

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
August 7, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on August 7, 2018. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Fields 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, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat. Alderman Williams and Alderman Reeves were absent.

Alderman Oswalt asked if he could amend the agenda and add Mr. Huff under public comments since he thought Friday was the cut off time to get placed on the agenda. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat all Ayes. Alderman Echols and Fields said Nay. Motion did not pass.

Mayor Bryant acknowledge Pastor Dixon Platt of First United Methodist Church. Mayor Bryant stated all council members should have a letter

Alderman Poteat made a motion to approve the July 17, 2018 minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Alderman Capps stated he requested to listen to the June 19, 2018 tape but he did not get the chance. Mayor Bryant told Alderman Capps he can listen to the tape. Roll Call: Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat All Ayes. Alderman Capps said Nay.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bret Hartman stated he was test driving one of his customer's vehicle on June 19, 2018, when a city truck hauling debris struck the mirror and broke it. He presented the accident report and an invoice quote for which he gave his customer \$1,000 credit. He then asked the city council for compensation for the mirror. Alderman Poteat asked Mayor Bryant if the city had insurance and why the city is not paying for damages. Mayor Bryant stated Mr. Hartman presented conflicting information and did not give all the paper work to the city clerk. Mayor Bryant also stated the city has a policy in place it pays for windshields up to \$250.00. Mayor Bryant stated he asked for the mirror, but Mr. Hartman never presented the mirror for payment. Alderman Poteat made a motion for the city to pay for the price of the mirror in the amount of \$912.54. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat All Ayes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Resolution Grant Correction

Mayor Bryant stated the council read the resolution at the last meeting with the \$3,000 increase that Chief Renigar mentioned. He stated the clerk and I went to USDA to sign paperwork and the original paperwork was correct.

NEW BUSINESS

The City's Cleanup Efforts

Alderman Capps stated it was a horrific storm hit the city the first part of June. He commended the city employees for all the work was done clearing the streets and passageways. He stated the city allocated \$100,000 and a grant from the state in the amount of \$79,000. Alderman Capps stated he knows the city has a long way to go on clean-up, he then questioned how much of the money has been spent and how much more will be spent on overtime and cleanup and how much is left.

Alderman Capps then asked Mayor Bryant if the city was going to hire anyone else to come in and help clean the city. Mayor Bryant stated he was trying to find a company with a tub grinder to grind the big stumps. Mayor Bryant also stated that city burned trees and limbs for three-days at the landfill and if anyone need compost they are welcome to pick it up.

Alderman Capps then asked if all loads hall to the landfill were checked in. Mayor Bryant stated yes, Floyd Patton checked all loads on sign in sheets.

Progress on the New City Hall and Where the Additional Money is Coming From

Alderman Oswalt stated he has a March 31, 2018 Simmons Bank report from the clerk's office. The report shows a balance for the new city hall in the amount of \$676,842. He then asked Mayor Bryant if the bid came in at \$1.1million. Mayor Bryant stated yes. Alderman Oswalt then stated there is a shortage of around \$440,000 for the new city hall. He then mentioned the pool project; Simmons's report shows \$2.8 million at the end of March. He then asked Mayor Bryant if the pool bid came in at \$3.3 million. Mayor Bryant stated yes. Alderman Oswalt then stated the pool project will be short a little over \$500,000: total shortage for both projects is around \$950,000.

Alderman Oswalt then mentioned the park & recreation one-fourth bond tax, he looked at the report from the beginning until the present a little over \$1.7 million; looking at the expenses for all parks and recreation for that duration; that money has been spent.

Alderman Oswalt asked Mayor Bryant where the city will find almost \$950,000 to finish these two major projects.

Mayor Bryant stated the council was told, on the city hall, there is approximately one-half million plus dollars for the general fund setting in the solid waste fund, there is \$2.856 million in solid waste after purchasing all the equipment. Every commercial pick-up is general fund money it is not part of the tax.

Mayor Bryant stated for the pool project the city has \$1.9 million sitting in general fund that was co-mingled. He stated the \$1.7 million spent on parks and Recreation, that Alderman Oswalt mention is part of that money that is still in general fund; the balance will be used. After more discussion, Alderman Oswalt suggested taking part of the overage and pay off some of the bonds then the sales tax will drop off.

Mayor Bryant stated it is being paid off, on time and a little ahead of schedule. He then stated this conversation is something that the council can work on; we are interested in the finance of the city. The city is in good shape. The city has many perks regardless of the bad things that has happened in Forrest City. Solid waste account has grown, the city gets new equipment and trucks every two years. Mayor Bryant went on to mention all the amenities that Forrest City has; as a city council we need to act appropriate, we do not know who it is looking at the video.

Alderman Oswalt stated he has other questions concerning the city finances. Mayor Bryant asked Alderman Oswalt to put his questions in writing.

Permission to Bid Fire Station #2 Roof

Alderman Fields made a motion to allow Mayor Bryant bid fire station roof #2. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Alderman Capps stated he has concerns about the construction of the building. He stated he would like to have contractual inspection on the building. Roll Call: Alderman Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat All Ayes. Alderman Capps said Nay.

Permission to Bid for New Bathrooms Forrest City Civic Center

Alderman Fields made a motion to allow Mayor Bryant bid for new bathrooms at the civic center. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Alderman Oswalt asked which wall the bathroom will be placed. Mayor Bryant stated the north wall. Alderman Capps asked if the bathrooms will be ADA compliance. Mayor Bryant stated they will have to be, that is the law. Roll call: Alderman Capps, Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Poteat.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$51,191.05. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Poteat made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$8,410.66. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$54,552.73. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. 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 \$108,911.98. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Bryant stated he has a letter from Lee County Corporative Clinic and they are interested in setting up a satellite clinic in Forrest city; they are interested in using part of the old Social Security building. Alderman Poteat asked if rent would be paid on the building.

Mayor Bryant stated if rented, he would work it out where it would be enough to pay the expenses of the building. Alderman Capps asked if the city would be released from liability exposure if the building. Mayor Bryant stated he would look into the legality part of it; this is just the preliminary, it might not work I just needed to tell you all.

Mayor Bryant recognized Dixon Platt Pastor at First United Methodist Church. Mayor Bryant then read a letter presented by Pastor Platt complimenting Kendra Triggs at the Forrest City Water department for being very helpful and going beyond the call of duty.

For additional context, reference the August 7, 2018 tape.

Alderman Echols made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. second by Alderman Fields.

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer