WARD CITY COUNCIL
October 16, 2017
MINUTES
6:30 P. M.

Call to Order

Mayor Brooke called the meeting to order. Clerk Barclay led the council in prayer. Laura Wingate and Lilly Miller, scouts from Girl Scout Troop 6660, led the council in reciting the Pledge to the American Flag.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled council meeting held on September 11, 2017. Ron Bissett motioned; Don Howard seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Department Reports

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to approve the department reports for September 11, 2017. Gary Matheny motioned; Jim Wier seconded. On voice vote all approved. The mayor shared with the council the possibility of purchasing two dump trucks being offered by Scott Lumber Company. The older of the two is a 90’s model and the newer is early 2000’s model. Both are diesels and one has 40,000 miles and the other approximately 90,000 miles. Both have been serviced on a regular schedule; the older model is offered at $6,000.00 and the newer one is offered at $15,000.00. The Street Department and the Water Department each have a need for these vehicles. If a choice had to be made there would be no problem with the 90’s model purchase but if the city wanted the newer model the council would have to approve that purchase since the mayor is authorized a $10,000.00 spending cap. The question was asked if funds are available to purchase both vehicles and the answer of course was affirmative. After considerable discussion Jim Wier made motion to purchase both; Don Howard seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Commission Reports

The Planning Commission brought before the council one final plat and two re-plats for the three properties which the commission approved. These are Huntington Place Lots 107-119 and 131-138, Oakland Park Re-plat for part of Block 60 and all of Block 73, and Lot 1 Guyot Addition Re-plat of Lots 1,2,3,10,11,and 12 and Block33 Oakland Grove. All of these can be approved contingent upon approval of the department heads. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the final plat and the two re-plats as well as approving the commission’s report. Ron Bissett motioned; Bill Moon seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Mayor’s Report

David Stanley of Lemon’s Engineering came forward to enlighten the council of the ongoing projects in our city. The sidewalk projects have been combined as per the AHTD request. There will be a meeting with the transportation department on the 24th of October at which time it is hoped the project will have full approval to proceed. Progress on the new Wastewater plant is ahead of schedule and is nearly 15% complete with no
problem getting materials needed to continue. If you need more information please see the monthly Wastewater plant upgrade progress report filed with the city last week.

Mayor Brooke asked representatives Laura Wingate and Lilly Miller of Girl Scout Troop 6660 Ward, Arkansas to come forward and address the council concerning their desire to upgrade and rename the dog park. The troop is working on a “Silver Project”, which entails a community project, to receive an award for services done. They distributed a pamphlet to each council member which shows the items they intend to donate to the park. Any and all items will be given by the troop with no city funds used. In addition the troop proposes to change the name of the park to the Animal Park which is generic and will be more acceptable for use by residents. Karen Dawson, Parks and Recreation Director, and Kelly Zoller, Animal Control Officer, will be mentors for the project. After discussing the project at length all council members seemed to approve of the changes. Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to approve the project. Jim Wier motioned to approve; Jeff Shaver seconded. On voice vote all approved. Next item under mayor’s report was the presentation, by Attorney Chris Lacy, of how to prevent medical marijuana from coming into our city. Chris started off by saying there was no way the city council or the mayor could prevent it from coming in. However, the residents can start a petition and it must be signed by at least 15% of the people who voted in the last election. The petition must be posted and the language can be signed by any attorney but the ethics clearings must be done through the state unless we go a non-profit group such as the Family Council. Once the signatures are approved this could be put on the ballot and be voted on in the next general election in November 2018. At that time the residents could have medical marijuana banned if they so chose. The council can change the zoning regulations for dispensers and growers however they cannot be zoned any different than for pharmacies. Other routes can be taken to discourage the growers and dispensers, however care must be taken because there may be openings for lawsuits. Recreational marijuana is going to be a volatile avenue where we must tread lightly. The only possible up side to this subject is the revenue this could generate, but is it worth it? The mayor brought up the subject of city parking and no parking zones. There was an attempt to have a workable ordinance put in place a few years ago but after many long hours and contacting other cities for information regarding their ordinances nothing seemed satisfactory and the subject died. Because of many complaints from residents and department heads faced with parking extra vehicles, boats, and trailers in the streets, which impedes traffic and emergency vehicles in many cases, the mayor is in earnest about wanting a workable ordinance put in place. Mayor Brooke has appointed Mr. Ron Bissett as chairperson and the other members of the council to build an iron clad ordinance as soon as possible. The mayor asked Mr. Charles Gastineau to come forward and update the council on the progress of the LMI program. He furnished each council member with a handout with a self explanatory breakdown and the bottom line showed a success rate of 61% up from 8% at the beginning of the campaign. Many thanks to those who gave voluntarily of their time to help complete this survey. Now that it is complete the numbers are going to be used to hopefully get a grant to complete either a youth center, a senior center, or a multi use center for all residents to share in the future. Mayor Brooke introduced the annual millage form for acceptance. This certifies that the 2017 taxes to be collected in 2018 will be collected at the rate of .0050 mills. The mayor asked for a motion to approve this amount. Ron Bissett motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all approved. The mayor next introduced an ordinance O-2017-xx (AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE ACT OF HUNTING WITHIN CITY LIMITS). Each member was furnished a copy to read and offer any constructive comments which could be entered into the ordinance. Refer any comments to the mayor. Mayor Brooke introduced ordinance O-2007-10-1 (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF WARD MUNICIPAL CODE O-2007-10; DESIGNATING PLACES FOR POSTING ORDINANCES; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO; AN DECLARING AN EMERGENCY) and asked that it be placed on its first reading. Ron Bissett motioned; Jim Wier seconded. Roll call and voting are as follows: Bill Moon-yea, Jim Wier-yea, Jeff Shaver-yea, Gary Matheny-yea, Ron Bissett-yea, Don Howard-yea. Ordinance O-2007-10-1 has passed its first reading. Next the mayor asked that the rules be suspended and that O-2007-10-1 be placed on its 2nd/3rd reading. Ron Bissett motioned; Jim Wier seconded. Roll call and voting are as follows: Bill Moon-yea, Jim Wier-yea, Jeff Shaver-yea, Gary Matheny-yea, Ron Bissett-yea, Don Howard-yea. O-2007-10-1 has passed its 2nd/3rd reading. Next the mayor asked that the rules be suspended and that O-2007-10-1 be placed up for adoption. Jim Wier motioned; Ron Bissett seconded. Roll call and voting are as follows: Bill Moon-yea, Jim Wier-yea, Jeff Shaver-yea, Gary Matheny-yea, Ron Bissett-yea, Don Howard-yea. Ordinance O-2007-10-1 has been adopted. Finally the mayor asked for a motion to place O-2007-10-1 up for a vote on the emergency clause. Bill Moon motioned; Jeff Shaver seconded. Roll call and voting are as follows: Bill Moon-yea, Jim Wier-yea,
Jeff Shaver-yea, Gary Matheny-yea, Ron Bissett-yea, Don Howard-yea, O-2007-10-1 has passed with an emergency clause. The mayor asked how the facility at the park was coming along and Karen Dawson said that it is about 20% finished and the contractor is waiting for more materials before construction can resume.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Announcements**

Next city council meeting November 13, 2017
Next Planning Commission meeting October 23, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
Seniors meet every Thursday at noon
LWPWA meeting will be held November 7, 2017 at noon
Next Chamber of Commerce meeting November 7, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
Chamber of Commerce Harvestfest will be October 28, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

**Adjournment**

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

APPROVED DATE: 

October 16, 2017

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK

CITY SEAL