

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
February 5, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on February 5, 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 Oswalt. The following answered roll call: Mayor Williams, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Wright, and City Council members: Williams, Evansingston, Fields, Reeves, Capps, and Oswalt. Alderman Metcalf and Poteat were absent.

Alderman Williams made the motion to approve the January 15, 2019 Minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to Bid for Park Storm Damaged Light Poles

Mayor Williams asked permission to bid for the light poles that were damaged from the June 2018 storm. Alderman Oswalt made the motion to allow Mayor Williams permission to bid for the park complex damaged light poles. The motion was second by Alderman Fields.

Alderman Capps asked if the lights were damaged. Mayor Williams said, "Yes." Alderman Capps asked if they were going back with the same type of lights or could they go with Led lights. Mayor Williams stated currently the bids are for the same type of lights, but they are looking at a separate comparison cost effective for the LED lights.

Alderman Evansingston asked the mayor if he knew the number of poles that must be replaced. Mayor Williams stated the insurance adjuster has written a certain amount to replace what was currently out there; when the bids come in, then the decision could be made as a council to upgrade or do something different at that time. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Permission to Bid for Roof Replacement for Fire Sub-Station

Mayor Williams stated he is asking for permission to bid for the fire sub-station roof replacement from the June 2018 storm damage. Alderman Oswalt made the motion to give Mayor Williams permission to bid for the fire sub-station roof replacement. The motion was second by Alderman Evansingston. Alderman Capps asked if the roof had been put out for bids before.

Mayor Williams stated to his understanding it had been bid out, but no bids had been turned in; estimates were submitted later but all over the place. This time a more detail bid will be sent out for quality material. Alderman Capps asked if they were replacing the roof with the same kind of metal or stronger gaged.

Mayor Williams stated this is an estimate received from the storm damaged to replace what is currently there; after the bids are received, a decision can be made to upgrade at that time. Roll Call: All Ayes

Re-Appointment of Library Board

Mayor Williams stated Sandra Wright term is ending and it was submitted for re-appointment to the board for a five-year term. Alderman Oswalt made the motion to re-appoint Sandra Wright to the library board.

The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes

Mayor Williams stated there is a vacant position on the library board that will need to be filled.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$46,704.74. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$12,143.73. The motion was second by Alderman Evansingston. Roll Call: All Ayes

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SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$46,377.52. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$147,952.57. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Alderman Reeves questioned why the large increase in these bills. Mayor Williams stated the ETC invoice is included it is for their consultant services. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Williams stated the consultants for the transition program will start meeting with the various department starting this week. Gaskill & Associates will meet with the public works department, parks & recreation department and water department. Summers & Associates will be meeting with the fire department and the police department; the report will be given in the next three to four weeks regarding the SWOT analysis.

Mayor Williams announced that the city's website is being updated. He told the council to look at Jonesboro's site, Forrest City's will be similar. Within the next two to three weeks there should be an initial product to be release to the public.

Mayor Williams told council that ETC would be at the next council meeting to update the council on the new city hall and the aquatic center projects and to answer any questions. Alderman Capps asked if ETC could give the council an update for the city water department. Mayor Williams stated he would make the request that ETC address all projects.

Mayor Williams announced on next Tuesday, February 12, 2019 from 7:30am to 8:30am, the city will host its first unity breakfast at the civic center for city leaders and officials from various industries and organization within the City of Forrest City. The purpose of the meeting is to focus on moving Forrest City forward; the leaders will be served by the department heads.

Mayor Williams gave the council an update on the tornado siren. He said the city was in the process of repairing the sirens. He stated, on the last test, five of the six sirens worked. Batteries were changed, and repairs were made; currently one siren is not working. A plan was implemented to warn the citizens in case of implement weather. ATI from whom the original purchase was made 2015, will be in the city next week to check the sirens and let us know what we need to do incase they go out again.

For additional context, reference the February 5, 2018 tape.

Alderman Fields made a motion to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Capps.

Cedric Williams, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer