

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

MCCRORY, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 14, 2022

The City Council of McCrory met in regular session on November 14, 2022

Mayor Doyle Fowler opened and presided over the meeting.

Next was Pledge of Allegiance, then prayer led by Council Member Amanda Austin

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

Council Member Austin made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Mayor Fowler began the meeting by telling everyone that he it has been an honor and privilege to serve the City of McCrory as mayor for 16 years. He is looking forward to retirement. The mayor stated that the state and city finances are better. He also stated that the city has not had any employee turnovers in a while.

Quorum Court Member Frank Swanson addressed the city by saying he appreciated the mayor and council for their service. He went on to state that he was proud of what has been done in economic development. Frank told the council and citizens that overall, the Quorum court has helped McCrory with more money than they have the City of Augusta. Frank thanked the council and citizens for letting him serve 28 years on the Quorum court.

Next was Chief of Police Brad Bevills to give his monthly report. Brad reported \$27,964.34 in collections with 108 misdemeanors and 2 felonies. Brad is really trying to get the departments vacation taken care of, but with one officer out for 2 months on medical leave, he may have to ask the council to allow them to carry over vacation and sick leave. He wanted to clarify that the court money is not being spent at Mad Butcher, but it is restitution for a hot check collected by the court.

Next was Fire Chief Joe Slocum III. Joe stated that the city was out more money on fire department employees. The reason for this is the department had a lot of daytime fires. The department got their safety equipment for grain entrapment and are now looking for a trailer to carry the equipment. The association is going to pay for the trailer. The city will only be responsible for insurance and upkeep on the trailer.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Jim Harrison was next. Jim stated that the clarifier is online. He is only doing backwash every other day instead of 3 xs a day. Mayor Fowler stated that the infrastructure is bad and needs replaced.

Animal Control Officer April Rouse gave her monthly report. She has 25 dogs in the pound and 19 are puppies. She has three puppies leaving on Monday. April told the council that an employee of the city is getting on Face Book and bashing her. She feels this is not professional and she wants it to stop.

In Parks Lou Dallas stated she went to the ball park today and the concession stand is still a mess. Council Member Massanelli told Dallas the youth program used it last. He is going to contact Baily and tell her to clean it up.

Council Member Dallas stated that she is still looking at ways to get a new animal shelter. It is not looking good.

In new business Mayor Fowler told the council they need to pass resolution #2022-09 to authorize him to enter into an engineering agreement with Civil Engineering Associates of Jonesboro. Council Member Dallas made a motion to accept Resolution #2022-09 with the stipulation that they be careful and do the job. Council Member Taylor gave a second. The vote was 4 for and 2 against. Motion carries.

Next up was Financial Advisor Bobby Trotter with the 2023 budget.

The mayor next approached the council with employee Christmas bonuses. Council Member Austin made a motion to give the full-time employees \$600.00. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Next the council needed to pass the millage. Council Member Dallas made a motion to pass the millage rates. Council Member Austin gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Billy Rouse passed his latest class and got a certificate for waste water. Council Member Austin made a motion to give Rouse .50c an hour raise. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Next the council discussed the rodent problem in the civic center. The city is under contract with Terminix. Terminix did not know the problem was rats. The technician put out rat traps today for the problem. The council wants him to come every month at no extra cost. Council Member Austin made a motion to stay with Terminix if they will come out monthly and to follow up at 3 months. Council Member Massanelli gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

Next was the ordinance regulating farm animals in the city limits. Council Member Austin made a motion to table this until the January 2023 meeting. Council Member Taylor gave a second. All voted yeah. Motion carries.

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

Council Member Austin made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Hollowell gave a second. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.