

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
May 1, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on May 1, 2018. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A moment of Prayer was offered for the family members of the fallen Police Officer Oliver Johnson. Alderman Williams offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Echols. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Cline, and City Council members: Williams, Capps, Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, Poteat, and Reeves.

Alderman Williams made a motion to add to the agenda under new business for discussion the recent death of a police officer. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Oswalt made the motion to approve the April 17, 2018 regular minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to Purchase Equipment

Mayor Bryant asked permission to purchase a small recycling truck to pick up cardboard when the city goes into the recycling business. The truck will cost approximately \$109,000 plus taxes. He stated he would purchase the truck through NJPA. Alderman Echols asked if he was looking at this particular truck. Mayor Bryant stated he has looked at other trucks but this one meets the criteria and the city would not need a CDL driver to drive it.

Alderman Capps asked what brand the truck is. Mayor Bryant stated an Isuzu.

After some discussion, Mayor Bryant stated once the truck is purchased all the logistics must be work out. Alderman Reeves made the motion to allow Mayor Bryant to purchase the recycling truck through NJPA. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Permission to Solicit Bids for Renovation and Repair Old Rideout Building for Recycling

Mayor Bryant asked permission to solicit bids for renovation and repair of the old Ridout building. He stated the renovation is to tear out walls that are not needed. Alderman Capps asked if there were a set of plans for the people to look at. Mayor Bryant said no, but when the time comes he would have the proper drawings. After further questions and answers, Alderman Echols made the motion to grant Mayor Bryant permission to solicit bids for the renovation and repair of the old Ridout building. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Alderman Capps asked the time frame. Mayor Bryant stated he hoped within the next six months.

Mayor Bryant then stated if he could get the building renovated on the inside under \$20,000 he would not ask for bids. Alderman Echols asked if he anticipated using some of the city workers. Mayor Bryant stated yes, he used summer workers last year. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Permission to Sell the Old Social Security Building

Mayor Bryant asked permission to sell the old Social Security building and the funds from the sell would go towards the new city hall. Alderman Echols made the motion. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Alderman Reeves asked, is it not odd to be selling the building since the council discussed the building in the previous meeting; the citizens may ask why suddenly the building is being sold.

Mayor Bryant stated permission to sell the building was placed on the agenda after council member requested the sell. Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, Poteat, and Williams All Ayes. Alderman Reeves said No.

Discussion of Recent Death of Police Office Johnson

Alderman Williams stated he spoke with Chief Lee concerning the recent death of Officer Oliver Johnson. His concerns are the family's financial situation. He stated the situation concerning

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insurance is not as bad as what is being said. Mayor Bryant stated if the officer is under the shield of the law, additional insurance would kick in. Mayor Bryant stated the funeral for Officer Johnson will be Saturday, May 12, 2018 and a candlelight vigil will be Thursday evening, May 3, 2018.

Mayor Bryant also mentioned a GoFundMe page has been setup. If any of the council members wants to contribute or if the council as collective, but he does not know if it is legal to make a city contribution. He then stated the council could individually contribute. Alderman Metcalf indicated that he would sign his next check over to the city clerk for a contribution. Alderman Oswalt and Echols stated that they will contribute as well. Mayor Bryant stated he would like the council to help the family one way or another as they go through their grieving period.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$10,432.24. Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$3,969.21 Motion was second by Alderman Oswalt. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$1,067.26. Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$21,782.57. Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor's Updates

Mayor Bryant stated he has a contractor to fix the ditch on Eaton Road and looking at repairing Old Madison Road at the same time. He stated also he plans to dig out a few more ditches to make sure water can get out of Forrest City a little faster. Alderman Fields mentioned flooding near East Arkansas Enterprises. Alderman Capps mentioned the area is eroding near Clay's Funeral Home. Mayor Bryant stated the street department is looking at that area and will try to re-enforce the rails.

Alderman Oswalt mentioned an issue with water flowing through the culverts on Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. Mayor Bryant stated all ditches in the city are being looked at.

For additional context, reference the May 1, 2018 tape.

Alderman Echols made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. second by Alderman Fields

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer