

Unofficial Minutes
McCrary City Council
March 13, 2023

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Jackson. He then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council member Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk Kendrick called roll. Council members present were Tim Carter, Amanda Austin, Diane Powell, Lou Dallas and Travis Taylor. Coach Massanelli was not present until later in the meeting due to a softball game.

Council member Dallas made a motion to approve February council minutes as presented. Council member Austin second the motion. All council members present voted in favor to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Mayor's remarks:

- The World Wide Label project should be ready to announce that they are ready to take bids by the end of March and through April.
- Mayor Jackson, Judge Gray, ARCare representative and a representative from Augusta met as the County Ambulance Board met and agreed that they will meet quarterly. They will also work on getting a representative from Pafford to attend the meetings so they are able to answer questions.
- The Workforce Act from White River Development will allow the city to hire an individual for six months to work with the street department or do mowing. The Workforce will pay this employee, it will not cost the city anything. The person cannot be currently employed by the city. There is also no obligation from the city to continue employment past the six months. Council member Dallas asked how much the individual would get paid. Mayor Jackson stated that the pay would most likely be minimum wage. No discussion was had and Mayor Jackson will try to get more information for the council and it will be decided next month.
- Mayor Jackson and Chief Bevills spoke with the manager at Chapel Oaks about the overflowing dumpsters and the furniture. WastePro did pick up on Friday and that took care of most of it. Mayor Jackson stated that when the city gets an empty dumpster, they will get by there and pick up the furniture that is beside the dumpsters. There will be signs placed by the dumpsters stating that they are for Chapel Oaks residents only. However, it will be hard for the city to enforce that because Chapel Oaks does not provide a list of residents to the city.

Guest speakers:

- Tammy Brewster -No longer working for ARCare, no other representative in attendance.
- Bryan Hurford - was not in attendance
- Courtney Cassanelli and Mark Killingsworth - representatives from MAYPA
 - Mrs. Cassanelli addressed the council about local businesses not being able to contribute as much or at all this year as they did last year.
 - Mr. Killingsworth addressed the council in regards to the total cost of Mosquitofest and asked the council if they would consider making a contribution to help with the cost. Last year's event cost \$30,400. That included entertainment, insurance, port-a-potties, and clean-up.

- Under Arkansas Code 14-54-1301, the city can spend for public recreation. This allows the city to acquire, equip, and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; and expend funds for the operation of the program pursuant to the provisions of the subchapter.
- Treasurer Trotter did state that the city does have a Special Project Fund account that the funds could come from.
- After much discussion, Council member Massanelli made a motion for the city to allow for a cap of \$3,000 from the Special Project Fund to help MAYPA with Mosquitofest. Council member Austin second the motion. All council members voted yes, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Mr. Killingsworth stated that after the event, they will come to a meeting to give a recap of how things went.

Police Report:

- Chief Bevills went over the court report
- At this time, 2 police officers are eligible for their Intermediate Certificate. Both have completed the college courses and continuing education required for the certificate. Nick Watson has received his certificate and Andrew Gonzales has all his information turned in, he just hasn't received the certificate. Previously, when an employee received a certificate, they received a raise of \$0.50 an hour. Chief Bevills asked for the council to consider giving the two officers the raise since they have gotten their certificate. Council member Taylor made a motion to give Officer Watson his raise immediately and to give Officer Gonzales his raise once he receives his certificate. Council member Carter second the motion. All members present voted yes, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Golf Cart Ordinance - Chief Bevills stated the only decision that the council needed to make tonight was if they were going to have an ordinance to allow the use of golf carts on city streets. Council member Dallas voiced concern that if we allow this ordinance for golf carts, is it going to open the council up for others to come forward and want ordinances for other things. Chief Bevills made it clear that there would be strict stipulations for drivers age, how many riders, liability insurance, acceptable roads they can be on. He also stated that the statute clearly states that they cannot be on state highways, which prevents any use on Edmonds, East Raney, and Poplar. Council member Austin made a motion to create an ordinance for the use of golf carts. Council member Carter second the motion. Roll call vote was requested. Council members voting in favor for the motion were Council member Carter, Council member Austin, Council member Powell, and Council member Taylor. Council member Dallas voted against the motion. Council member Massanelli was not present for the vote. The motion carried 4 to 1.
- Chief Bevills will work on getting the ordinance written and distributed to the council meeting prior to next month's meeting.

Water & Sewer Report:

- Billy Rouse passed his test today. Getting him an additional certification.
- The filters at the water plant are worn out. Unsure if they can be repaired or if they will have to be replaced. Someone will be coming on Tuesday, March 14 to get a core sample. The filters are worn out due to the backwashing 3 times a day for the past 3 to 4 years. The iron residual is running low, but the manganese is hard to control
- Two water plugs need to be replaced. One on the corner of Jackson and 6th was hit by an Amazon truck. This one can be valved off and repaired. A police report was done for this so the company should be paying for repairs to this water plug. The second one is on the corner of Seaman and 5th. It has been leaking for a while. It is not able to be valved off for repair because

it does not have the Inserta-valve. The inserta-valve allows them to turn the water plug off to be worked on. The valve can be purchased for \$7800 and a new plug can be \$2700.

- The Main Street lift station had to be pumped out recently due to the sludge.
- Clarifier is working fine. Still trying to dial in the chemicals but it is getting better.
- Superintendent Harrison asked the council to consider giving part time employee Renee Wallis a raise. Mayor Jackson stated that the city had not given any part time employees a raise, so they would have to take a look at the salaries of other part time employees. At this time part time employees working for the Water Department are paid \$12.00 an hour. Part time employees working for the Police Department are paid \$13.00 an hour. The council talked about the importance of our part time employees. Council member Austin made a motion to give all city part time employees a \$1.00 an hour raise. Council member Powell second the motion. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.
- Mayor Jackson then questioned if the Water Department still had a position for a fifth person. If they were to hire a fifth person full time, would they make \$13.00 an hour. There were questions brought up on whether or not the city was actively looking for another full time employee. The council decided that a fifth full time employee was not needed at this time.
- Council member Dallas inquired about Mr. Rouse receiving a raise since he will be getting another certificate. He does not have the certificate yet, since he just passed the test. He will be receiving it within the next week or so. Council member Dallas made a motion to give Mr. Rouse a \$0.50 an hour raise once he receives his certificate. Council member Massanelli second. All council members present voted yes, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Harrison brought up the need for a new lawn mower. Does the city want to move forward with the leasing of a new mower at this time? Council member Taylor asked if it would be more beneficial to lease/purchase a small lawn tractor to use for mowing at the ball fields instead of a zero turn mower. Superintendent Harrison stated that if the grass is wet, that they don't mow. He also stated that the old mower that the city has is too big to get in some of the small places. The need is for a smaller mowing deck. The best option would be to lease one like the current one. Council member Austin made a motion to lease a new mower similar to the one that was just purchased. Council member Taylor second the motion. All council members present voted yes, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Council member Carter asked Superintendent Harrison about the sewer backup on Johnson Street when it rains. Superintendent Harrison stated that he thinks that all the lines tie in together right in there and that there are lots of tree roots in the lines. Council member Carter will let Superintendent Harrison know when it happens again.
- Council member Massanelli asked if the engineer had looked at the flooding problem in front of the cafeteria. The problem is that there are no ditches in the area and the water has no where to drain.

Fire Report:

- Chief Slocum gave a report of all calls made for February
- Council member Dallas asked if the door at the Fire Station had been fixed yet. Chief Slocum informed the council that it had not been fixed because the company is waiting for a door to come in.
- Last month four firemen attended a class in Hazen for Grain Bin rescue. He also stated that our department does have the equipment needed for such a rescue.

Animal Control Report:

- Animal Control Officer April Wagner gave a report on how many dogs are currently at the pound. There are currently 17 dogs, 11 of which are puppies.

- TAPS took one dog last week and will be taking five of the puppies on Friday.
- Control Officer Wagner stated that she is working on trying to get someone else to take the other six puppies.
- Council member Massanelli asked if there had been more dogs registered. Currently 10% or less of the dogs in town are registered. Discussed the need to work on getting the dogs in the city registered.
- Mayor Jackson stated that a decision has to be made on the dog pound. The city has a grant for \$50,000 and currently has an additional \$48,000 in a fund. Newport built their pound for \$110,000. The city will have to put in additional money to finish the pound because of the fees for the engineers and contractors. Discussion was had about the details of the building. Council member Austin made a motion to move forward with building a dog pound like the one Newport has. Council member Dallas second the motion. Mayor Jackson asked for a roll call vote. Council members Carter, Austin, Powell, Dallas, and Taylor voted in favor of the motion. Council member Massanelli voted against the motion. Motion carried 5-1. Council member Massanelli explained his no vote. He states that he is not against a new pound, he is opposed to spending over \$110,000 for a dog pound.

Parks Report:

- Raney Park Grant is moving forward. Mayor Jackson has accepted the "big check" of \$99,522.00. That money will be spent on playground equipment, sidewalk, fencing around the park, and handicap parking.
- Elizabeth Swanson Park - Jim Harrison has been down there working on the bathrooms and concession stand.
- Ike Brown Park - Brown-Williams Committee has placed a sign in the park and they would like to place a second one. Mayor Jackson would like to have the park surveyed before they place another sign to be sure that they place it on the city property. Mayor Jackson will go ahead and get it surveyed.
- With the Raney Park grant, the city will have around \$75,000 after paying engineers and contractors. Those funds will purchase the playground equipment and other things. The city may have to pay for the sidewalk and parking spaces.

Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer Trotter went over the balance sheet for the month of February.
- He stated that he had placed \$250,000 in a CD from the Street Fund. There are \$845,000 in CDs from the water fund and that \$130,000 is restricted and tied to loans.
- Treasurer Trotter brought up the sanitation fees. Mayor Jackson stated what WastePro is currently charging the city per water meter. They are currently charging the city \$13.00 per water meter. Our fee is \$14.00 per meter. The problem is that WastePro is also charging an environmental fee and fuel charge which brings the total charge per meter to the city between \$16.00 and \$17.00. This is the reason the sanitation fee is coming up short.
- Council member Massanelli would like to know what the landfill fees are. Mayor Jackson will try to get a representative from WastePro to attend a meeting.

New Business:

- State Aid City Street Program Project Resolution No. 2023-04
 - Resolution was read by Clerk Kendrick

- Motion was made by Council member Austin to accept the resolution. Council member Massanelli second. Mayor Jackson asked for a roll call vote. All council members voted to accept the resolution.
- Mayor Jackson has had several people come to him about a burnt house. He stated that several people from the city have talked with the owner about cleaning up the property. Council member Massanelli asked if the city could condemn a property. Mayor Jackson said that there is an ordinance that allows for the condemnation of a property. But the council would have to stand by the ordinance and follow through with paying to have it torn down if Ms. Wallis doesn't get it done in the time allotted. If the city tears it down, they will place a lien on the property. The council agreed to table this until more information can be gathered.

Council member Austin made a motion to pay the bills. Council member Dallas second. All council members voted yes, none opposed. Motion carried.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn. Council member Taylor second. All council members voted yes, none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm,

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