

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
July 17, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on July 17, 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 Pro Tem Fields, Clerk Cochran, and City Council members: Capps, Echols, Metcalf, Oswalt, Poteat, Reeves, and Williams. Mayor Bryant and Attorney Cline were absent.

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve the June 19, 2018 Minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Alderman Capps requested that the June 19, 2018 minutes reflect the conversation that he and Mayor Bryant had concerning debris removal caused by the storm on June 2, 2018. After reviewing the tape, the tape does not reflect the conversation that Alderman Capps reported had occurred. As always, the tape is available for review.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bret Hartman in his absence, Alderman Reeves suggested that the council consider discussing the invoice that Mr. Hartman presented for payment. Mayor Pro Tem Fields stated Mr. Hartman asked to be placed on the agenda; she suggested that the council wait until Mr. Hartman is present.

Dorothy White and her granddaughter were present to address the council concerning the death of her husband, Isaiah White. On August 31, 2016, Mr. White was struck by a vehicle on North Washington Street. Her granddaughter asked several questions concerning the incident and Ms. White stated she is trying to find out if the Forrest City Police department did a thorough investigation because the accident and the police report did not match.

Alderman Capps stated it looks like a legal matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Fields stated Attorney Cline is not here to give the council advice on how to address Mrs. White's issue. She agreed with Alderman Capps that this sounds like a legal issue and she needs to seek legal advice.

Alderman Oswalt stated the council is a legislative body, we pass laws, but the council does give legal advice. He then asked Ms. White if she had spoken with the Police Chief. Ms. White stated she has tried.

Mayor Pro Tem Fields stated the council's recommendation is for her to seek legal advice but she is welcome to come back before the council when Mayor Bryant and Attorney Cline are present.

Mrs. Clay re-explained the accident, then stated the only statements they have are the ones taken from the officer and the lady that hit Mr. White; it seems like there should be further investigation.

Mrs. Clay then told the council that her Water Street build was broken into and there were damages; the person that vandalized her property is still walking the streets. She stated the police department did take a report, but the report was not accurate.

She then talked about her East Broadway property; there was a hole dug and paint was sprayed in her parking area. She said all Mayor Bryant had to do is ask the water department to go and fix it; they are the ones who messed it up.

Mayor Pro Tem Fields asked Ms. Clay if she had tried to speak with the police chief concerning her building that was broken into.

Ms. Clay stated yes, several times she has called. She even had asked to speak to the investigators; no one has returned her call. Mayor Pro Tem Fields told Ms. Clay the protocol is to try to speak with the chief and then the mayor.

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Alderman Capps asked Ms. White if she has spoken to Mayor Bryant about her situation. Ms. White stated she had not. Alderman Capps then stated that maybe the place to start is with the mayor and she could get some guidance from the city attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Forrest City Housing Authority

Alderman Oswald made a motion to appoint Christine Wynne to the Forrest City Housing Authority to fill the vacant position. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Fire Grant Resolution

Fire Chief Renigar spoke to the council about the resolution for a USDA matching grant for turnout gear. He asked that the resolution reflect \$53,074.82 instead of \$50,000. Alderman Capps read the resolution. Alderman Oswald made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Alderman Metcalf expressed his concerns about passing the resolution in the absent of Mayor Bryant. Chief Renigar told the council that the city's matching funds are already in the budget and the resolution needed to be passed to get the grant money. Mayor Pro Tem Fields stated the resolution is saying that the council is in agreement. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Permission to Bid for Street Striping

Alderman Oswald made a motion to give Mayor Bryant permission to bid for street striping. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Alderman Reeves asked if the estimates would come before the council for approval before the project started. Clerk Cochran stated the bids are open at the city council. Roll Call: All Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Reeves made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$21,700.16. Motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswald made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$4,866.35 Motion was second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$28,812.29. Motion was second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$28,376.68. Second by Alderman Poteat. Alderman Capps asked for clarity on a bill for CPA services from February 27, 2018 through June 1, 2018 for \$5,842.50, when city water had already hired someone to take care of the accounting. He then asked for a phone call for an explanation of the invoice from the water manager. Mayor Pro Tem Fields stated she is sure that the water manager would be available for Alderman Capps to give him a call. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Alderman Capps requested that discussion of the city's cleanup efforts and the itemized invoices for all city funds that were spent on the city cleanup, including total cubic yards that were hauled off by each contractor be put on the agenda.

Alderman Oswald requested for the progress on the new city hall and where is the additional money is coming from to complete the project be put on the next agenda for discussion.

For additional context, reference the July 17, 2018 tape.

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

Louise Fields, Mayor Pro Tem

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer