

McCrary City Council
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023

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

Council member Massanelli said the opening prayer.

Clerk Kendrick called roll. All council members present.

Council member Austin made a motion to approve the minutes from November meeting. Council member Massanelli second. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Council member Austin made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Council meeting held on November 21, 2023. Council member Carter second. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Remarks:

Mayor Jackson stated that he will make any remarks he has during the department reports.

Police:

- Court collections for November – \$14,080,00
- 49 misdemeanor cases, no felony cases.
- The new police vehicle has been striped. It was taken to Little Rock for the cage to be placed, but the cage was for a Ford, not a Dodge.
- Still looking for a fifth vehicle.
- Chief Bevills requested an evaluation of the payscale for the Police Department. All surrounding cities are starting out around \$40,000. Officers are not going to want to come to work in McCrary for \$14-\$15 an hour when they can go elsewhere and get \$18 an hour. Chief Bevills will work up a proposal for payscale increase.
- Chief Bevills vehicle will be getting an appointment to get striped.
- Vacation time - with the department being short handed for the past couple of months, one officer has over 40 hours of vacation left that he will lose because he is not able to take off. Sherman has an appointment on December 14 to see if he can be cleared to come back to work doing light duty, but there is not really any "light duty" type work that can be done. He is expected to return after the first of the year. Council member Austin made a motion to extend the time for Andrew to have until March 1st to use his current vacation time. Council member Powell second. Council member Dallas voted against the motion. Motion carried 5-1.

Water:

- The box for the rake is not expected to be in until February
- The valve for the hydrant on the corner of Fifth and Seaman is going to cost \$10,924.00 without tax. The valve will have to be put in while the water is still on. It is called an Insert valve. A section of the pipe is cut out and the valve is placed. Council member Massanelli made a motion to pay to have the valve fixed at Fifth and Seaman. Council member Austin second. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Mayor Jackson thanked Jim and his department for all the extra work they have been doing to help with April's duties while she is out.

Fire:

- All maintenance has been done.
- New hoses are needed - will be using Act 833 money

Animal Control:

- Nothing to report since April is out.

Parks:

- Some of the Raney Park playground equipment came in on Friday.
- Thomas Kendrick has been working on a list of items that need to be addressed at Elizabeth Swandon Park. The building needs a new roof and new siding - would like to do a bid process for that and open at January meeting. Someone broke in to the concession stand and turned the air conditioner all the way down, so it was froze up. Will need to check it when it warms up to see if it is going to work. Going to put up new fence pickets around the air unit. Would like to see the playground equipment moved. Preferably to the Northwest corner of the ball park - away from any foul ball areas. The fields need to be reconditioned as well. The park belongs to the city and it is ultimately the city's responsibility to take care of the fields. Will get someone to look at the fields and see what needs to be done.
- The basketball courts at Ike Brown Park have some cracks in them and need to be checked and repaired.
- Mr. Kendrick also requested that a set amount of money be placed in the parks fund. This money would be available for needed repairs.
- Council member Austin made a motion to get bids for roofing (metal and shingle) and siding as well as any other repairs that may be needed. Bids will be opened at January meeting. Council member Taylor second. All members voted in favor.

Treasurer:

- November financials reviewed.
- At this time, the city shows a loss of \$3.00 per meter, but with the profit in the sewer account, it only shows a loss of \$1.89. If rates are not increased, we are projected to show a loss next year in the Water Department.
- Mr. Trotter passed out a spreadsheet showing the current fees versus a proposed increase. The proposed increase is \$2.00 on the first 2,000 gallons from \$12.00 to

\$14.00 and increase the addition gallons fee from \$6.00 (3,000 - 5,000) and \$7.00 (6,000 and up) to \$8.00.

- If our Water Department is not makeine \$30,000 yearly by June 2025, the state will set the rate.
- After much discussion, Council member Taylor made a motion to increase the water base rate \$2.00 per month and revisit to make changes. Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote requested. Members voting in favor: Tim Carter, Amanda Austin, Coach Massanelli, Travis Taylor. Members voting against: Diane Powell, Lou Dallas. Motion carried 4-2

Business:

- 2024 Budget presented to the council. Everyone looked over the budget and there was some discussion had. 2024 Budget presented to the council. Council member Dallas made a motion to approve the budget. Council member Massanelli second. Roll call vote requested. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Review of Legislative Audit Report - Mayor Jackson stated that copies available at City Hall.
- Recycle Grant - the city was approved for \$21,000 for a truck. This is not the amount that was expected, so we will try again in the next cycle to see if we can get more funds for a truck. At this time, we can hold this money until September 2024. We may look in to purchasing additional recycle tubs for residents. No decision was made at this time.
- New Sick Bank Committee appointed - Jim Harrison, Nick Watson and Tim Carter are the new committee members. At this time, there are no rules/guidelines for the Sick Bank. The committee may want to look in to creating some type of rules/guidlines.
- The Sick Bank Committee met and voted for April to use sick bank hours after she has used all the time she has.
- No bids were received for the Dog Pound or the Civic Center. The announcement was only placed in the Woodruff County Monitor. The company that is donating the building materials for the dog pound has a list of persons they use to put up their buildings. May have to look in to that. May look in to running the announcement for bids in other papers - Mayor Jackson will look in to placing them in surrounding area newspapers.
- R.V. Park - Bill Crawford has a plan drawn up for an RV Park that he would like to build on East Raney. The plan that was drawn up has 56 spots on the plan. He does not feel that he will do 56. He is following Ordinance 307 for the RV Park.
 - Anything rented for over 30 days has to have underpinning
 - Each unit has to have its own water and sewer hook-ups
 - The lots are the same size as the ones in Searcy, Bald Knob, and Newport. The lot is almost 4 acres.
 - The city has to supply the meters for water.
 - Mr. Crawford has already made contact with the Highway Department and will be getting everything done on his end that they require.

- Council members were given the proposal on Saturday for tonights meeting so they have not all had time to really look at the proposal and are not prepared to make a decision.
- Council member Austin made a motion to table until January 8th meeting. Council member Powell second. All members voted in favor. Motion tabled until January.
- Raises - Mayor Jackson would like to have a working meeting in January to work on raises. Council member Dallas made a motion to schedule a working meeting for raises at the January meeting. Council member Austin second. All members voted in favor.
- Delta Regional Authority portal is still not up and running. Mayor Jackson has called and spoken with our Representatives to see if they could get anything done.

Council member Austin made a motion to pay the council members. Council member Powell second. All members voted in favor.

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

Council member Carter made a motion to adjourn. Council member Austin second. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk