

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
January 18, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on January 18, 2018. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Williams offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Records Clerk Manning, and City Council members: Williams, Metcalf, Echols, Fields, Reeves, Capps, Poteat and Oswalt. Attorney Cline came in at 6:06 p.m. Clerk Cochran was absent.

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2018 regular meeting. Alderman Capps second the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

None

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS

Civic Center

Mr. Jimmy Gaines, Civic Center Manager, stated that the Forrest City Civic Center Commission has renewed the M&M Catering contract with the renewal date being November 1, 2017 thru November 1, 2019.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Jimmy King, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that for the Month of December 2017 there were \$127,050.00 in permits. The year-to-date total was \$7,256,019.42 in permits for construction.

Fire Department

None present

Police Department

Deon Lee, Police Chief, stated information requested by certain council members was included in the package he presented to the council. Chief Lee stated regarding personnel he has six opening—five police offices, one in dispatch and still looking for one animal control officer. There are two new hires awaiting physicals. Chief Lee stated that one of the problems the department faces with recruitment is the upfront cost for the officers. The department had three to graduate from the academy this past December from Camden. They had two to leave this past Sunday to attend Black River Tech Police Academy in Pocahontas. Chief Lee stated no equipment issues, just routine maintenance. Sky Cops are up and running located on Deadrick Road and Washington. No accidents reported since the cameras had been put up. For the year of 2017, the department there were 27,542 calls for service which included officer initiated contacts. To see calls per district refer to the package given to each council member. Chief Lee stated there was a request from a council member for the number of citation written and charges per district was including in the package given. Also, there were 18 search warrants for narcotics and stolen property. There were 44 Guns, seven vehicles, and \$18,719.01 is cash confiscated all which goes to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Mayor Bryant asked if there were any questions. Alderman Capps stated that he would like to commend district three for writing tickets for littering.

Alderman Reeves asked Chief Lee if the offender video board was set up. Chief Lee stated that it was set up and currently at the Larry S. Bryant Wellness and Multipurpose Center.

Park & Recreation

Mr. Kenneth Taylor, Park and Recreation Director, stated that the department had winterized the swimming pool, all the building on the outside and some of the equipment. He stated that there are several events going on now at the Larry S. Bryant Multipurpose Center, such as the senior citizen praise dancers, seventh thru twelfth grade girls class dance, martial arts class and a step aerobics program, a men's basketball league and youth basketball league. Mr. Taylor also stated that there are currently 492 active members at the center. There were 286 rentals for the past year.

Mayor Bryant asked if there were any questions. Alderman Capps asked Mr. Taylor if there was a charge for the martial arts classes or dance classes, were they renting. Mr. Taylor told Alderman Capps that they were renting. Some programs are only available through membership.

Public Works

Mr. Justin Evansingston, Acting Public Works Director, introduced himself to the council. Mr. Evansingston stated that there was a lot of bad weather and public works was doing everything they could with the resources available to make the city streets safe and travelable. Mr. Evansingston

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talked about the upcoming projects. First, the Dawson Rd. project where there will be an additional lane added to help with traffic in front of Stewart Elementary. Also, a major ditch clearing project which they will be clearing underbrush in the ditches throughout the city to prevent flow disruptions. They will be doing street repairs in the Washington Heights area. Also, vacant lots will be cleared of underbrush. Mr. Evansingston stated that the directive right now is to make sure the streets are safe. The Public Works Dept. has four parts to it which are the Street Dept., Sanitation Dept., Solid Waste Dept., and Pest Control Dept. as of right now, all are helping the Street Dept. with exception of the Sanitation Dept. The new equipment was used to help clear the streets. The skid steer was a great help in clearing the sidewalks. The track hoe was also used in clearing debris.

Alderman Reeves commented that they had done well with the snow and ice and they had worked extremely hard and he appreciated it. Alderman Capps asked Mr. Evansingston if they had a full crew. Mr. Evansingston responded by saying yes.

Mayor Bryant commented about the weather and the work of the Public Works Dept. Alderman Oswalt also commented on a good job that was done by the Public Works Dept. Mayor Bryant stated the last time the city had a major ice and snow storm, the Highway Department fell to recognize Washington Street as a highway, and they stopped clearing the roads or doing anything to the roads in the city limits of Forrest City. This time they did not let us down. They did a fantastic job and Washington Street and most of Highway 70 was clear.

Water Department

Mr. Calvin Murdock, Water Utility Manager, presented the city council with a monthly report for the Forrest City Water Utility on customer payment report, customer cut offs/ locks and pulls for the months of October, November and December. Mr. Murdock stated that there were some council members had a question about the authority of the water utility in anticipation of the establishment of a water commission. There is an article in the packet that he thought would be useful. Also, an article regarding solar energy and a newsletter for the Water Utility is included. Mr. Murdock went over a list of things the water department now doing are as follows: Completed the North/South ponds for rehabilitation 11/17/2017, Procurement of I/I equipment; Inspection van built out (completed 11/3/17), New line replacement program (on going), Evaluating GIS/GPS software, Evaluating new electric metering system, Evaluating electronic or remote shut-off, Rate study for water and sewer (completed), Application for funding Delta Regional Authority for the Alternative Energy Project, Renewing application to natural resources to include SSES and alternative energy project, SSES per ADEQ's consent administrative order, Consent administrative order, Construction documents new roof and other improvements for plant 2-Division Street (instillation complete), Locker/Shower room maintenance shop, Evaluating Mainline Camera System, Completing cable instillation for internet service to the Waste-Water Treatment Plant.

Alderman Capps asked Mr. Murdock what was the original cost from the engineer for completion of the North/South ponds for rehabilitation. Mr. Murdock stated that the original estimate from Mr. Gunn was \$18,000,000.00 per pond. Alderman Capps asked Mr. Murdock how much did he spend on the completing the North and South ponds. Mr. Murdock stated that the total cost was less than \$200,000.00. After expressing his concerns regarding the ponds, Alderman Capps asked Mr. Murdock how long will it last regarding the work that he did on the ponds. Mr. Murdock stated that with maintenance it should be fine for another 100 years. Mayor Bryant also stated that the positive side of it all was that they got the job done. ADEQ have their ways and we try to comply with what they have asked us to do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

Attorney Cline read for the second reading of the **Nuisance Abatement Ordinance**.

Budget Update 2018

Mayor Bryant stated that that each council member was given a copy of the raises and what it meant. It shows the current, the three percent and what it ended up being. Alderman Reeves asked the Mayor did the water department received the same three percent. Mayor Bryant stated that they did. He did not have the list but will give it to everybody.

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Ordinance to Form Water Commission

Attorney Cline read for the second reading of the **Ordinance to Form Water Commission**.

Permission to Seek Bids for Pool

Alderman Capps made a motion to give the mayor permission to seek bids for the pool project. Alderman Poteat second the motion. Discussion, Alderman Capps asked when he seek bids, would it be advertised in the newspaper. Mayor Bryant stated that it would be advertised in the statewide newspaper. Alderman Capps asked the mayor what day was he looking at to open bids. Mayor stated that it would be around the 20th of February. Alderman Capps asked would the plan be available at the City Hall. Mayor Bryant stated that the plan is at the City Hall. Alderman Reeves asked the Mayor if the original bids were closed document or are they available. Mayor Bryant stated that they were open. Roll Call: All Ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to Purchase Track Hoe

Alderman Oswald made a motion to give the mayor permission to purchase a track hoe. Alderman Fields second the motion. Discussion, Alderman Capps asked the Mayor would the track hoe be new or used. Mayor Bryant stated that they would try to buy new but if they could get a good used one they would buy it. Roll Call: All Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills totaling \$15,984.21. Alderman Fields second the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills totaling \$11,403.46. Alderman Reeves second the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswald made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste fund bills totaling \$31,014.92. Alderman Poteat second the motion. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills totaling \$46,174.50. Second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor thanked the Public Works Determent for doing a good job under the circumstances. There were two ice events. Also, there was a garbage truck that was broke down which delayed garbage pickup. Mayor Bryant also thanked the Parks Department, the Water Department, the Police Department and the Fire Department for their efforts during the bad weather.

Alderman Echols announced that it will be a budget committee meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Donna Manning, Records Clerk