

Unofficial Minutes
McCrorry City Council
May 8, 2023

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening prayer by Council member Travis Taylor.

Clerk Kendrick called roll. All council members in attendance.

Amendment to the April minutes: Council member Austin asked that it be added that she asked what was going to be done about the memorial plaques and the trees that had been planted in memory of people. After the minutes were amended with the above, council member Austin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Council member Taylor second. All council members voted to approve the minutes as amended.

Mayor Remarks:

- Mosquitofest is next weekend and the city workers have been working hard to get the city cleaned up.
- Council member Massanelli had asked Mayor Jackson about the rodent problem in the back of the Civic Center. Mayor Jackson stated that he had brought some bread and put it out in the back with the other traps that are back there, and nothing has been touched in the last month. He feels that the problem has been taken care of, but the city will have the pest control people to keep a check on it.

Police Report:

- There was a total of 139 misdemeanor cases and 1 felony case for the month of April. Total court collections were \$15,665.02.
- Chief Bevills spoke with Flora Pruitt about the car grant. Ms. Pruitt stated the city has been approved for the car grant and that we are waiting on the release of funds.
- As soon as the funds are released, the car will be picked up and taken to MJ communications to get set up.

Water/Sewer:

- Work will begin on May 10 or May 11 to start work on the sewer plant.
- Cain Auctions will be having an auction in June and Superintendent Harrison asked if the council would consider putting the mower up for auction. Council member Massanelli asked if anyone had shown any interest in the mower and Sup. Harrison stated that there had not.
- Council member Massanelli made a motion to put the old city mower up for auction with Cain Auction. Council member Austin second. All council members voted in favor for the motion. Motion carried. The mower will be up for auction in June.
- Council member Massanelli asked about the area down by the elementary where the cones and rocks were. Sup. Harrison stated that work on that should be completed by the end of the week and that the work at City Hall should also be completed by end of the week.

Fire Report:

- There were a few firemen that went to Wynne last month to help with disaster relief and there were 2 drills
- There will be a hose test, weather permitting, on May 13
- The door for the North Station should be delivered within the next couple of weeks.
- The EAST program does have a list of all citizens with storm shelters.
- There are still tickets available for the Fish Fry on May 18. Contact Kenny Simons at FG if you would like to get tickets.

Animal Control:

- Currently have 16 dogs at the pound
- All dogs are posted on TAPS, PetFinder and Facebook
- The puppies are currently all in one kennel but will have to be split up soon because they are getting too big to stay together.

Parks:

- Council member Dallas stated that she has gone down to the Elizabeth Swanson Park after a rain and water stands everywhere down there, but overall, the city is doing a good job keeping it mowed.
- Mike Tubbs is over the Youth Program and is very pleased with all the city is doing.
- There is a board broken on the bleachers at Ike Brown Park and a few more look bad. Mayor Jackson has ordered some from Lowe's. The area is roped off at this time until the boards can be replaced.

Treasurer Report:

- Sanitation expense is continuing to rise

Mayor Jackson asked for Water Superintendent Harrison to come back to the podium to ask him about the truck that was used for the mosquito sprayer. The truck that was used last year broke down, so the city used a one-ton truck that worked alright except going down alleys. The fuel pump went out on the truck and will have to be replaced before we start spraying this year. Council member Massanelli voiced concern that spraying for mosquitos does not seem to help at all in his neighborhood. Council member Austin stated it was the same way in her neighborhood. The chemicals that the city can use have to be approved by the EPA. The city does not want to use anything that is not approved. At this time, the city will continue using the chemicals we have.

New Business:

- Mayor Jackson had a couple of employees ask him about Juneteenth and if it was a paid holiday. The council voted last year to recognize the holiday but did not vote for it to be a paid holiday. The county and the city of Augusta have both recognized it as a paid holiday. The state has left the decision up to individual cities to decide if they want it to be a paid holiday or not. If the council decides to make it a paid holiday, a vote must be had so that an ordinance can be drawn

up stating that Juneteenth will be a paid holiday. The ordinance will be drawn up with an emergency clause to get it taken care of at that time.

- Council member Massanelli made a motion to draw up an ordinance to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for McCrory city employees. Council member Austin second. All council members voted in favor of the motion. An ordinance will be drawn up for the June council meeting.
- Worldwide Contract – Council member Austin asked if there was anything in the contract stating that there would be no changes to the contract. There is nothing stating that, but if there are changes, it must be approved by White River Development, Delta Regional Authority, and the council. Question was brought up about the bid process and if the council was supposed to be present to open the bids and go over them. Mayor Jackson stated that each council member received an invitation to come for the opening of the bids. There were 6 contractors that asked to submit a bid. Only 3 contractors placed a bid.
 - Contractors listed on bid sheet: Carl Baldwin Construction, Inc., Wynne, AR – no bid placed; Crawford Builders, McCrory, AR – bid placed; BMB Builders, Beebe, AR – no bid placed; AMR Construction, LLC, Little Rock, AR – bid placed; Spurlock Inc., Searcy, AR – no bid placed; and Thompson Construction Services, LLC, Greenbrier, AR – bid placed.
 - The contractor will begin construction as soon as possible and the completion date has been moved from October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2023
 - Council member Dallas made a motion that the council consider the resolution 2023-05. Council member Taylor second. Roll call vote requested. Council member Austin voted against the consideration. All other council members voted for the consideration Motion passed 5-1.
 - Clerk Kendrick read Resolution 2023-05; Resolution authorizing the Mayor of McCrory, AR to enter a contract with Crawford Builders to construct a loading dock at Worldwide Label and Packaging.
 - Council member Dallas made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05. Council member Taylor second. Roll call vote requested. Council member Austin voted against the resolution. All other council members voted in favor of the resolution.
- Street Paving project money match
 - When the paving project began, the grant was approved for \$75,000. When the bids were finally received, they were much higher than the grant was approved for. The bid came in for \$340,854.91. The Department of Transportation has stated that they will increase the grant funds to \$300,000 if the city will cover the remaining \$40,854.91. If not, the amount will remain at \$75,000 and the amount of paving would be reduced to how much that would cover.
 - The streets to be paved include Main Street (Fakes to Worldwide), Raymond Circle, Callahan, and some of Mill Street.
 - Council member Missanelli stated that the streets to be paved are not the same streets that were agreed upon when the grant was applied for. Mayor Jackson stated that the Highway department gave him the list of streets. The streets that were originally talked about in September of 2021 were East 2nd, Holder Road, Marion, Callahan, and Tarpley. The approved streets are not the ones that were agreed upon. There was a lot of confusion as to how the streets that were agreed upon in 2021 got changed between

then and now, but at this time, the streets that were given to the mayor are the ones that must be done with this grant.

- The question was raised if a call could be made to the Highway Department to see if the streets could be changed. At this point, if changes are to be made, they will have to rebid, and the city will lose the grant.
- The grant was approved on April 18th and if a decision is not made, the pricing will be no good on May 18th. If we lose the grant or choose not to go with the higher amount this year and apply again the next time it is available, they may choose to not give us the grant again.
- Council member Austin made a motion to pay the additional funds for the larger grant amount. Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote requested. All council members voted in favor to pay the \$40,854.91.
- Raney Park plans
 - The city has received the check for \$99,552.00. About \$20,000 will go to the architect and White River Development for handling the grant.
 - Council members received photos of the two pieces of equipment that will be placed in the park.
 - The city will have to put a 4-foot fence around the park for safety.
 - There is a pecan and hackberry tree that will be removed by Jackie Hankins. It will cost the city approximately \$1,000.00 to remove these two trees.
 - The city will remove the remaining trees.
 - There will be a concrete slab for handicap accessibility on the East side of the park.
 - The playground equipment and all the materials will be installed by the company.
 - Work will begin after Mosquito fest
 - If anyone has any information pertaining to the trees planted in the park for memorials, please contact City Hall.
 - The council will decide how to display the memorial plaques later.
 - There is a 25-year clause that states that the city cannot make any modifications or changes to the equipment (unless damaged by a storm) without approval from the company.
 - Council member Dallas made a motion to approve the Raney Park plans. Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote requested. All council members voted in favor to approve the plans for Raney Park.
- Golf Cart Ordinance
 - Council member Austin made a motion to consider City Ordinance 317. Council member Carter second. All council members voted in favor to consider the ordinance.
 - Council member Massanelli brought up the fact that there have been more issues with citizens on bicycles than golf carts. This is a safety issue. We need to have a conversation about bicycles later.
 - Clerk Kendrick read Ordinance 317 through one time.
 - Council member Austin made a motion to suspend the three readings of the ordinance. Council member Powell second. Roll call vote requested. All council members voted in favor to suspend the three readings.

- Council member Austin made a motion to accept Ordinance 317. Council member Carter second. Roll call vote requested. All council members voted in favor to accept Ordinance.
- Clerk Kendrick read the title and top section only of Ordinance 317
- THIS ORDINANCE WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT FOR 30 DAYS -- this allows for golf cart owners to get their permit from City Hall.
- Dog Pound
 - The architect has stated that he will do the architect work and the grant work for \$5,000.00. The engineer will do it for \$2,500.00
 - The architect suggests that since we are modifying the specifications that we add an additional \$20,000 to the current \$48,000 so that the USDA can see that we have all the funds to move forward with the dog pound.
 - The architect is doing all the grant paperwork. Since the specifications have been modified, the paperwork must be sent back to USDA for final approval. They are holding a grant for \$50,000.00.
 - If we do not have the full portion of our money (\$68,000) we could lose the \$50,000.00. If the city loses the grant, there will have to be a sewer system placed in the current pound.
 - Council member Austin made a motion to add \$20,000.00 to the current \$48,000.00 in the dog pound fund. Council member Powell second. Roll call vote requested. Council member Massanelli voted no. All other council members voted yes. Motion passed 5-1.
- Council Remarks:
 - The Farmer's Market scheduled for May 13 is cancel due to weather and lack of produce vendors.

Council member Dallas made a motion to pay the bills. Council member Austin second. All council members voted yes.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn. Council member Massanelli second. All council members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.