

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 19, 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 Breshears and Alderman Johnson. Alderman McClendon was absent.

A motion to approve the February regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Breshears. Passed 3-0

The financial report was presented by Treasurer Sandy Cook. February end of month balances for each account were read and the March Financial Report was reviewed. A motion to approve the March Financial Report was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Johnson. Passed 3-0

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Grounds Supervisor Kenneth Brenton reported the department has been repairing areas of the roads with chip n seal, grading red roads of which the City has signed consent, and repairing the roller.

Police Chief Ken Howard reported 33 citizen calls, 2 assists to other agencies, 8 citations, 3 warning citations, 1 alarm answered, 2 accidents, 2 arrests, 11 felonies and misdemeanor reports filed, 2 warrants served and 2 code enforcements ( one on Dorothy Drive and one to the District 4 Fire Station)

Fire Chief Cody Cooper reported 1 structure fire alarm, 1 vehicle fire and 5 medical calls.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a dumpster at City Hall on March 30<sup>th</sup> to aid in the City Cleanup Ordinance.

Flyers for the scheduled dumpster days for 2024 and the upcoming Eclipse (what to expect) will be posted around the Cedarville City area.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

The command vehicle discussed in the February Council meeting was no longer available for purchase. The delay in receiving council approval resulted in the vehicle had been sold.

A motion to allow Chief Cooper a maximum of \$18,000 to purchase a command vehicle was made by Alderman Breshears and approved by Alderman Johnson. Passed 3-0

The possibility of a police on-call policy was discussed. All information of current financial status and the cost of such policy were presented by Treasurer Cook. In 2023 the police department was given a 5% raise in January, a 7% raise in July and a 2 free hour pay per shift bonus for the month of August. Due to the error pertaining to the County Sales and Use Tax the City has not received those funds for three months resulting in loss of revenue. The Treasurer reported an On-call additional funding would result in a strain on the budget.

A motion to table this issue until the April council meeting was made by Alderman Breshears and seconded by Alderman Odom. Passed 3-1 Mayor Pinkerton had to vote for a quorum to pass.

The Mayor presented the warranty for the road grader. After discussion, a motion to not pursue a warranty for the road grader was made by Alderman Breshears and seconded by Alderman Odom. Passed 3-0

## NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Odom discussed the condition of Dorothy Drive and the need to patch some areas. There is one section in particular that will continue to erode if patch work is not done soon until resurfacing can be done in the future. Alderman Breshears requested getting a professional opinion on how to fix Dorothy.

The possible need for an additional city sales tax was discussed. Alderman Johnson provided information on other cities in the county and recommended either a millage tax be placed on property taxes or an additional one cent sales tax to be placed on the ballot in November. Citizen Mark Isenhower stated that when Cedarville City was formed the citizens were promised that no millage tax would be placed on property taxes. The treasurer stated that the current total sales tax for Van Buren is 9.25%, for Fort Smith is 9.5% and for Cedarville is 8.75%. If an additional 1% is added to Cedarville then Cedarville will be the highest in the

immediate area. Alderman Johnson then suggested a 1/2 cent additional sales tax. A motion to table this issue until April was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Johnson. Passed 3-0

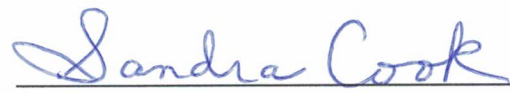
The Clean-up Ordinance was placed on the agenda but this issue was addressed in the police department report. No further discussion was necessary.

Mavis Lawson resigned as a commissioner from the planning commission. Priscilla May was presented as a replacement. A motion to accept Priscilla May as the new commissioner was made by Alderman Johnson and seconded by Alderman Breshears. Passed 3-0

Mayor Pinkerton read the resignation of Kenneth McClendon as Alderman effective as of 5:59 p.m. on March 19, 2024. A motion to accept the resignation and declare the position vacant was made by Alderman Odom and seconded by Alderman Breshears. Passed 3-0

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Breshears and seconded by Alderman Odom. Passed 3-0

  
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Mayor

  
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Recorder/Treasurer