

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

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on December 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 led by Alderman Echols. The following answered roll call: Mayor Bryant, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Cline and City Council members: Capps, Echols, Fields, Metcalf, Oswalt, Poteat, Reeves, and Williams.

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes. Alderman Capps abstained.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget

Mayor Bryant presented the council with the 2019 proposed budget information. He said if there was anything that needed to be addressed to let him know and the changes will be made so the budget committee will have a complete budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Fixed Assets Deletions

Mayor Bryant stated the clerk's office prepared a list to delete capital fixed assets that are no longer in use; it is required by state auditor for the council to vote on the list. The motion was made by Alderman Oswalt. Second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Budget

Alderman Echols stated that the budget committee met last night, reviewed all revenues and expenditures with basic changes made to salaries and fringe benefits. Each employee will receive a \$.50 per hour salary increase. Alderman Echols told the council that they have a copy of the changes before them, but they were not ready to approve the budget tonight. The committee will meet again on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. and then the council will have a special called meeting to pass the budget at 6:00 p.m. She reminded the committee that a budget can be amended at any time.

Alderman Capps asked Alderman Echols if it was mandatory that a budget be passed by the end of the year. Alderman Echols stated, "No."

Civic Center Bathroom Bid Opening

Mayor Bryant stated seven bids came in for the civic center bathroom addition. He stated the bids came in extremely high:

Shields & Associated, Inc.	\$324,000	Moser Construction, LLC	\$298,575
Olympus Construction	330,000	John Brown Construction	322,000
Henry Peacock & Assoc.	278,000	Morris Beck Construction	324,000
Dearrius Howard Inc.	310,000		

Mayor Bryant stated the architect is checking to see why the bids came in so high.

Ordinance to Pay Mayor's Pension

Mayor Bryant stated in lieu of APERS percentage, he was informed that according to Ark. Code 24-12-123, he is eligible for half of his salary for retirement being that he has 10-years of service. The attorney has the information which needs an ordinance.

Alderman Capps asked would the money be paid out of city's funds. Mayor Bryant stated, it would. Alderman Capps then asked how many years he must be vested, Mayor Bryant stated ten years.

Alderman Oswalt stated this is the first time he has seen this; why is this just now coming to the attention of the council. He stated the city has been putting money into an account for the mayor's pension. He asked Mayor Bryant how much money is in that account. Mayor Bryant stated \$85,000. Alderman Oswalt asked Mayor Bryant if he was going to take the \$85,000. Mayor Bryant said, "No, he could not get both."

Alderman Poteat stated she understood what Mayor Bryant was saying because she is a state employee. Once you start drawing APERS, you cannot go back into the program; that is the law. Alderman Oswalt stated according to the statute, the city must budget half of the mayor's salary each year for pension. After more discussion, Mayor Bryant stated he would leave it up to the city attorney to do an ordinance.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$34,764.85. The motion was second by Alderman Echols. Roll Call: All Ayes

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Reeves made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund in the amount of \$27,101.80. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Williams made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$32,329.52. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Echols made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$105,169.03. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Bryant announced that the contractors are moving forward on all structures and if the weather holds up, the contractors may finish on schedule. Alderman Capps asked if there were a completion date. Mayor Bryant stated, "Yes, but he was not sure at the moment."

Alderman Reeve stated he would like to add to the budget agenda for December 27, 2018, the vote that was made on January 4, 2018 to pay public work director \$47,500.

For additional context, reference the December 18, 2018 tape.

Alderman Echols made a motion to adjourn at 6:18 p.m.

Larry Bryant, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer