to the Council regarding lead and copper line replacement. She advised that the company we are working with is overwhelmed with the workload, so they have broken the process down into 3 phases. Determining the age of the lines, self-reporting, and finding adequate funding. Currently, there is not enough funding from the government, which means the funding will fall back on the City. The water office and public works are step ahead and have already started the process of identifying the lines in the city to meet the federal deadline.

f. Inclement Weather Preparation Proposal

Mayor Akers advised the council that our city has had major weather events over the past few years, and he wants the City to be better prepared for future events and have the right tools. Drainage supervisor Nick Cater provided the council a list of preparation materials needed, including universal snowplow attachments, water tanks, and snow dissolving solution among other items. The total for all the materials would be \$25,025.00. Finance Manager Ashley Rodermund advised that there is 1.3 million in the ARPA fund to pay for the materials and that it could be covered as a General Fund expense. Mark Tiner moved for a voice vote to approve

the purchase of materials, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the purchase was approved.

Mr. Cater advised the council that there is an 8X8X8 concrete box located in the culvert of Oakland Cemetery that has started sinking into the ground and needs to be replaced. The funding came out of one cent sales tax for the initial culvert repairs, but this would add another \$16,000.00 to the budget. Mark Tiner moved to approve the budget amendment, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the budget amendment was approved.

g. Lake Trail Grant Discussion

Mayor Akers advised the council that Jeff Newton and LR Tyson found a grant that they would like to apply for to complete the lake trails project. The max amount awarded is \$250,000.00. If the max amount was awarded, along with DOT grants, it would complete the 26 miles of trails. Michael James moved to apply for the grant, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and permission to apply for the grant was granted.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Akers informed the council that since February of this year, there have been 9 incidents where subcontractors that are boring fiberoptic lines have hit city water lines. This has caused an interruption in water service and costed \$7,218.00 in repairs. The city does not currently have a resolution regulating these activities. Mayor Akers intends to prepare a resolution that includes surety bonds from subcontractors that are boring in the city. Mayor Akers also informed the council that he would like to have a resolution next month regarding asbestos concrete water pipes, also known as AC lines. Mayor Akers met with AL Franks Engineering, and they found some funding opportunities to help replace lines. The city is not capable of replacing all the water lines, but this is a step in the right direction. Grant funds are not guaranteed, but the city will always apply for free money.

Meeting Adjourned

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

Tracy Wiggley
City Clerk