

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL  
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS  
June 5, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on June 5, 2018. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Williams offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Oswalt. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Cline, and City Council members: Capps, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, Poteat, Reeves, and Williams. Alderman Echols was absent.

Mayor Bryant asked for a motion to add to the agenda under new business permission to fund overtime and removal of debris. Alderman Reeves made the motion. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Capps made a motion to add to the agenda the discussion of the storm that came through Saturday night and present conditions. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Oswalt made the motion to approve the May 15, 2018 regular minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Bid Opening- Old Security Building**

Mayor Bryant stated it was brought to his attention that the bid had the wrong date; the bids will be opened tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Overtime and Debris Removal Funding**

Mayor Bryant asked for permission to appropriate funds for overtime, removal of debris and enter into contract with state entities to help the city get funding for this endeavor.

He stated this is the largest number of trees down since the 2001 ice storm.

Alderman Capps asked if he had a dollar amount. Mayor Bryant stated he figured around \$100,000, the money would come from solid waste and street funds.

Alderman Williams made the motion. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Storm**

Alderman Capps asked why the tornado sirens did not activate. Mayor Bryant stated the city manually activate the sirens when the National Weather service sends the notice or when someone has identified and confirmed a tornado within a 50-mile Radius. He stated the National Weather Service did not send the notice because everything happened so fast. Mayor Bryant also stated he feels the city was blessed because there were no fatalities and no one was hurt.

Alderman Reeves asked if a routine test is done on the sirens. Mayor Bryant stated yes, every Saturday at 12:00 noon; and if the sirens are not heard the citizens should call the police department.

Alderman Reeves expressed concerns about the logs being placed in the ditches. Mayor Bryant stated the logs were pushed in the ditches to get them out of the streets, but will later be removed. He did give permission to place logs in certain washout spots but later would be covered with dirt. Mayor Bryant stated he was working with ADEQ. He spoke with the Governor today, with Senator Ingram, Representative Murdock, and ADEM. Everyone is working together to get funding to get the city cleaned-up. He will later get a permit to burn the limbs and trees that are being carried to the landfill.

Mayor Bryant thanked all citizens, Police department, all firefighters, city workers, all utility workers, and everyone that pitched in to help the city during the storm. He also noted that the Red Cross is out at the civic center helping. Mayor Bryant gave notice that some people have started to scam using vouchers; the city is not giving vouchers for food or hotel rooms and he did not think the St. Francis County was either.

**June 5, 2018 Minutes cont.**

Mayor Bryant announced, especially for the news media, that break-ins have been reported around the city, particularly since the power has been off. He asked that neighbors keep an eye out for neighbors; if anything looks suspicious please call the police.

Alderman Oswalt mentioned, since the storm, neighbors are being kind and helping one another. Mayor Bryant stated Southern Baptist has come in to help and there are applications at the fire station for the elderly, disabled, and first respondent and a lot of people will be helped.

Alderman Oswalt stated there are citizens putting incorrect information on Facebook and getting people stirred up, for instance, someone said FEMA is coming in to help people. Mayor Bryant stated FEMA is not coming, the city falls under ADEM.

Mayor Bryant thanked Boars Head, they brought meat out today to help feed the citizens.

Alderman Poteat stated she would like for the city council to address the Facebook issues and to get the official information out. Mayor Bryant stated that the police department has a Facebook page and the mayor's office will soon have one.

Alderman Oswalt asked how much damage was done to fire station #2. Mayor Bryant stated the roof and doors were torn off; the furniture was moved until it could be repaired.

Alderman Poteat asked what other damage was done to the city's property. Mayor Bryant stated the sports complex received \$30-40 thousand in damage and a small amount of damage was done at the Southside Pool.

**GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$34,233.45. Motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**STREET FUND BILLS**

Alderman Oswalt stated a Western Auto bill was left out for \$1,281.90, he then made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the correct amount of \$10,539.29 Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes

**SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS**

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$12,304.90. Motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY**

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills totaling \$86,551.33. Second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates**

**Mayor's Updates**

Mayor Bryant informed the council that he has a letter of commitment to sign to participate in the preparation and implementation of the St. Francis and Cross County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation plan.

Mayor Bryant announced that bids were taken for the new city hall, the low bid was from KEG Construction, LLC out of Paragould for \$1,123,353.

The pool project is moving forward, dirt has been brought in, trees have been removed, and progress is beginning to show.

Mayor Bryant announced that Kendall Owns was present, he commended Mr. Owns on the school's project that was started at the football field. The city is partnered with the school; the city paved the road, and is going to do the drainage and some other things to help in their project.

Mayor Bryant asked city council members to tell all volunteers that they meet how the city appreciates all work that was done.

**June 5, 2018 Minutes cont.**

Mayor Bryant also commended Toney Walker and Danyelle White for volunteering and helping clean-up a couple of bad spots, from the storm, that were in the city. Alderman Fields stated other people who helped were Jason Gatewood and Grant Long Jr.

For additional context, reference the June 5, 2018 tape.

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

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Larry Bryant, Mayor

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Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer