

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL  
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS  
July 16, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on July 16, 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 Poteat. The following answered roll call: Mayor Williams, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Wright and City Council members: Williams, Metcalf, Fields, Reeves, and Poteat. Alderman Evansingston, Capps and Oswalt were absent.

Alderman Poteat made the motion to approve the July 2, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Ordinance Permitting Alderman Evansingston to Hold Employment with City of Forrest City**

Alderman Williams made a motion to read the ordinance for the third reading. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Attorney Wright read for the third reading **An Ordinance Permitting Alderman Jason Evansingston to Hold Employment with The City of Forrest City** sponsored by Alderman Fields. Roll call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Fields, Reeves, Poteat and Mayor Williams voted All Ayes. Alderman Evansingston, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

**Aquatic Center Rates Approval**

Mayor Williams told council they have in their package a spreadsheet that has comparison of Forrest City rates with other aquatic centers across the state of Arkansas. There is also tri-fold handout with three different proposals for rates, hours of operations and additional employees that are needed to run the center. Alderman Reeves asked Mayor Williams if he had a chance to go over the proposals and make a recommendation. Mayor William said he does. He and Mr. Taylor went back and looked at some of the areas comparisons; the daily and monthly rates are fair. The city monthly rates might be a little higher than some of the neighboring aquatic centers, but annual charges are less expensive.

Mayor Williams recommended proposal number three. It allows the additional hours of operation from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; it does not require as many employees up front. After the first quarter, the council could re-evaluate program.

Alderman Metcalf asked how much the recreation quarter-cent tax generates annually.

Mayor Williams stated, the quarter-cent tax is budgeted at \$500,000 per year.

Alderman Reeves asked if the quarter-cent tax was used for all recreational departments. Mayor Williams stated it has been used in the past for all parks and recreation departments; the plan is to continue to use it. After further discussion, Alderman Williams made the motion to accept the proposed rates that are stated in the brochure and the hours of operation for proposal number three. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Audio /Visual Bid Opening**

Mayor Williams asked if there were any bids in the audience. There were none.

One bid was opened from Sidetraxx Production, Daniel Uptigrove, 662 SFC 320, Forrest City, AR 72335 in the amount of \$27,552.37; the bid will be reviewed.

**Pension Status Larry S. Bryant**

Attorney Wright stated Former Mayor Larry Bryant provided him with the information that the council had been waiting on. The information showed the retirement he had elected through

APERS. It was for his first term serving as mayor from 1999-2006; the time was counted two-for-one for being an elected official. Pursuant to the state statue, he has served an additional eight

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years as mayor of Forrest City. There is more than enough time (as councilman) to add to the second term to get Mr. Bryant the ten years needed. Attorney Wright stated he does not know if anything else must be done on the city's behalf other than the city is obligated to pay the pension pursuant to the code Section 24-12-123. Alderman Poteat asked if Mr. Bryant is eligible for payment from January until now and questioned the \$85,000.

Attorney Wright stated Mr. Bryant elected which retirement plan he wanted. He chose half salary that will be paid from general fund and it will be retro back to January. He stated he did not think it was necessary to draw-up a waiver for Mr. Bryant to sign so he doesn't make a claim to the \$85,000; just a CYA type of deal.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Permission to Seek Bids to Sell a 1985 Ford Pierce C800 Fire Truck and 1991 Ford F-350**

Mayor Williams stated Chief Dallas is asking permission to bid both trucks from reserves. Alderman Poteat made the motion to allow Chief Dallas to seek bids for 1985 Ford Pierce C800 fire truck and a 1991 Ford F-350. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

#### **Police Department USDA Grant Resolution**

Attorney Wright read **A Resolution Authorizing and Providing for The Acceptance of A USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant Acquiring Funds for The Purchase of Police Vehicles and Equipment to serve An Area Lawfully Within Its Jurisdiction to Serve** Alderman Reeves made the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Fields, Reeves and Poteat All Ayes. Alderman Evansingston, Capps and Oswald were absent.

### **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$43,384.19. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

### **STREET FUND BILLS**

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills in the amount of \$14,089.57. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

### **SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS**

Alderman Reeves made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$24,870.23. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

### **FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY**

Alderman Poteat made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$40,026.94. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: All Ayes.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates**

Mayor Williams gave a big thank you to the public works department for cleaning up the limbs from the storm a few weeks ago.

Mayor Williams announced that city pride concluded today. The city pride program has been with the city many years; he gave a big thanks to Kenneth Taylor, Parks Director, Ms. Mae Ella Taylor and Stanley Johnson the original people who have served the youth over the years.

Mayor Williams announced the Mighty Mite event is coming up this weekend; he asked that the citizens support the event this Saturday.

Mayor Williams announced the Big Catch Fishing Derby this Saturday at the Forrest City Complex.

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For additional context, reference the July 16, 2019 tape.

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Fields.

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Cedric Williams, Mayor

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Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer