

Unofficial Minutes
McCrary City Council Meeting
February 13, 2023
McCrary Civic Center

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jackson at 7:00 pm and then those in attendance said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening prayer was said by Council member Austin.

Roll call for attendance taken. Council members present were Tim Carter, Amanda Austin, Diane Powell, Lou Dallas and Travis Taylor. Absent council members were Ronnie Massanelli.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor Jackson spoke with Betty Searcy concerning the grant for the dog pound. She stated that we need to get the process started of getting the grant money designated before the end of September or the city will have to give it back. Mayor Jackson had photos present of the new Newport dog pound that all members of the council were able to look at prior to the meeting. He went over the specs of their building and stated that he can call to see if they would be willing to share their plans with us if we would like to review them. He will try to have their plans by the next meeting.

Mayor Jackson stated that he will be getting the check for the Raney Park project and that once we get the check it should not take long to get the equipment for the park.

The extension project at the Worldwide Label factory is moving along. The engineers were here last week looking over everything and there is a pole belonging to Entergy that has to be moved. After this, we should be ready to start accepting bids for the extension.

Minutes of the January meeting were emailed to all council members for their review prior to the meeting and there were no changes made to the minutes. Council member Dallas made a motion to accept the minutes. Council member Austin seconded the motion. All council members present voted yes, motion carried.

Police Report:

- Chief Bevills went over the court collections and cases from January.
- Chief Bevills stated that he had spoken to Betty Searcy and she told him that all the grants have been put on hold as of right now until the Governor releases the grants again.
- Chief Bevills has had some citizens approach him asking about riding golf carts and if McCrary had an ordinance for such. He handed out copies of the statute AR Code 14-54-1410 - Operation of Golf Carts on City Streets to the council members. He also handed out ordinances from Tuckerman and Cherokee Village. He did not ask for a decision to be made on this tonight. He brought forth the information for the council to consider and decide if the city would like to make an ordinance. As of right now, we do not have an ordinance, which makes it hard to enforce. Council member Dallas asked if

the citizen was asking for riding or against riding. The citizen was asking for riding. Chief Bevills would like for the council to take into consideration a minimum age to operate a golf cart on the city streets. Council member Dallas asked if this ordinance would include motorized bicycles or scooters and the Chief told her that this ordinance was specific to golf carts.

Fire Report:

- Chief Slocum went over the calls for the month of January: 2 calls and 2 drills
- One of the doors on the North Fire Station is damaged. An estimate was given by Harris Door Company to replace one glass section and three intermediate sections for \$2,425.00. Chief Slocum asked the council to approve the estimate for the repair.
- Council member Austin made a motion to accept the bid to repair the door for \$2,425.00 and Council member Taylor seconded. All present council members voted yes. Motion carried.

Water/Sewer Report:

- Water Superintendent Harrison stated that the water clarifier is working right now.
- When the new motor came in, the electrician wired it wrong and that was what was causing it to get hot and make a noise. A second electrician came today to check to see why it was getting hot and making a noise. He noticed that it was wired incorrectly so he got it wired correctly.
- Council member Taylor asked about the warranty on the new motor. Superintendent Harrison stated that there is a one year warranty that started on December 15, 2022. Superintendent Harrison will be ordering an additional motor to have on hand.
- The city is currently using a leaf vac from Wynne and they have offered to sell it to us for \$5,000.00. After some discussion, a motion was made by council member Dallas to purchase the leaf vac from Wynne. Council member Taylor seconded. All present council members voted yes. Motion carried.
- Mayor Jackson is going to look into getting a grant for a new leaf vac, but it may take a year or so.
- Superintendent Harrison passed out the lease agreement for the lawnmower that the city currently has with Greenway. The lease will be up on April 15, 2023. The city has the option to turn the current mower in and lease another one or to purchase the current lawnmower out right for \$3,522.96. If the city chooses to lease another mower, Greenway covers any repairs, whereas if we purchase the current mower, the city is responsible for repairs. The mower currently has less than 300 hours on it. The city currently has an older mower that has to be worked on all the time. It would be beneficial to have two working mowers to cut down on mowing time. Superintendent Harrison said he would love to buy the current mower we have on lease and sell the older mower, then either lease or purchase a second mower.
- Council member Austin made a motion to purchase the mower for \$3,522.96. Council member Carter seconded. All present council members voted yes. Motion carried
- No other decisions were made on the old mower - whether to sell or not. No other decisions were made for the lease or purchase of a new mower.

- The lift project at the Nursing Home is currently being worked on.
- Supplies for the sewer project are coming in.

Animal Control:

- Animal Control officer Wagner stated that there are currently 18 dogs, 11 of which are puppies.
- Still unable to move any dogs at this time. All rescue facilities are at capacity.
- All dogs are on Petfinder
- One person came forward to adopt a dog in January with the adoption fee waived, but this person has had their dogs picked up multiple times
- Mayor Jackson had an individual offer to pay the adoption fee for 5 dogs. This person wants to stay anonymous. This person did not want to give money for the pound, but wanted to pay the fee.
- A person has asked if they could volunteer at the dog pound. This person was told to go to City Hall and speak with either the Mayor or Police Chief. The person has not shown up to talk about volunteering. The person wanting to volunteer was wanting/needing to do more as community service than volunteering. Mayor Jackson stated that it is not Animal Control Officer Wagner's place to tell someone if they can volunteer or not.
- There is a dog currently at the dog pound that has attacked another dog. If this dog happens to attack another dog, something will have to be done with the dog.
- With the incident at the pound, both dogs were taken to the vet. The attacking dog had to have a leg stapled. Both dogs are currently on antibiotics.

Parks Report:

- Work will begin on Raney Park in March

Treasurer Report:

- This year, the city will accrue approximately \$39,298.00 in interest from our CDs.
- The street fund currently has \$425,000. Would the council like to put some of this money in a CD for interest?
- The city will be getting a grant later in the year for paving that will go in the street fund. This grant is usually received every other year.
- Treasurer Trotter explained that the County sales tax is getting split between the general fund and Fire truck equipment. The street fund is showing a monthly net income of \$12,000.00
- The general fund had a deficit of \$12,000.00 mainly because of unused vacation time that was paid out.
- Council member Dallas made a motion to take \$250,000.00 from the street fund and place it in a CD at an interest rate of approximately 4.19%. Council member Taylor seconded. Roll call vote. All present members voted yes. Motion carried. Clerk Kendrick read the top part of the ordinance twice.

New Business:

- Internet service will be placed in the Civic Center for the court. It will be paid for through the fines collected.
- The company working on the fiber optic lines has started back working since it has gotten warmer and the supervisor will be in town on Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss how things are going.
- The handbook states that there is a sick leave policy for banking days. It states that there is to be a committee to okay all sick leave given from the sick day bank when the employee is out of days. Council member Diane Powell and Chief Bevills volunteered to be on the committee. Mayor Jackson was going to ask Billy Rouse to be on the committee as well, but he was not in attendance.
- Judge Grey is trying to get an ambulance board committee meeting set for next Thursday. The county is supposed to purchase a new ambulance at the end of this year, but Mayor Jackson would like to get some things cleared up before we move forward with that. Pafford is not currently dispatching through our 911 system.
- Mayor Jackson stated that he was unable to locate a current contract with WastePro and that when he talked with them, they stated that when they took over for Downums, they just continued with the same contract. They also stated that the 7-8 bag limit has always been part of their contract.
- Changes to the dog ordinance: Change to section 3 - From City Clerk to McCrory District Court Clerk. Change to section 6 - From five (5) days to ten (10) days. Council member Austin made a motion to accept the changes. Council member Taylor seconded. All council members present voted yes. Motion carried.
- Clerk Kendrick read the top part of Ordinance 316-AA motion was made by council member Austin to suspend the three readings and to only read the top part only of the new ordinance. Council member Taylor seconded. Roll call vote. All council members present voted yes. Motion carried.
- Clerk Kendrick read the top part of Ordinance 316-A a second time. Council member Austin made a motion to pass Ordinance 316-A. Council member Taylor seconded. Roll call vote. All council members present voted yes.

Council member Austin made a motion to pay the bills. Council member Dallas seconded. All council members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Council member Dallas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Austin seconded. All council members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

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