

Unofficial Minutes
McCrary City Council
September 11, 2023

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

Council member Dallas led the opening prayer.

Clerk Kendrick called roll. Members present were Tim Carter, Amanda Austin, Coach Massanelli, and Lou Dallas. Members absent were Diane Powell and Travis Taylor.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved after two grammatical errors were revised by Council member Dallas. Council member Austin made the motion to approve the minutes and Council member Massanelli second. All members present voted in favor to approve the revised minutes. Motion carried.

Mayor Remarks:

- Mayor Jackson acknowledged that today was 9/11 and thanked all the service members and first responders for their service and sacrifice. He stated that the American Legion in Augusta had a very good 9/11 program.
- The Farm to Table dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 7. It will be on Fakes Street in front of the Baptist Church. Food will start being served at 5:30. If you would like tickets please see Beth Breckenridge at Merchants and Planters Bank, Joe Slocum, Amanda Austin or John Heath.

Police Report:

- August Court Collections: \$27,690
- The police department is currently down two vehicles. The one being repaired and Sherman's vehicle. Most likely, the insurance company will total Sherman's vehicle after they assess it. Chief Bevills estimates that the vehicle is probably worth \$13,000 to \$15,000. The council will have to decide how they want to go about replacing that vehicle. Do we want to buy a used vehicle, a new vehicle, apply for a grant for another vehicle? With the uncertainty of what the insurance company will do, it is hard to make a decision on how to replace it.
- Chief Bevills has made arrangements with the Sheriff's Office to use one of the county vehicles. The city will sign a user agreement with the county and we will carry insurance on the vehicle they let us use.
- Chief Bevills spoke with MJ Communications and they have received all of the parts for the new vehicle and they are getting them installed. The vehicle should be completed in a week or so.

Water/Sewer Report:

- The sewer plant is coming along. There is a problem with the electricity with the rake. The breaker box has to be redone to operate the new equipment. Mr. Seely will get with Mayor Jackson with a price before doing any replacement work.
- The sensor for the clarifier came in and has been installed.
- Council member Massanelli asked how often the lines were flushed any more. Jim stated that they were flushed every once in a while. He was asking because the water that was used in the dunking booth at the Community Pep Rally was very dark. Jim explained that when the hydrants are opened fully that the high flow of the water breaks up stuff in the lines.
- Water line broke over Labor Day weekend. Tree roots had gone through the pipe. The tree had to be cut down and the stump ground out before the workers could get to the pipe.

Fire Report:

- Only had a few grass fires in August.
- Pump tests done on fire trucks.
- Currently doing maintenance on equipment to keep things running (changing batteries, new tires)

Animal Control Report:

- Currently 16 dogs, had 1 adopted after last months meeting
- The momma dog and puppies that TAPS took are going to Illinois
- An anonymous company would donate the materials for a building large enough for 14 - 16 kennels. The city would be responsible for getting the concrete slab, plumbing and electricity and having someone build the building. Have had some local people state that they would donate labor to help out. The cost would be between \$35,000 - \$45,000 to get our part done. Would end up costing the city around \$60,000.
- The paperwork for the grant is still in Little Rock and Mayor Jackson stated that he didn't know if the grant would be approved or not. If the grant does get approved, we would not be able to use it for the above stated building.
- If the council decides to move forward with the anonymous donor, Mayor Jackson will call and pull the application for the grant.
- Council member Massanelli made a motion for Mayor Jackson to check with USDA to check the status of the grant for the dog pound and to get an answer as quickly as possible with the possibility of relying on the free

donation. Council member Austin second. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

- Mayor Jackson commended April for putting a lot of her own time into getting all the foot work done on this donation.
- Mayor Jackson stated that he had heard that people were saying that the city had gotten some large donations for the dog pound. He stated that there have been two donations made. One donation of \$700 in the last year and a half and another for \$1,100 that was solely to pay for adoption fees for people wanting to adopt dogs.
- Council member Dallas mentioned that the only issue she had with the building situation was that council members were being asked about the situation and they didn't know anything about it.

Parks Report:

- Raney Park: Equipment still has not come in.
- Elizabeth Swanson Park: Currently have fall baseball/softball and Peewee Football practice going on at the park so it is still being mowed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Mr. Bobby was unable to be at the meeting this month.
- Council member Dallas went over the financial report.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- New copier/printer for Municipal Court Office: The copier/printer for the court office is no longer printing in color. This copier/printer is also used by the Police Department to print color pictures for investigations. The current copier/printer was purchased years ago using a grant and you cannot purchase parts for it any longer. Ideal Office Machines has a Sharp MX-5071 for \$7,150. This machine will print full color, copy, scan, and email and comes with a service contract. Council member Austin made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the Sharp MX-5071. Council member Carter second. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Grant for Leaf Vac/Truck: Major Jackson presented an application for a 25%/75% grant for a new leaf vac and truck to pull it. The estimated total

for the grant is \$180,292.67. The city's estimated 25% would be \$45,073.17. Council member Massanelli made a motion that Mayor Jackson move forward with the grant application for a leaf vac and truck. Council member Austin second. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.

- Ordinance for Special Council Meeting (318): The book states that three people have to ask for a meeting. There is a gray area on how to call the meeting. Does one person call the meeting and two others agree? Do three separate people have to call for the meeting? Mayor Jackson would just like to have better clarification on how a special meeting is to be called. Each council member needs to respond directly to the mayor.
- Ordinance on buildings raze (319): Council member Dallas noted that in Section 10 of Ordinance 319 that the word one needs to be added before thousand. Council council member Dallas second. All members present voted in favor to table the discussion.
 - Thomas Kendrick addressed the council about properties that people are staying in that have no electricity or water. He stated that South of the railroad tracks is the worst area in the city. He stated that other towns around us have something in place to be able to take care of these properties.
- Several questions were asked that need to be addressed by the city attorney. Mayor Jackson will request that the city attorney be in attendance for council meetings to be able to answer any legal questions.
- Ordinance on chickens/livestock: Council member Massanelli feels that a decision doesn't need to be made tonight since not all council members are present.
 - There are several chickens that are running loose on other people's property and there are some citizens that have a large number of chickens.
 - The current ordinance on the books states that you must be 200 yards away from another residence to have chickens. If this ordinance is to be enforced, no one will be able to have chickens.

Council Remarks:

- Council member Dallas stated that setting the budget will be coming up soon. She would like to have a working meeting to prepare for the 2024 budget.

- The sanitation fees have to be looked at. We are losing \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year. There is no contract with WastePro so there is nothing that prevents them from raising their fees. Between 2011 and now, WastePro has gone up from \$14 to \$21. Mayor Jackson will ask again for a representative from WastePro to come to the next meeting.

Council member Austin made a motion to pay the bills. Council member Carter second. All members present voted in favor.

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn. Council member Massanelli second. All members present voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11

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