

Unofficial Minutes
McCrary City Council
June 12, 2023

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

Council member Lou Dallas opened the meeting with prayer.

Before roll call, Mayor Jackson asked that all council members be sure to use their microphone when speaking. He had someone come to him and tell him that they were not able to hear the council members when they were speaking.

Clerk Kendrick called roll. All council members were present except for Travis Taylor.

Council member Austin made a motion to approve May minutes. Council member Massanelli second. All members present voted in favor to accept the minutes.

Mayor Comments:

- Mayor Jackson stated that he didn't have much to say at this time. That he would add his comments during the reporting stages of the meeting.
- The bonds for the World Wide Label project have come in and the utility poles that needed to be moved have been moved so that construction can begin. Mayor Jackson, Council member Dallas, the architect and engineers and Mr. Crawford had their first meeting for the World Wide Label project.

Special Guest:

- Representatives of MAYPA, Mark Killingsworth and Laine Daniel, were present to report back to the council on Mosquitofest. Mrs. Daniel stated that their sponsorships were less this year than last year and that the costs had increased from last year. MAYPA did a survey on social media for people to give their feedback. The city had approved a \$3,000 limit to help with Mosquitofest. The city paid for the Port-a-Potty, the large dumpster, and some minor electrical work that had to be done.

Police Report:

- Court collections: \$16,993.43
- 80 misdemeanor and 3 felony cases, 2 of which were felony drug cases.
- Car grant finalized - resolution to be read later
- Golf cart ordinance went into effect June 8 and there have been 5 people register their golf cart so far.

Fire Report:

- Mosquitofest fish fry went well
- Hose testing went well. Will need to replace a few hoses with Act 833 money.

Water/Sewer:

- Work has started on the sewer plant.
- New tires purchased for the backhoe.
- Our guys are helping out as much as they can with the construction.
- Council member Austin asked about the clarifier. Jim said it is doing well.
- Council member Massanelli asked Jim about the water in the ditch at S&H. He stated that he traced the water and it is coming from the North side of Hwy 64. Council member Massanelli was concerned about it because the water looked like sewer and was concerned.

Animal Control:

- Animal Control Officer Wagner was unable to be at the meeting but gave her information to Mayor Jackson.
- There are currently 14 dogs at the pound. 3 are being fostered and 2 will be adopted as soon as they are cleared by the vet.
- TAPS has taken 4 dogs.

Parks Report:

- Jackie Hankins has cut down the trees at Raney Park that needed to be removed. He charged the city \$1,800 to cut the trees down. The city will remove them from the park.
- The playground equipment has been ordered and it came in \$1,000 under budget.
- Faith Fencing in Searcy will be doing the fence at Raney Park and we will use the remaining grant money (\$1,000) to go toward the fence. There were two companies that placed bids to do the fence. A company out of Little Rock did a bid for \$7,500 and Faith Fencing did a bid for \$4,300.
- Council member Dallas stated that she had been down around Elizabeth Swanson Park and that it looks good.
- Council member Massanelli asked about the Youth Program charging admission. He couldn't remember having to pay to get in to watch summer ball. Mayor Jackson stated that he did not know, because the city does not interfere with the operations of the Youth Program.

Treasurer Report:

- Expenses are still up.
- Chemical expense is up since last year. Council member Massanelli requested a detailed print out for chemical usage for 2022 and 2023. Mr. Trotter stated that he would have the print out next month comparing the first six months of last year and this year.
- Water department overtime is almost twice as high as it was in 2022. The city is paying approximately \$2,200 per month in overtime.

Old Business:

- Juneteenth holiday - no ordinance needed. There only needs to be a motion made to update the handbook for it to be a paid holiday and for it to be effective immediately. Council member Austin made a motion to update the handbook effective immediately.

Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote, all members present voted in favor. Motion passed. City Hall will be closed Monday, June 19.

- Spot Paving - minutes from September 2022 state that the council voted for a company from Wynne to do some spot paving to fill potholes. It stated that the council agreed to pay \$200 per ton, but there was no mention as to how much was needed or the max the city would pay. The price is now \$270 per ton. Each council member was given a list of the spots that need to be repaired. The city can move forward with this company as long as the city doesn't spend over \$20,000. Council member Austin made a motion to spend up to \$20,000 to repair potholes. Council member Carter second. All members present voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. The areas that are the worst will be repaired first and then move on from there. Council member Austin made a motion to spend up to \$20,000 to repair/patch potholes. Council member Carter second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Jim will call the company and let them know that they can begin working on the streets.

