

# City Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

## Approval of Minutes

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

Mayor Akers asked the council's permission to amend the agenda. He asked to omit items F and G, then add a resolution for the Area Agency on Aging. Mark Tiner moved to amend the agenda, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the agenda was amended.

## New Business

### a. Acknowledgement of Achievement

Mayor Akers recognized the 6U, 8U, and 10U local baseball teams who competed in the state tournament in Star City. 6U and 8U were undefeated in all games played, and 10U won the state championship for the 10U league. Each league received a signed letter of recognition from Mayor Akers.

### b. Presentation Project – Dr. Jack Lassiter

Mayor Akers informed the council that he was approached by Dr. Jack Lassiter, Anthony Jackson, Jim Ross, and Chester Johnson regarding a racial recognition project through the Lane Master Monument. Chester Johnson donated to a monument that will be placed on the town square in Monticello. The story about William Dollar and Fed Reeves, a white deputy and a black man who were both murdered for being friends with each other. Mayor Akers handed out the proposed bench monument to the council and introduced Dr. Jack Lassiter to elaborate and answer questions. Dr. Lassiter informed the council that the bench will be over 800 lbs. and will have a QR code that will have the story linked. He also said that Chester Johnson will wire his donation money as soon as the council approves the bench monument. Clarissa Pace applauded Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Johnson for taking action on racial reconciliation. Craig McRae voiced his approval and asked why this story was chosen



for this monument. Dr. Lassiter answered that there is a large section of the Arkansas Encyclopedia that covers the even that were occurring during that time, specifically in Drew County, and this story is covered in that section. Mayor Akers added that this is not a happy story, but it is history, and we must acknowledge history in order for it not to be repeated. Michael James moved to approve the monument with a voice vote, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote called. The motion passed unanimously.

**c. Update on Lead and Copper Lines- Andrea Chambers**

Water Office manager Andrea Chambers gave a brief update on the progress of this project. She informed the council that all the city's data has been viewed, and a website is being finalized for citizens to input their own data. An inventory list will be sent to the state before the deadline and all the "unknowns" will be filled in over the next several years. Mike Wigley asked if there would be a cost to the citizens, since they would be responsible for finding their own lines. Andrea answered that there would be funding available, however, the amount is currently unknown.

**d. Resolution Authorizing Grant Acceptance for Historic Post Office Roof**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Finance director Vickie Norris informed the council that this is a 2/3 grant, with the max amount being \$59,492.00 based off an \$89,000.00 cost estimate. This would be put up for bid in December 2024 and completed in 2025. Cedric Leonard moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution Amending Sewer Fund Budget for Trailer Purchase**

Mark Tiner 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. Mayor Akers explained that the street/sewer department asked for a new trailer in the 2024 budget, but later determined that the trailer would be too small, so they found a trailer that is more heavy duty and would last longer. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**f. Ordinance Approving Private Club Permit for Fired Up Pizza**

Mark Tiner introduced the ordinance and moved to read it in entirety, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers explained that this permit would be a transfer from the Feed Trough Social Club to Fired Up Pizza. Whit Barton suggested that verbiage clarify that the Feed Trough Social Club is applying for a transfer from its current address to the Fired up Pizza address to be housed in Fired Up Pizza's name. He also suggested changing the name in the ordinance to Feed Trough Social Club. Michael James moved to make the recommended changes to the ordinance, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called, and the motion passed. Michael James moved to move on to the remaining

sections on the agenda while the ordinance was being edited, Cedric Leonard seconded.

Clarissa Pace re-introduced the ordinance and moved for it to be read in its entirety, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The council decided to table the ordinance until the next month with the notated changes.

**g. Resolution Declaring 352 and 354 N Larkin a Nuisance**

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 Vickie Norris read. Craig McRae asked if the owners were present, Brian Rodgers answered that he has attempted to contact for two months, and they were all failed attempts. Mayor Akers added that citizens have complained about this property several times. 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 unanimously.

**h. Resolution Accepting Contract with Area Agency on Aging**

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the title and read by title only, Al Peer seconded. Finance Manager Ashley Rodermund explained that the current contract will expire this month, and the new contract is the same, except the funding is going from 129,000.00 to 133000.00. 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 unanimously.

Mayor Akers requested to amend the agenda to discuss change order #3. Michael James moved to amend the agenda, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. They aye's had it and the resolution was added to the agenda.

**i. Resolution for Scogin Dr. Change Order #3**

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 Vickie Norris read. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'H' or similar mark.

