

New year, new leadership

Sharon Taylor, City Reporter

The McCrory City Council met in their first meeting of 2023 under new leadership. Newly elected Mayor James Jackson called the meeting to order with the new City Clerk Lori Kendrick by his side.

New council members Tim Carter and Diane Powell took their seats and the group got down to business.

Mayor Jackson took a moment to thank everyone who had helped make the transition as easy as possible. He commended the city employees for helping and pass Mayor Doyle Fowler who gave him the updates and details of ongoing projects.

#### Department Reports

##### Police Department

Police Chief Brad Bevills gave the report for the McCrory Police Department.

Court collections for December came to \$15,273.18 which included 143 misdemeanors and 2 felony drug cases.

Bevills stated that he had hoped he would have some good news regarding the car grant, however he had no news. He hopes to have some answers by the next scheduled council meeting. The decisions should be made by the state the end of January.

January 9<sup>th</sup> is Police Officer Appreciation Day. It is celebrated all week long so, thank an officer, shake their hands, treat them to a drink or lunch. Let the MPD how much we love and appreciate them.

##### Fire Department

Mayor Jackson stated that Fire Chief Joe Slocum would not be in attendance. He and the McCrory Fire Department were fighting a fire and he would be on the job.

Thank you MFD for all you do.

#### Water Department

Water Superintendent Jim Harrison addressed the council. He stated that the cold weather with sudden drop in temps was hard on the city. Many had busted water lines to deal with and the city had to keep up with demand. But they managed and survived. However, since that challenge, there is a new one. The motor on the clarifier, described as the size of a football, has quit. The company that placed it says there is nothing wrong with it, but it does not work. A representative of the company who is a certified electrician, will be at the water plant Wednesday to try to figure out the issue. The part and the work are still under warranty. Council member Ronnie Massanelli suggested we get the city attorney involved now if they do not fix it correctly Wednesday. Harrison agreed.

#### Animal Control

April Wagner addressed the council stating that she had seven grown dogs and 11 puppies. The NEA Rescue is full and so other all other shelters that help relieve the stress for smaller entities, such as McCrory.

After some discussion, the council voted unanimously to waive the adoption fee for the remainder of January. This will allow interested parties to apply for ownership of one of the pound pups without an adoption fee. These dogs will still be vetted, but the city will cover those expenses. Families will still be screened, so April can make sure the dogs are going to good homes.

It is also important to note that all fees regarding dogs, license for the city and fines, will be paid at City Hall to Karen Hampton.

#### Miscellaneous

The council agreed to keep the meeting times set on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. and to be governed according to the Robert's Rules of Order that is used across the country.

Tammy Brewster with ARcare gave an update on the Warehouse Program that is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the Civic Center beginning at 10 a.m.

They have moved all the perishable foods to an ARcare building in McCrory. They do still have some cooler space at the Civic Center. It is unclear if there is still a pest invading the Civic Center, but it will no longer feast on the food for the Warehouse.

Resolution 2023-01 regarding the annual Budget Amendment was passed unanimously by the council.

Resolution 2023-02 regarding the sewer line that is connecting at Delt Ark allowing the city to move forward with the project also passed unanimously.

The bids were open for this project and J & R Construction inc. won the bid process. They are located in Palestine and their bid came in at \$30,931.75.

The council voted to give all full time employees a \$1 an hour cost of living raise. This passed unanimously.

The council voted to raise the City Treasurer's salary from \$900 per month to \$1200 per month. Bobby Trotter serves as the City Treasurer.

The Council asked Jackson for information on the ambulance service, or lack thereof. There are still reports of people having to wait for an hour for medical attention. This is unacceptable when the county and each municipality pay huge process to have service here, as well as bought the truck for Woodruff County.

Jackson stated that he would have some information for them by the next meeting.

The council then questioned the trash pick up prices charged by Dunham Trash Collectors. They currently have the contract with the city, however it is unclear how they come to their pricing. This leaves the city unclear what to charge their customers for trash pick up.

Again, Jackson stated he would have some answers by the next meeting, reminding council he had been on the job exactly 5 days.

The council decided to take some of the funds in the city into CD's so that it can be drawing interest. They voted to invest in 1 year CD's that will draw interest.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the McCrory City Council will be Feb. 13, 2023. The meetings will be at the Civic Center in downtown McCrory. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.