New Business:

- Police Car Grant Resolution 2023-006- Council member Massanelli made a motion to consider the resolution. Council member Austin second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Clerk Kendrick read Resolution 2023-006.
- Council member Austin made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-006. Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote requested. All members present voted in favor of the resolution. Resolution passed.
- The grant includes funds to purchase 5 AEDs. One will be placed in each police car. Council member Austin asked if one of the AEDs was going to be given to the Fire Department for them to put on the rescue truck. Chief Bevills stated that the five that will be purchased with the grant money will be placed in the police cars.
- Funds of \$14,580 need to be transferred from the Police Vehicle Maintenance Fund to the New Police Vehicle Purchase account. Council member Massanelli made a motion to transfer the funds. Council member Austin second. Roll call vote requested. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- City vehicle take home policy - Employees living outside of the city limits have been stopped from taking their vehicle home. Mayor Jackson is unable to find any previous policy on the matter. Council member Dallas stated that it had always just been understood that the water superintendent and the police chief have always taken their vehicle home because they are on call all the time. After much discussion, Council member Dallas made a motion to allow the water superintendent and the police chief to take their vehicles home and to work on a policy for the remainder of the employees that drive a city vehicle. Council member Austin second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Vacation days for employees of over 20 years - the handbook states that when you reach 15 years of employment, you get 4 weeks of paid vacation. After some discussion, it was decided to table until next month.

Council comments:

- A gentleman was in the audience that was there to try to purchase one of the city trucks that is not currently working. Mayor Jackson stated that the city is not interested in selling the truck at this time. When the city gets a new truck, the thought was to maybe use the bed on the current truck on the new truck. At this time the truck is not safe to drive and there is no guarantee that the bed on it will fit on a new truck. The city cannot sell the truck to an individual, we must either take bids or let someone sell it at auction. Council member Austin made a motion to have the truck, 2005 or 2007 Ford F250 (not for sure on year model), auctioned at Witcher Auctions. Council member Massanelli second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. The truck will go to Witcher Auction in Wynne to be auctioned off.
- Ambulance situation - about the same. The committee is supposed to meet the first week of July. The committee is composed of the County Judge, City Mayors, TJ Whitehead and a representative from Pafford.
- Council member Massanelli asked if there was still a 5th position available for the water department. The city wasn't given the workforce grant because they saw in our previous minutes that the council stated we did not need a full time employee. At this time, the salary set for the 5th person is paying the salary for the part time employee. The current part time employee also drives the mosquito truck, which takes 24 hours per week. This means that the part time employee would only be able to work 16 additional hours before having to be paid overtime. Council member Dallas made a motion to table the discussion until next month. Council member Carter second. Roll call vote requested. Council members voting to table the discussion were Tim Carter and Lou Dallas. Council members voting not to table the discussion were Amanda Austin, Coach Massanelli, and Diane Powell. Motion did not pass. Motion failed 3-2. Motion failed because council members were concerned with who is going to drive the mosquito truck for the next month because they have started to get bad and we need to start spraying. Discussed the option of making the mosquito truck position a contract position or to reach out to White River Development to see if we can get some funding to help pay the driver of the mosquito truck. Mayor Jackson will reach out to them and see what he can find out. We will advertise as well to see what we can do to try to get some additional help to drive the mosquito truck. Jim will work the part time employee as needed and overtime will be paid if needed.
- Council member Austin made a motion to pay the council members their six month salary. Council member Dallas second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- Mayor Jackson wants to look into changing the way council members are elected. He wants to change it to where the only people that can vote for the candidate are voters that live in the ward of the candidate. The wards also have to be redone. We have too many in one ward and not in the other two. Mayor Jackson stated that the city could be sued if a citizen felt that they were not being represented appropriately. He asked why would you not want to have just the people in your ward to vote. He also stated that some of the cities around us vote by ward. He stated that if the council didn't want it that way, he would present it to the voters themselves. Council member Austin asked if that

would require a special election and he stated yes. She then replied that the council had to vote to approve the special election. Mayor Jackson stated not after a lawsuit if brought. Council members Austin and Dallas asked if Mayor Jackson was threatening a lawsuit or filing a lawsuit and he stated no, but that he knew someone that will. The council members stated that they have had citizens tell them that they do not want to vote that way.

- Mayor Jackson has had two calls this week about the chickens. One of the calls was about chickens running loose and someone that has approximately 30 chickens and that they smell bad. The council needs to come up with a new ordinance or start enforcing the old one. Council member Austin spoke with someone at the Municipal League and they suggested that the city abolish the old ordinance and draw up a new one. Mayor Jackson asked that the council start thinking about what to do about it.

Council member Austin made a motion to pay the bills. Council member Powell second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn. Council member Powell second. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:44

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