

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
September 4, 2018**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on September 4, 2018. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Fields 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: Capps, Echols, Fields, Oswalt, and Poteat. Alderman Metcalf, Reeves, and Williams were absent.

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve the August 21, 2018 minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Drainage

The city council listened to Clark Huff who lives near the intersection of Bray and Gregory Streets. He stated during any big rain, water will be standing several inches in places around his home. Mr. Huff presented pictures to the council to show some of the drainage problems. He stated the city tried to rectify the problem but stopped. He suggested that the city could clean and dig out the ditch that runs behind his home because he was concerned about flooding. Alderman Capps asked Mr. Huff if he had a drainage problem when the home was purchased. Mr. Huff stated he did, but someone on the council corrected the problem at that time.

Alderman Poteat asked Mr. Huff if he was in a flood zone. Mr. Huff stated he did not know. Mayor Bryant stated Mr. Huff's property is adjacent to the railroad property and the city cannot start digging without permission. If the city starts to dig and does damage, it could cause a derailment then the city is liable. Mayor Bryant stated from time-to-time the city goes in and cuts with the sidarm as close to the railroad's property as possible. He stated the city got permission from the railroad a long-time ago to dig out the ditch and now he would need to contact the railroad department to get permission again.

Mayor Bryant stated he recommended not digging a ditch but put in six-inch pipes that would allow the water to shoot across to the railroad property and properly drain; but Mr. Huff did not want to do that. Alderman Capps suggested getting the Corp of Engineers involved.

After further discussion, Mayor Bryant stated he would contact the railroad department or try to get the Corp of Engineers to look at the situation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New City Hall and Aquatic Center Updates

Alderman Oswalt stated he e-mailed questions concerning updates regarding the new city hall and aquatic center to the city clerk. He asked Mayor Bryant when he would receive the answers. Mayor Bryant stated he submit a written report and all questions will be answered for the next meeting.

Alderman Oswalt stated for the record, the questions are as follows:

1. What are the amounts in the bond accounts for city hall and recreation as of the end of July?
2. How much money is in reserves?
3. How much money is currently in each checking account (general, street, solid waste)?
4. How much money has been collected from commercial garbage collection since the city started collecting it? How much of that amount is currently available?
5. Has the city been given guidance on if spending the commercial garbage money, is it unrestricted? If so, by whom? How would you go about separating the commercial money from the sales tax money since it is in the same account?

September 4, 2018 Minutes cont.

Alderman Oswalt stated these are the questions from the previous meeting that Mayor Bryant was asked to send in. Alderman Capps asked would the questions be a part of the agenda package. Mayor Bryant stated “yes, the questions will be put in with the agenda.” He stated the reports could not be printed today, the clerk’s computer was down but the balance in the city hall bond account is \$680230.78, and pool project account balance is \$2,451,738.70 as of July 31, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

County Mileage

Mayor Bryant asked the council to look over the mileage and decide at the next meeting if they want to leave the rates the same.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$40,736.91. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Capps made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$3,547.28. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$2,681.85. The motion was second by Alderman Capps. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$41,638.45. Alderman Capps stated he did not see an invoice for attorney fees. He asked if there have been any attorney fees. Mayor Bryant stated “yes, the invoices are being worked on.” The motion was second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Bryant announced, he went to the Arkansas Municipal League Planning meeting, the cities will see increases in cost on property insurance and legal defense, vehicle insurance went up to due to accidents all over the state of Arkansas, the health fund is holding its own, street turnback for 2019 should be \$65.50 per capita, general turnback should be \$15.50 per capita for a total of \$81.00 per capita, APERS fees will remain the same at \$15.32 for 2019. Mark Hayes was elected executive director by the board to take Don Zimmerman’s place. There will be several noticeable changes in some of the Municipal League’s operations.

Alderman Capps asked for an open discussion on littering be add to the next agenda and possibly updating the ordinance for stiffer penalties.

Alderman Oswalt mentioned the discussion of closing of private clubs in a timely manner.

For additional context, reference the September 4, 2018 tape.

Alderman Echols made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. second by Alderman Fields.

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer