

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
February 6, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on February 6, 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 Oswalt. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Cline and City Council members: Capps, Metcalf, Oswalt, Reeves, Poteat, and Williams. Alderman Fields came in at 6:02 p.m. Alderman Echols was absent.

Mayor Bryant requested permission too add to the agenda Chief Renigar so he could make his quarterly report since he was absent at the last meeting. And permission to purchase on state contract or JPA or bid the items listed in the budget. Alderman Oswalt made the motion. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Capps made the motion to approve the January 18, 2018 regular minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Fire Department

Fire Chief Renigar asked permission to have local businesses sponsor lettering and graphics on fire department vehicles. The sponsor will have a space no larger than 16 by 8 provided on both sides of the apparatus. He stated the sponsorship would be a savings to the city because he has several big trucks that need to be decaled out. The estimated cost of saving for each truck would be around \$900.00 per truck.

Alderman Reeves asked how long would a purchased sponsorship last. Chief Renigar stated he has been told around ten years. Mayor Bryant stated he would recommend rotating the sponsorship every two years. Alderman Reeves asked would the sponsorship be contractual. Mayor Bryant stated it would be. After some discussion, Alderman Poteat made the motion to allow Chief Renigar to draft contracts for sponsorships for decals. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Chief Renigar also gave his quarterly report: he will be picking up a new truck in Jonesboro on next Tuesday. He reported there have been a few fires due to the cold weather; one fatality outside the city limits. The department will finish the Fire Act grant this week for \$491,000. The department will be receiving again this year the \$50,000 matching grant and they are working on a \$15,000 grant. Alderman Poteat stated that there is a rumor that the fire substation is not in fully operation. Chief Renigar stated let him clear up the rumor; the fire substation is not closed, it is in operation everyday. Alderman Capps asked if there are any positions that needed filling. Chief Renigar stated he has one position and he is getting ready to advertise to fill it.

Public Comment - Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

Carolyn Goodell stated she lived outside of the city limits but noticed an ad in the newspaper that the council was considering an ordinance reading. She stated she read the ordinance and found a few things in the ordinance that the council might consider for change: Page 15 section 3.2.3 Grass and Weeds, Page 17 section 3.2.11 Gutters and Ditches and sections 3.3.4 Structural members, Page 22 section 4.2.2 Light, Ventilation and Occupancy limitations, and Page 23 section 4.3.2 Ventilation. Mayor Bryant told Ms. Goodell all points will be taken and some corrections are already under advisement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

Attorney Cline stated it would not be a problem to correct items in sections 15 and 17 but he does not know how the council wants to handle Section 3-Ventilation.

Alderman Oswalt stated if the ventilation section of the ordinance is changed, then over half of the homes in Forrest City would be out of compliance with that particular code.

Mayor Bryant stated the state building codes has specifications on ventilation. He stated this ordinance came from the City of Little Rock and their code enforcement officer reviewed the ordinance. Alderman Oswalt stated the council has been discussing the ordinance for months; he would like to pass the ordinance tonight and later do some research if needed.

Alderman Oswalt made the motion to read for the third reading **An Ordinance Adopting A Nuisance Abatement And Property Maintenance Chapter As Part of The City of Forrest City, Arkansas Code of Ordinances; Declaring An Emergency; And For Other Purposes** sponsored by Alderman Oswalt.

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes. Alderman Oswalt made a motion to adopt the emergency clause. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Budget Meeting Update

Mayor Bryant stated one council member turned in some changes for the 2018 budget. He stated he did not make any changes to the budget; he wanted to wait and make sure that all council members have the same opportunity. He stated he is going to amend the 2017 budget and then make the 2018 revisions.

Ordinance Creating a Water And Sewer Commission

Alderman Williams stated when the council first started discussing the ordinance to re-create the water and sewer commission, he was not satisfied with what he was hearing. He stated his understanding of the Municipal code on how cities form ordinances; it is just a templet.

He also stated this is something the city does not need to rush into; he would like to study the matter to see if it is necessary to have a water commission. He then stated he would like a person from each Ward to be appointed to the commission.

Alderman Williams then made a motion to table the third reading of the ordinance. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, and Reeves All Nays. Alderman Poteat and Williams All Ayes. Motion failed.

Attorney Cline read for the third reading **An Ordinance Creating A Water And Sewer Commission; Establishing Composition And Qualification Of Commissioners; Granting Authority To Operate and Manage The water And Sewer Systems; Granting Powers To The Commission; And For Other Purposes** sponsored by Alderman Fields.

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Oswalt, Poteat, Reeves, and Williams All Nays.

Alderman Fields and Metcalf All Ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Valley's Professional Service Contract

Attorney Cline stated that there is one thing he noticed in the contract that he recommends changing if the council is going to vote for the contract. Page 2 paragraph 10 where it states, "The parties agree that Attorney will serve as local counsel for any bond issue."

His suggestion would be to change the contract to read, "The parties agree that Attorney may serve as local counsel for any bond issue if requested by the city council."

Alderman Metcalf made the motion to inter into contract with subject of changes read by Attorney Cline. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Alderman Capps stated he wanted clarification where it states in the contract "city". Attorney Cline stated it means the city council would have to vote on all decision.

Roll Call: Alderman Capps, Oswalt, Poteat, and Reeves All Nays.

Alderman Fields, Metcalf, and Williams All Ayes.

Mayor Bryant stated the council needs to decide on legal counsel for the city water because Attorney Cline has his plate full. If there were problems with the contract, he should have been advised and changes would have been made before the council meeting.

Bylaws and rules

Alderman Poteat addressed the city council by stating, "I would like to see us conduct ourselves per the rules of the Municipal League and per the rules that we have been given to operate under. We are voted on by our peers, and many times when we come to our meetings we are not as respectful and we don't follow the rules that has been set out. In some of the rules there is a

clause that say we should treat each other with respect, we can argue and disagree, but we still need to be respectful to each other because we all are here to represent our communities. We know it is videoed and it is live and people watch that and we look bad.” She asked the council to look at how they should maintain themselves and be prepared when coming to the council meetings. She stated that she would like for us to keep in our forethought when we come to these meeting we have a job to do, we need to be respectful of one another, and respectful of the mayor. It doesn’t matter if we like each other or not we all are due that respect. We need to look like an educated group of people who can come together and decisions.

Permission to Bid for Asphalt and Concrete

Alderman Oswald made the motion to allow Mayor Bryant permission to bid for asphalt and concrete. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Permission to Purchase on State Contract, NJPA, or Though Sealed Bids

Alderman Williams made a motion to allow Mayor Bryant to purchase on State contract, NJPA, or sealed bids to purchase equipment that is already budgeted. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$14,807.91. Motion was second by Alderman Oswald. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswald made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills in the amount of \$18,915.52. Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswald made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$43,213.52. Motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

None. Mayor Bryant stated he would have council members to come by and sign the water bills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Alderman Oswald asked Mayor Bryant if he was getting calls concerning potholes. Mayor Bryant stated that citizens can calls the mayor’s office to report potholes.

For additional context, reference the February 6, 2018 tape.

Alderman Williams made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. second by Alderman Poteat

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer