

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2024

The regular monthly City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Deborah Pinkerton after she declared that a quorum was present. A moment of silence was followed by the pledge of allegiance. Council members present were Alderman Odom, Alderman McClendon, Alderman Breshears and Alderman Johnson.

A motion to approve the January regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Breshears. Passed 4-0

The financial report was presented by Treasurer Sandy Cook. January end of month balances for each account were read and the February Financial Report was reviewed. A motion to approve the February Financial Report was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Breshears. Passed 4-0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Grounds Supervisor Kenneth Brenton reported the department has 9 roads that need extensive work due to bad weather. The department will spread 3" down gravel to repair these roads. There has been 30 hours spend on the grader since January 1.

Police Chief Ken Howard reported 22 citizen calls, 2 assists to other agencies, 9 citations, 6 warning citations, 1 alarm answered, 2 accidents, 2 arrests, 9 felonies and misdemeanor reports filed, 1 warrant served and 0 code enforcements. Officer Sandusky will return to reserve officer duty. Chris Kirkendall will take Officer Sandusky's shifts and become the new code enforcement officer. On rental property, the first contact will be with the renter. Second contact will be a letter to the property owner.

Fire Chief Cody Cooper reported 1 grass fire alarm, 1 vehicle fire and 3 medical calls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Arkansas Highway Department will be collecting speed data on Highway 162 via a cable across the highway.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Anthony Cook asked to address the zoning issue when presented during the meeting.

C. Seegan suggested the City hold bingo nights to raise money to supplement the City's funds. He also suggested contacting the military at Fort Chaffee for personnel to volunteer their services to the City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Pinkerton discussed the extended warranty for the road grader. Alderman Breshears made a motion to accept the 36 month warranty at \$4880 and was seconded by Alderman McClendon. Alderman Breshears asked the mayor to inquire as to the possibility of a refund on unused warranty should the City decide to terminate the lease in the future. Passed 4-0

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Cody Cooper presented two quotes on cars to be used as a command vehicle for the fire department. Treasurer Sandy Cook suggested the City pay for the vehicle from existing funds rather than finance. Alderman McClendon made a motion to purchase the 2015 Ford with 72,000 miles for a sum of \$18173.04. The motion was seconded by Alderman Odom. Passed 4-0

Alderman McClendon voiced concerns on the Lucian Wood asphalt project. The area to be asphalted is 1.78 miles. The Arkansas Department of Transportation has issued the City a grant of \$300,000 towards the project and is currently taking bids for the job. The City will be responsible for the remainder of the cost. Previously, Citizen's Bank quoted a rate of 5.95% for a \$250,000 loan over a period of 5 years with a monthly payment of \$4827.39. The City has been saving the Street Department City Sales Tax to apply towards this project. An update will be obtained when ARDOT gets the final bid for the project.

The Mayor suggested the City provide a dumpster in March and every other month through 2024 to help with the City cleanup. The City Code Enforcement Officer will visit the addresses that need to clean up their property and provide them with trash bags before the dumpster is delivered.

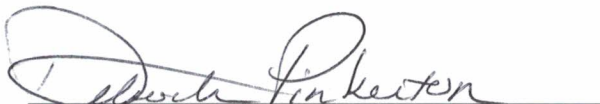
Alderman McClendon asked about the Police car located behind the Street shop. Chief Howard explained that Kibler Police Department returned the car to Cedarville for our use when the SRO car was having multiple issues. It is now a backup in case of future issues with the SRO car.

Alderman McClendon asked City Attorney Brister if all cities with which he was affiliated had zoning laws. Attorney Brister stated that Chester, Rudy and Cedarville did not have zoning laws. Alderman McClendon states concerns for manufactured homes and the effect it has on property values. Citizen Priscilla May voiced her concerns since she lives in a mobile home and that seemed to be the greatest issue driving the zoning proposal. Citizen Anthony Cook stated that he bought a house in 2012 in Benton Arkansas that was directly across from a mobile home park for \$165,000. In 2023 he sold that house for 300,000 so the mobile home park didn't appear to affect the value of his property. Alderman McClendon asked Attorney Brister for a proposal for zoning laws to be presented at the March meeting. Attorney Brister stated he could provide examples of a zoning ordinance. Alderman McClendon asked the mayor for maps for the March meeting.


Alderman Odom asked for an item to be added to the agenda. A motion to add an item to the agenda was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman McClendon. Passed 4-0

Officer Goss asked the council to consider the on-call policy discussed in 2023 for police officers. He stated the council had approved the policy to be instated in February. Recorder/Treasurer Cook informed the council the policy was not approved but a one-time bonus was issued in 2023. She also informed the council that the loss in County Sales and Use Tax had not been reinstated as of yet. Alderman McClendon argued the police officers were confined during on-call hours and therefore should be compensated for being unable to perform ordinary activities. It was confirmed that in 2023 the council had lifted restrictions for on-call officers so that they may move around freely. A motion to table the discussion was made by Alderman McClendon and seconded by Alderman Odom. Passed 4-0

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman McClendon. Passed 4-0



Mayor



Recorder/Treasurer