

# City of Elm Springs Council Meeting June 22, 2017

The Elm Springs City Council met on Thursday June 22, 2017 @ 6:30p.m. Mayor Harold Douthit called the meeting to order followed by prayer, led by Derl Howerton and the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Sarah Downum, Roberta Peters, Jeannie Burks, Derl Howerton, Steve Roberts, and Allan Huddleston. Jay Williams the city Attorney was also present.

The minutes from the May 25, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Derl Howerton and seconded by Roberta Peters. All approved.

The financials including Sewer were presented for approval. Jeannie Burks made a motion to approve the financials and Sarah Downum seconded the motion. All approved.

## Reports

**Police-** Chief Hiatt reported incidents are down  
The new patrol car has been ordered

**Planning-** Matt Casey is out of the country. Mayor Douthit received a letter from Swope Engineering regarding subdivision waiver request for the old wind farm property

**Inspection-**Included in packet

**Sewer-** Included in packet

**Elm Springs Cave Springs Fire Dep't-**Included in packet

**Ambulance-**Included in packet

## Mayoral Update

1. State of Arkansas offers 50/50 grants to upgrade culverts and whistles; The city has applied for 5 different grants
2. Mayor Douthit has visited with the Benton Co. Judge and Road Supervisor regarding road repairs
3. Flood damage paperwork has been turned into FEMA
4. If upgrades for 24' culverts need to be 36" the city will pay the difference
5. Still waiting on FEMA funds from the last time
6. New County Judge met Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9 a.m. with the public to get acquainted and answer questions
7. NACA attorney Charles Harwell has contract, approximately \$58,000.00.
8. Derl Howerton has spoken to Mark Bennett with ANRC
9. \$53,000.00 in Construction account can be transferred to Sewer Construction account
10. SWEPCO is building a station on Weston
11. Ozarks Electric is working on providing internet services which may raise franchise fees

## **New Business**

A motion to approve the Ordinance with emergency clause to raise the Mayors' purchasing limit from \$20,000.00 to \$35,000.00 in order to meet Arkansas Code 22-9-203, was made by Steve Roberts and seconded by Roberta Peters. Roll call was taken and all approved.

## **Old Business**

A motion to approve the purchase of a tractor for \$38,500.00 was made by Jeannie Burks and seconded by Steve Roberts. Roll call was taken and all approved.

A motion to appropriate up to \$45,000.00 to purchase an excavator was made by Sarah Downum and seconded by Jeannie Burks. Roll call was taken and all approved.

## **Other Business**

The letter from Swope Engineering requesting waivers regarding a project development of approximately 100 acres was addressed. The Mayor stated if the council was in favor of granting the waiver, a motion was needed to pass it. Waiver consists of:

- No curb/gutter
- No sidewalk
- 40' Right-of way, instead of 50'
- No curb/gutter or sidewalk on adjacent road improvements

A motion was made by Derl Howerton to approve the waiver request with an emergency clause. Sarah Downum seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and all approved.

A motion to invoke the emergency clause was made by Derl Howerton and seconded by Jeannie Burks. Roll call was taken and all approved.

The Mayor has sent paperwork for Phase II Elm Valley.

Derl Howerton addressed the Council stating Mayor Douthits salary is lower than normal and needs to be addressed. City attorney Jay Williams advised that Council implement the pay raise in the budget next Fall. Several members commented and agreed our mayor is very hands on, using his own personal equipment when repairs are needed and working alongside the staff.

He has been seen out late at night and during the flooding to access damages and stay informed as to what was happening in our community. A comment made by a council member that most mayors don't put forth that much effort and Mayor Douthit goes above and beyond the call of duty.

## **Public Comment**

Camelot resident, Mary Allen, asked if there will be a conclusion or recommendation for drainage and flooding issues. Mayor Douthit stated after the study is complete, he will go over it and share the study with Camelot residents.

With no further public comments or questions, a motion to adjourn was made by Roberta Peters and seconded by Sarah Downum. Meeting adjourned.

