

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
July 2, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on July 2, 2019. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Williams offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Capps. The following answered roll call: Mayor Williams, Clerk Cochran, and City Council members: Williams, Metcalf, Fields, Capps, Oswalt and Poteat. Alderman Evansingston, Reeves and Attorney Wright were absent.

Alderman Poteat made the motion to approve the June 18, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes. Alderman Capps Abstained.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Permitting Alderman Evansingston to Hold Employment with City of Forrest City

Alderman Williams made a motion to read the ordinance for the second reading. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Williams read for the second reading **An Ordinance Permitting Alderman Jason Evansingston to Hold Employment With The City of Forrest City** sponsored by Alderman Fields.

NEW BUSINESS

Aquatic Center Rates Approval

Mayor Williams asked council members to look at the rate brochure for the aquatic center. He stated the first-rate sheet is the current rates for the Larry Bryant Multi-Purpose Center, the middle sheet is the new proposed rates for the aquatic center and the third-rate sheet have the joint rates for both facilities. Mayor Williams passed around some documents with other neighboring cities aquatic centers' prices that were surveyed for the proposed rate sheet. He stated they came up with reasonable rates that would fit our community based on what other cities are charging.

Alderman Oswalt commented, for a family of four he felt \$250.00 per month is extremely high just to be a member of the aquatic center. He stated he did look at three cities, Heber Springs, Pocahontas and Batesville most of their family rates run about \$40.00 per month. He said he knows it is going to cost money to run the center, but the rates are set to high and there will be less people to join. Alderman Oswalt then asked about the early and late hour. Mayor Williams stated all of that has to be worked out, right now the program is just starting.

Alderman Williams stated he agreed with Alderman Oswalt the numbers are little high especially when he hear the comparison to the other cities.

Alderman Poteat also agreed that the starting prices are extremely high for everybody, but her other concern is the opening and closing hours they are not favorable for the working people.

Alderman Capps stated he did some comparison to the city of Paragould and Searcy; the membership rates are approximately \$240.00 to \$250.00 annually for the aquatic center. He stated he does not want the citizens to think that tax dollars were pay to build it and now they can't afford to use it.

Mayor William stated the rates can be tabled to have further discussion with the park and recreation director and also visit with the surrounding facility and come back for further discussion at the next meeting.

Alderman Poteat asked where the rates came from, she has visited with the city of Pocahontas and they are not that high.

Mayor William asked Recreation Director Kenneth Taylor to address the council with his input. Mr. Taylor asked the council why not use the same rates as the Larry Bryant Multi-Purpose Center and if a person wanted to use both facilities, combine both membership fees.

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After further discussion, Alderman Poteat made a motion to table the discussion until they look at further rates and come up with something reasonable. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf.

Alderman Williams told Mayor Williams he heard him say by the next council meeting to decide, Alderman Williams' question is, will the council be ready to make that decision. Mayor Williams stated the council will be fine, he encouraged the council to check with other surrounding aquatic centers.

Alderman Metcalf stated he has listened to everything that has been said, but he suggested that Mayor Williams and Mr. Taylor get together and work up some better prices and bring it back to the council. Roll Call: All Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$31,556.18. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills in the amount of \$3,575.70. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$10,614.43. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$59,720.41. The motion was second by Alderman Oswalt. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Williams announced that the aquatic center is approximately 98-percent complete and should be finished with possible occupancy in about four weeks.

City hall is approximately 95-percent complete should be completed within the next three to four weeks.

Mayor Williams gave a thanks to the people for the public meeting last Tuesday for the parks and recreation grant it was a great turnout.

Mayor Williams announced there were a group of individuals that had a Forrest City stop the violent day, Arsenio and Corey. He received word that there were approximately 1,500 people at the Southside park and the majority were from out-of-town; there were no incidents and hopefully this is an even that will be continued.

Mayor Williams announced Fireworks are coming up this Wednesday at the complex we are asking the public to come out before the fireworks state, there will be games for the kids, t-ball, softball and all kind of recreation. These are activities are free of charges.

Mayor Williams stated he would look at the calendar to set a budget meeting.

For additional context, reference the July 2, 2019 tape.

Alderman Williams made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Fields

Cedric Williams, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer