

WARD CITY COUNCIL

August 14, 2017

MINUTES

6:30 P. M.

Call to Order

Mayor Brooke called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and Reverend Mike Sipe led the council in prayer. Christy Hendrick led the council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call

Mayor Brooke asked for city council roll call: Bill Moon-present, Jim Wier-present, Jeff Shaver-present, Gary Matheny-present, Ron Bissett-present, Don Howard-excused, Mayor Brooke-present and Clerk Barclay present. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to accept the July 10, 2017 regularly scheduled council meeting minutes. Ron Bissett motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all accepted.

Department Reports

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to approve the July 10, 2017 department reports. Ron Bissett motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all approved. Mayor Brooke then asked Chief Staley to approach the council. Chief Staley came forth to request permission to destroy old non-workable fire equipment such as boots, jackets, etc. Jim Wier motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all approved the destruction. Mayor Brooke then asked Chief Benton to come forward and address the council. Chief Benton said that he has a 2007 Dodge Durango VIN# 1D8HB38P37F570664 that he is requesting to dispose of because it has a bad engine and it would be more costly to repair than it is worth. Jeff Shaver motioned; Bill Moon seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Commission Reports

The Planning Commission report of re-zoning property at Peyton and Bryant Streets was denied; therefore there is no further action by the council. Their next meeting will be held on August 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor's Report

Lemon's Engineering had no representation tonight. Mr. Lemon's is in Houston with his wife who is undergoing treatment. He did however, send in five items of mobilization to the site by the job superintendent, which is in reference to the wastewater project, excavation crew has not yet received the rebar but does have permission to purchase and it should be on site in two weeks. The project is ahead of schedule as far as ground work goes but there was a miscommunication with the structural engineer which threw everything behind about a week. There will also be a formal meeting on August 17, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. in the Civic Room for an update briefing on the project. Erosion Control is all in place and there is a stockpile of topsoil available from the basin. The mayor informed the council that the company is about 75% complete with the Aeromod basin itself which says a lot. Mayor Brooke asked Charles Gastineau to come forward and address the council on the progress of the walking trail and the sidewalk project. Phase II of the sidewalk project was finished a year ago and the city's cost was \$38,000.00. The paperwork will be submitted next week for a reimbursement of \$ 33,000.00 and we

are still waiting for the blessing from the Highway Department on this project. This then will close out this project.

Mayor Brooke informed the council of a letter he received from Attorney Chris Lacy concerning the desire of a Mr. Eric S. Underwood to apply for a permit to open and operate a "private club" in Ward, Arkansas. Attorney Chris Lacy informed Mr. Underwood in a letter of several discrepancies which must be satisfied in order for the city to review the request again. Mr. Lacy told the council that Mr. Underwood has already applied to ABC for the necessary requirements.

Mayor Brooke said that he had been talking to the highway people about the project on Highway 319/367 at the railroad crossing. Mr. Wesson who is the project engineer for this has been talking to Metroplan and they have assigned a project number (state job 061457). It is anticipated that the job will begin in the very near future. A copy is available for anyone who would care to see what is planned. There will be traffic lights on both sides of the tracks and these lights will be synchronized with the train schedule in order to clear the track area of vehicles before the train comes through. There will be some minimal construction whereupon the road crossing will be improved and there will be a four artery intersection at that location. This project has been around for ten years but the reason for the holdup has been federal funding. The traffic light control is the responsibility of the state and the city is responsible for the crossing improvements. We earn money through what is called LUZA and we earn money through the tax fuel system. The city had not spent its LUZA money so it had to be moved into this project in order to keep the funds because this is a very old project. So this was done with Metroplan and the city also has a loan with Metroplan if we need it at 0% interest. It is hoped that no money will have to be drawn out of that loan but if we do we have the money in reserve to pay it off. So that's where the city is with this project.

FYI—The city has received several comments about the closing of Hickory street both pro and con and most of the feed-back has been positive. It has made that intersection a lot safer since we have an increase of building coming our way. Economic Development has visited Ward and they are interested in our growth.

FYI—Highway 367 is being resurfaced from the Southside of Cabot and will go through Ward and to nearly the county line toward Beebe. Many bridges have also been repaired and all of this is being paid for by the state.

FYI—Charles Gastineau was called before the council to discuss LMI. Last year over 800 letters were sent out to randomly chosen households. These letters contained a short survey pertaining to household information. The city received 564 non-responses and for every non-response received it is considered high income family. Because of the low response a team was put together to go door-to-door to try to get families to answer these surveys. Since the team has been going door-to-door 396 houses have been contacted but only 190 houses have responded. The team still has 168 houses to contact and now our LMI (Low to Moderate Income) rate stands at 31%. So things are looking up.

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Next council meeting September 11, 2017

Planning Commission meeting August 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Seniors meet every Thursday at noon

LWPWA meeting will be held September 5, 2017

Chamber of Commerce meeting September 5, 2017 (Chamber Harvestfest will be October 28, 2017)

Adjournment

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Shaver motioned; Ron Bissett seconded. On voice vote all approved.

APPROVED DATE: September 11, 2017

Carl Brook
MAYOR

ATTEST:

John E Barclay
CLERK

CITY SEAL

