

Unofficial Minutes  
McCrary City Council  
April 10, 2023

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

Council member Dallas 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 due to softball game.

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

**Mayor Comments:**

- Hoping to have had a drawing of the plan for the Raney Park project for the meeting, but the draft that the architect drew up did not fit the specs of the park. The architect stated that he had googled the park and drew up the plans from that. He came to town to actually look at the park and get a better idea of the size of it and will be revamping his plans. He also looked at the plans for the dog pound.
- The waste water project is coming along. The parts have been paid for, but we do not know when work will begin since our grant is still pending. This is the grant that we will get a portion of back.

**Police Report:**

- Court collections for March \$22,000.41
- Total of 82 court cases – 31 criminal, 1 juvenile, 17 city ordinance, 33 traffic
- Mike at Red River Dodge called to let us know that the vehicle ordered was in. However, the grant money has not been approved/released for the vehicle. It should be approved/released by the end of April. Once the funds are received the vehicle will be picked up and taken to MJ Communications to be set up.
- Golf Cart Ordinance – council members were each given a copy of the ordinance that was written up. There was quite a bit of discussion had about the verbiage of the ordinance and a few things that needed to be reworded. A question was posed by Council member Taylor if an individual that has a work permit/hardship license would be able to drive a golf cart. Chief Bevills stated that he would find out for next month's meeting.
- Council member Austin made a motion to table the vote on the ordinance until next month once everyone can look over the revised copy. Council member Dallas second the motion. All council members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Fire Report:**

- The fire department responded to a structure fire and a vehicle fire last month. They assisted Augusta Fire Department with a house fire and 7 firemen went over to assist Wynne with Search and Rescue after the tornado.
- The door for the North Station still has not come in.
- Students with the EAST program were going to make a list of McCrory residents that have storm shelter.
- Chief Slocum asked if the city had any large laminated maps. He stated that when they were in Wynne assisting, that they had several that they could lay out on tables and use for search and rescue. They broke the map up in sections and people would take pictures of the sectioned map to go search.

**Water & Sewer:**

- Billy received his certificate!
- The water plant is doing better and the Manganese level is where it needs to be.
- The water plant is getting new lighting. The lights will have more lumens than the original lights. There are eleven more lights that need to be replaced. The original lights cost \$600 a piece and the new ones that have been put in are \$200 each. Roughly, the new lighting will cost \$2,600. There will need to be a lift used for the replacement of the remaining lights. They can probably all be replaced in a day or two.
- Pickup of large items placed on the side of the street is becoming a problem. Superintendent Harrison asked if the city needed to look in to charging for large pickups. When the city picks up these large items, it tends to fill up the dumpsters at the city shop quicker. A statement was made that the city workers hauled 8 to 9 loads from one residence. After much discussion on the matter, the council decided to table any decisions until next month.
- Mayor Jackson spoke some on the WastePro fees for our residential accounts. He did not have any information for commercial accounts. WastePro is adding environmental fees and other service fees to their bills, which is causing our costs to go up.

**Animal Control:**

- Currently have 16 dogs, 6 of which are puppies
- NEA Humane Society unable to take any dogs; said it would be a minimum of a month before they can take any.
- TAPS unable to take any dogs.
- The city will be getting a sticker/magnet to place on the city truck that says Dog Catcher.
- When the police department gets their new vehicle, the city may convert an old police vehicle in to an Animal Control vehicle since it already has a cage in it.

**Parks:**

- As stated above, the architect came to town and realized that his plan would not work and he had to make corrections to his plan.
- The gazebo will be moved to the lot south of City Hall.
- The fountain will be moved as well, but the location has not been determined.
- The handicap parking will be on the East side of Raney Park.

- Question was asked if the fence between Raney Park and the United Methodist Church Park was going to be removed. There was no definitive answer, only that people had heard that it might be taken down or that a gate might be put in. If the church would like to do something like this, the council would appreciate a representative from the church to address the council with any ideas/plans they may have.
- There will be a 4 foot fence placed all around the park.

**Treasurer Report:**

- The Raney Park grant is \$99,000 but after the planner and architect fees, the city will have approximately \$75,000 for playground equipment, fencing, sidewalks, signage and paint for handicap parking.
- Sewer pond account received 2 checks from COVID money. The city wrote a check out of that account for the parts for the waste water project for renovation of the pond.
- Sanitation fees are getting higher

**New Business:**

- Imagination Library – School Donation. In 2019 the council voted to enter into a 5-year contract with the school. The contract was for \$600 and to be used for the Imagination Library. The city paid in 2019 and 2020, but there is no record of any payment of 2021 or 2022. There was no payment made those years because the city did not receive any type of bill or invoice to be paid.
- A motion was made by Council member Dallas to pay the \$600 for 2023 to finish the existing contract and that the contract will not be renewed. Council member Austin second. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Council member Dallas would like to have the Civic Center fixed up some. Would like to have some contractors come give bids to fix it up. Mayor Jackson will try to contact some local contractors to come by before the next meeting to give bids and maybe address the council next month.
- The wooden petitions that are used in the Civic Center for the windows need updated. The option to purchase some new ones or to replace the batting on the current ones was talked about. Mayor Jackson said that he had someone come to him and tell him that they would work on them, but he has not heard back from the individual. Council member Austin stated that she would talk with the individual and have them contact Mayor Jackson.

Motion was made by Council member Austin to pay the bills. Council member Dallas second. All council members present voted in favor to pay the bills.

Council member Dallas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council member Austin second the motion. All members present voted in favor to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm