

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
November 20, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on November 20, 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: Williams, Metcalf, Echols, and Fields. Alderman Reeves, Capps, Poteat, and oswalt were absent.

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve the November 8, 2018 minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Echols, Fields, and Mayor Bryant voted All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget

Mayor Bryant presented the council with the 2019 proposed budget information. He said if there are anything that needs to be addressed let him know and the changes will be made so the budget committee will have a complete budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Bonuses

Mayor Bryant stated every year around this time the city council decides rather or not to give a year-end bonus, with the total expense ranging from \$100,000 to \$119,000. Alderman Echols made a motion, in accordance with past, one-time bonuses, that the council grant the full-time employees a one-time bonus in the amount of \$1,000 as well as the elected officials; part-time employees prorated (\$500) and prorate all other employees with less than a year. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: Williams, Echols, Metcalf, and Fields All Ayes and Mayor Bryant voted Aye.

Alderman Reeves, Poteat, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$27,194.97. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Williams, Echols and Mayor Bryant All Ayes. Alderman Reeves, Poteat, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$3,769.72. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Williams, Echols, and Mayor Bryant All Ayes. Alderman Reeves, Poteat, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$12,473.32. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Williams, Echols, and Mayor Bryant All Ayes. Alderman Reeves, Poteat, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

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FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$129,437.80. The motion was second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Echols, Fields, and Mayor Bryant. All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Bryant announced that the council should have received a letter from the Delta Regional Airport requesting a vehicle. Mayor Bryant advised the council that he would look into purchasing a car. He stated if the other three entities agreed, then the city should get on board. Mayor Bryant suggested purchasing a car on a state contract for around \$20,000 and each entity pay \$5,000 each; airport authority would be responsible for the insurance and the upkeep of the vehicle.

Mayor Bryant informed the council about the municipal court lawsuit when the district judge instructed the security officer not to allow a person to come in with a service dog. The lawsuit started out at one million dollars; the case can now be settled with the city's portion at \$1,300. The attorneys are still negotiating at the Municipal League with a rate of 90/10; once negotiations are finished the city's part should be around \$7,500 to \$8,500. Mayor Bryant stated he wants the city council to be a part of the decision-making process.

Alderman Echols made a motion to allow Amanda Lavea, with the Arkansas Municipal League, the opportunity to settle the lawsuit in reference to the service dog and district court for the city's ten percent. Mayor Bryant stated that part of the suit mandates city police officers would have to go through some type of training with Municipal League.

The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Williams, Echols, and Mayor Bryant All Ayes.

Mayor Bryant announced that structure for the new city hall is starting to take shape. The contractors are on schedule for the therapy pool; he encouraged all council members to go and look at the facilities

For additional context, reference the November 20, 2018 tape.

Alderman Echols made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer