

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

MCCRORY, ARKANSAS

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

The City Council of McCrory met in regular session on September 12, 2022.

Mayor Doyle Fowler opened and presided over the meeting.

Mayor Fowler began by saying we should all remember 9-11 from 21 years ago yesterday. The mayor told everyone we should never forget the lives lost on that terrible day in the history of our country.

Next was Pledge of Allegiance, then prayer led by Council Member Mary Whitlock

Roll call was given by City Clerk Karen Harrison and answered by members of the Council, Travis Taylor, Lou Dallas, Mary Whitlock, Ronnie Massanelli, and Amanda Austin. A quorum was established.

Next was the vacant council seat. Council Member Austin nominated Ryan Hollowell. Tim Carter nominated himself. The voting was Council Members Austin, Massanelli, Whitlock, Dallas, and Taylor were a yeah for Ryan Hollowell. Ryan Hollowell was sworn in by Quorum Court member James Jackson.

Council Member Austin made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 8, 2022 meeting as presented. Council Member Taylor gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries

Mayor Fowler stated he would keep his comments short. The mayor said he attended a conference with Mike Preston with Arkansas Economic Development. The problem with jobs in Arkansas is finding someone to fill them and getting them to stay. The state is looking at programs to help with this problem. Mayor Fowler told the council the city has a good group of employees and we need to do what we can to retain them. The clarifier project is close to finish, still waiting on parts for the sewer project, Delta Regional Authority is getting close to deciding on the grant for the loading dock, and the play ground grant is looking good.

Next was the monthly reports.

Animal Control Officer April Wagner told the council that she currently has 8 dogs in the pound. She also still has the 5 puppies at her house. She has spoken with NEA and they are full. TAPS is also full over capacity. All dog rescues are suffering. Council Member Massanelli asked about the problem on West 2<sup>nd</sup> st with the pit bulls. April hasn't heard but will check it out. Council Member Whitlock told April she heard that April never answers the phone or always says the pound is full. April advised Whitlock that she does go and check on the situation and writes tickets to the owners if she can find them. Council Member Whitlock asked April how she was on supplies. April told her she can always use dog food. Council Member Austin asked if we can expand the current location that houses the dogs. Council Member Dallas stated that Lowes has dog kennels to purchase. Council Member Massanelli asked if we can do it ourselves. Council Member Massanelli made a motion that Council Member Dallas and April Wagner can get together and find out the cost of temporary kennels or sections and use their best judgement on the cost. Council Member Austin gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Next was Chief of Police Brad Bevills. Brad reported \$27, 621.00 in court collections for the month with 212 misdemeanors and 1 felony case. Brad told the council that there was a problem with the grant for the AED's. The USDA rural development, who we have always used for the car grants, had rejected the

application because the city showed a gain in the budget. To be able to move forward we have to amend the budget. City Treasurer Bobby Trotter has added expenses so we need a copy of the minutes of amending the budget. Council Member Whitlock made a motion to amend the budget back to June 30, 2022 as explained by the mayor, for the AED equipment. Council Member Dallas gave a second. Five Council Members, Taylor, Dallas, Whitlock, Austin and Hollowell voted yeah. Council Member Massanelli voted no. Motion carries. Brad next told the council about a car grant. The stated returned bids on Sept. 4, 2022. There is a Dodge Charger V8 and a hybrid Ford Interceptor the chief can order. Council Member Taylor made a motion to go forward with the Ford Interceptor. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries. Chief Bevills advised Council Member Massanelli that he has spoken with Ms. Doris about the dog problem on West 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Next was Fire Chief Joe Slocum III. Joe reported a couple of grass fires. He stated that people still need to be mindful about dry conditions. The department also landed a helicopter and had a dumpster fire at chapel oaks.

Next was Water & Sewer Superintendent Jim Harrison. Jim spoke on the danger of having the tanks on the clarifier open. He doubts a child would get into it but there is always a chance. If the clarifier is running and someone falls in, they will drown. Jim also spoke on going up and down the steps to the clarifier. Jim thinks a walkway will help. Council Member Massanelli mad a motion to put security fences around the lower part of the clarifier. Council Member Austin gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries. Council Member Massanelli made a motion to have someone look to do something on the walkway. Council Member Whitlock gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries. Council Member Massanelli asked Jim about the latest water leak from the busted pipe done by the people digging for the new internet company. Council Member Whitlock made a motion to give an itemized invoice to Arrowhead company for complete reimbursement on the cost of the latest leak. Council Member Austin gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries. Council Member Massanelli asked Jim about the flooding around the school. Jim told him Mr. Carl Baldwin is coming to give an estimate.

Next was new business.

City Employee Jerry Brewster asked the council about making repairs on the street cuts through the asphalt. He stated that Cathy Brothers Construction out of Wynne can come and do the job for about \$200.00 a ton. Council Member Massanelli made a motion to have Jerry Brewster get in touch with Cathy Brothers Construction and get the repairs to our streets done. Council Member Austin gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

The mayor next told the council that the quorum court is meeting on Monday September 19, 2022 at 6:00 to discuss options on the Ambulance service in Woodruff County.

Next was Reni Wallis about Keeping Arkansas Beautiful. The state is encouraging everyone to help with the trash pickup in our state. People are to meet on September 24, 2022 at the civic center at 9:00. The first 20 volunteers will receive a free t-shirt.

Reni Wallis is also having a Halloween parade this year.

Dixon Street Band is playing on October 1, 2022.

The Farm to Table event is October 8, 2022.

Next Mayor Fowler brought up the fact that Lynn Simmons had complained to him about Nick Watson's pony. The mayor is trying to work this out because the city does have an ordinance about livestock. Nick stated that he will do whatever he has to but so should everyone else. Council Member Whitlock stated that we have laws so we need to use them. After some discussion the council tabled this until next month.

Council Member Austin made a motion to pay the bills. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Council Member Dallas made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Hollowell gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.