

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
June 18, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on June 18, 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: Metcalf, Williams, Fields, Reeves, and Poteat. Alderman Evansington, Capps, and Oswalt were absent.

Alderman Poteat made the motion to approve the June 4, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Permitting Alderman Evansington to Hold Employment with City of Forrest City

Attorney Wright read for the first reading **An Ordinance Permitting Alderman Jason Evansington to Hold Employment with The City of Forrest City** sponsored by Alderman Fields. Alderman Williams made a motion to pass the first reading. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Pension Status—Larry S. Bryant

Mayor Williams acknowledged Former Mayor Larry Bryant. He asked Mr. Bryant if he wanted to address the council concerning his pension.

Mr. Bryant stated he felt that the City of Forrest City has caused a disservice to him by not paying one red penny of his retirement for the last eight years of service. He stated he felt that he should had been contacted January 2019 if the city felt that he was ineligible for the two years of services that are outlined in the state law which would give him ten years of service and half salary until the day he dies. He stated no one wrote or contacted him for over three months, after which the city attorney contacted him with a request. He is present tonight to answer the request. He then stated a miscarriage has taken place. He has not tried to hurt his hometown in anyway. He has only tried to build the city up with sidewalks, houses, pool, wellness center and in a month a new city hall and a therapeutic pool and much more.

Money has been set aside for eight years which could have been used until the council receives the answer or resolution to the question. He stated APERS did not use any of his service years as alderman for the pension. His mayoral years were used two for one which gave him 16-years. He told council if there is no solution, he would be seeking legal remedy.

Attorney Wright stated he and Former Mayor Bryant had a nice conversation about how APERS applied his previous years of service. He said he does not discredit what Mr. Bryant is saying but what was told Mr. Bryant, he could not make a recommendation without getting confirmation from APERS in writing. Attorney Wright stated he could not get the information from APERS without Mr. Bryant's permission: he thinks it would take a simple release.

Mr. Bryant stated He will get the information from APERS and once he does, he wants the madness to stop.

Mayor Williams stated once the information is received, the council will then make a decision. Mayor Williams then asked Mr. Bryant if he wants to be paid from the \$80,000 that was previously set aside until the solution is made.

Mr. Bryant said yes.

NEW BUSINESS

St. Francis Care Center Board Appointment Cornescha Wright

Mayor Williams stated Ms. Wright has volunteered to served on the St. Francis Care Center Board. Alderman Reeves asked if this appointment is something that the council has approved in

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the past. Mayor Williams stated he was not sure. He then forwarded the question to Mrs. Wilburn who is a board member.

Mrs. Wilburn stated usually a board member is chosen through the board of directors of the St. Francis County Care Center. Interested members will complete an application that is given to the secretary and within two week the board would meet and make a decision.

Alderman Poteat stated she is looking at the ordinance, she then asked why the council is going out of the normal way of appointing someone to the board.

Mayor Williams stated there has not been a quorum for meeting in a while, several of the board members indicated that they may or may not continue to serve on the committee.

Alderman Reeves asked if the remaining board members are in favor of the appointment. Mayor William stated he did not know.

Alderman Poteat asked if this is their bylaws, will the council have the right to make the appointment.

Attorney Wright stated the council has the ultimate decision.

Alderman Williams made the motion to appoint Ms. Cornescha Wright to the St. Francis County Care Center Board. The motion was second buy Alderman Reeves. Roll Call Ayes.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$35,762.27. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Metcalf made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills in the amount of \$10,302.18. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. 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 \$45,352.11 except the ones with yellow tags. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Alderman Reeves asked what the yellow tagged bills are. Mayor William stated there are questions regarding those particular bills. Roll Call: All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Reeves made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$65,351.54. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Williams offered the council's condolence to Officer James Tucker's family. He was funeralized this past Saturday and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Mayor Williams gave an update on fire station #2 roof. The roof work is still ongoing; it should be completed within the next couple of weeks. The city hall and aquatic center are still ongoing. The aquatic center should be completed before the city hall.

Mayor Williams stated the Youth Summer program is going well. Thanks to Representative Murdock and those who have supported the program. Interviews are going on today. Program starting date is June 24, 2019. Special thanks to all the businesses in the region that have stepped up to employ the youth through this program.

Mayor Williams announced there will be a public meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:00p.m. at city hall to discuss future recreational construction projects and grants regarding some of the parks.

Mayor Williams reminded the council of Fire Chief Renigar's retirement reception it will be tomorrow at 5:00p.m. at the Forrest City Civic Center; everyone is invited.

For additional context, reference the June 18, 2019 tape.

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Alderman Fields made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf.

Cedric Williams, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer