

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
June 19, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on June 19, 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 Echols. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Cline, and City Council members: Capps, Echols, Metcalf, Poteat, Reeves, and Williams. Alderman Fields and Alderman Oswalt were absent.

Mayor Bryant asked for a motion to add to the agenda under new business permission to purchase a gas chipper. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Williams made the motion to approve the June 5, 2018 regular minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Property Discussion – Effie Clay

Ms. Clay stated she had several issues she wanted to address with the council since they all concern the city.

Her first issue is Campbell Street next to her funeral home on East Broadway. The street is eroding and someone is dumping dirt and broken asphalt periodically to keep it from washing. She stated erosion was the problem in the beginning and Mr. Perdew needs to come back and fix what he was supposed to have done. Mayor Bryant stated Mr. Perdew, in his absence, is lying in the hospital with a very serious case of cancer and he probably won't be going back to that job. He told Ms. Clay if she wanted to address the problem, address it to him because the city hired Mr. Perdew for that job.

Mayor Bryant stated that Ms. Clay's street is on a list to be fixed this summer, but right now the city is working on cleaning up trees and debris from the storm. Ms. Clay stated she understood the weather and all that, but this issue has been on a list for a couple of years.

Alderman Capps asked if she was having an eroding problem. Ms. Clay stated yes and trash. She then presented pictures to the council for their viewing. Mayor Bryant told Ms. Clay she only was allowed four minutes for public comments. Ms. Clay stated she had other issues she wanted to talk about. Mayor Bryant asked Ms. Clay to put her issues in writing and then come back to the city council.

Ms. Clay then asked the city council if they would repair the street, clean-up the paint that city water sprayed on her asphalt, clean-up the crumbled asphalt, and put another rail on the other side of Campbell Street because there is a big drop-off there.

Alderman Capps asked Ms. Clay to make a prioritized list of her issues and give it to the city clerk so the list can be mailed out so each council member can look at the issues.

Ms. Clay then asked city council if they could do something about the business next door to her Water Street building; those people are putting trash in the alley and against her building.

Mayor Bryant then told Ms. Clay, her allotted time was up; he was just following council's protocol.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission – Alley Closing (Vandiver Food Stores Inc.)

Attorney Cline read **An Ordinance Vacating The South 183 Feet And The Entire Alley Running North And South In Blocks 39 And 44 Of The Town Of Forrest City, Arkansas** sponsored by Alderman Capps. Mayor Bryant asked Mr. Vandiver if it was crucial to pass the ordinance tonight. Mr. Vandiver stated Terminix is moving their headquarters from Lonoke to Forrest City. He stated he would like to get the ordinance passed so he could accommodate Terminix. He said Terminix is moving into the building alongside the alleyway and they want to go on and install a chain-link fence for parking and storage. Alderman Capps made a motion to

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suspend the rules and read the ordinance for the second reading by title and sections only. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Attorney Cline read the ordinance by title and sections for the second reading. Alderman Capps made a motion to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by Title and sections for the third reading. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Attorney Cline read the ordinance by title and sections for the third reading. Alderman Capps made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat.

Attorney Cline stated there was a notice published for the public's right, for anyone to voice their opinion, especially if they are against the closing of the alley. He asked if there were anyone in the audience with concerns.

Mr. Billingsley was present, he stated he was for the closing of the alley and he had asked the planning commission to amend their decision to close the entire alley so his parking lot would not become a thruway. Roll Call: Alderman Echols, Metcalf, Poteat, Reeves, Williams, and Capps All Ayes. Alderman Capps made a motion to adopt the emergency clause. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes

Permission to Purchase a Gas Chipper

Mayor Bryant asked for permission to purchase a gas-powered chipper costing approximately \$33,386 from solid waste fund with a three-years or 3,500-hour warranty; the purchased would be made through NJPA contract. Alderman Reeves made the motion. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$29,527.67. Motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$4,737.19 Motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$27,705.19. Motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$13,115.13. Second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor's Updates

Mayor Bryant stated the city is being cleaned-up. Employees have worked on Saturdays and some overtime; the landfill is open for the collection of limbs. He has spoken with the governor and unofficially the governor has allocated several thousand dollars to help the city with debris removal.

Mayor Bryant stated he appreciates Southern Baptist Convention coming in and helping the citizens along with the Forrest City Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, all volunteers, and all the utility workers in a time of need. He also stated when the governor's declaration is received, he hoped within ten days the city will be cleared debris.

Mayor Bryant announced during the Arkansas Municipal League conference a new arson rule was discussed. With the help of the fire department, we will have the opportunity burn down old condemned houses without going through all the previous steps. The city will still have to notify the owners and meet due process requirements, but the requirements will be lessened due to fire codes.

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Mayor Bryant asked the council to think about, for the next meeting, night clubs closing in a timely manner. When looking at police reports, it seems that trouble happens after 1:00 a.m.

Mayor Bryant asked that the council come together and find a solution to these ongoing problems.

Alderman Capps asked Attorney Cline if there is a nuisance's ordinance on the books in which night clubs could be closed if there are problems. Attorney Cline stated there are statutes and ordinances on the books, but it probably would have to be taken to court.

For additional context, reference the June 19, 2018 tape.

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

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer