

WARD CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 9, 2017

MINUTES

6:30 P. M.

Call to Order

Mayor Brooke called the meeting to order. Reverend Mike Sipe led the council in prayer. Council member Bill Moon led the council in the Pledge to the American Flag.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to accept the December 12, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting minutes. Don Howard motioned; Ron Bissett seconded. On voice vote all approved.

The mayor then asked for a motion to accept the December 19, 2016 Special Council meeting minutes. Jim Wier motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all accepted.

Next the mayor asked for a motion to accept the December 28, 2016 Special Council meeting minutes. Don Howard motioned; Ron Bissett seconded. On voice vote accepted.

Department Reports

Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to accept the department reports for December 12, 2016. Ron Bissett motioned; Jim Wier seconded. On voice vote all approved. Councilperson Ron Bissett asked to speak and wanted to know if the reports could be sent quarterly instead of monthly. Discussion ensued and the final motion was made by Jeff Shaver which reads that departmental reports are to be sent to members quarterly and that financial reports are to be sent monthly by way of electronic format and that a hard copy can be available for anyone who wants them, on request; Don Howard seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Commission Reports

The Planning Commission had no report for the period because there was no business to conduct.

Mayor's Report

A handout of requests to open and close accounts required by the city was furnished to each member. Those requested to be closed are City of Ward Generator Grant, City of Ward South Ward Project, and Ward Water and Sewer (old) Operation and Maintenance. Those requested and required by USDA to be opened are Ward Water and Sewer System Wastewater Short Lived Asset Reserve and Ward Water and Sewer System Debt Service Reserve. Mayor Brooke asked for a motion to open and close listed reports. Ron Bissett motioned; Gary Matheny seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Mayor Brooke introduced the list of donated equipment to be used for training at the ALETA Police Training Academy. These items have already been approved by the council but to make this official the mayor asked for a motion to approve the list submitted. Bill Moon motioned to accept; Ron Bissett seconded. On voice vote all approved.

Mayor Brooke reminded all of the council members that each one is appointed to all of the special committees as before and that our council meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Brooke asked Mr. Tim Lemon's of Lemon's Engineering to come forward and address the council. In anticipation of the meeting this evening USDA instructed Mr. Lemon's to prepare two different title lines for two possible scenarios for the Ward Wastewater Treatment Facility. The first scenario reads in part "a rebid of the original project, with some revisions in an attempt to get the project within budget, or within budget +25%." What was found out in the review of the bids was that if the project is more than 55% above the budget for construction the project has to be rebid. So if we go with this timeline and some small changes this would be the timeline that would be accepted. At tonight's meeting redesign would begin and what is meant by that is that there are some small changes that were discovered during the review of the bids that can't be taken out of the project that will not affect the overall outcome of the effluent that is being discharged from the plant. Removing items like the grid chamber out of our process and items like that it is felt that we can get the project down to within the original construction lineup plus 25%. Going with timeline #1 it is felt that construction can begin as early as 4/21/17. Following this timeline the revised plans would have to be sent back to the Health Department and ADEQ for their approval. Both offices have been contacted however and each has agreed to expedite this and get it thru as fast as possible because it is considered a re-approval. The second timeline said in part "on a full redesign to reduce the capacity of the proposed wastewater treatment facility." This would be a full redesign and would require going in and downsizing all of the components to try to get the project within the timeline. The problem with that is we may have to do that and if we aren't successful we may have to come back and put a smaller plant in. The problem with building a smaller plant is that within the next ten to fifteen years our projection shows that we will be adding on to the plant again and this is not a good use of our money. If, however, this does happen the construction date would be around Jun 9 of this year. If we can work with what we currently have and this is a good possibility, then construction can begin in March of this year. Some numbers to think about while considering which plan to approve are 25% and this is 25% above what we had budgeted for construction We had about 3.9 million plus we had contingency which brought us up to around 4.3 million. So if we take 25% of that it will bring the figure up to 5.2 to 5.3 million. During the special council meeting the figure was whittled down to 5.5 million and is it felt that another couple hundred thousand can be cut as well. The problem is that the law says it's 25% above the original bid amount, not after we negotiate the down. So we are within 25% of the original amount now but we had to negotiate it down to that point and that's not considered acceptable to save. In Mr. Lemon's opinion he thinks we can put it out for 1.45 and he thinks we can get to that 25% threshold. That's what he would like to do with the council's approval. At this point Judge Clint McGue suggested that we make a motion to reject the previous bids received and rebid the current projected plant with cost saving modifications that are being made to the plant. Mayor Brooke shared with the council the fact that the city wants desperately to stay in compliance and what is accomplished here tonight is so important to the future our city. After the lengthy discussion the mayor asked for a motion. Ron Bissett made a motion to rebid the first contract and negate the redesign contract; 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. On voice vote all approved.

Old Business

FYI --- The mayor informed the council of the fact that then City Attorney Clint McGue drafted a form to be signed by any city resident who wanted to ride along with a meter reader to see how the process is transacted out in the field. Any council member who would like a copy will be electronically furnished one.

New Business

Mayor Brooke introduced Ordinance O-2015-05-1 (BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY OF WARD, LONOKE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:"AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE O-2015-05, AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR

CALENDAR YEAR 2016”) and asked that it be placed on its first reading. Jeff Shaver motioned; Don Howard 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-2015-05-1 has passed its first reading. Next the mayor asked that the rules be suspended and that O-2015-05-1 be placed on its 2nd/3rd reading. Jeff Shaver 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-2015-05-1 has passed its 2nd/3rd reading. Then the mayor asked that the rules be suspended once more and that ordinance O-2015-05-1 be placed up for adoption. Jeff Shaver 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-2015-05-1 has been adopted.

Mayor Brooke introduced Ordinance O-2015-06-1 (BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARD, LONOKE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS: AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: “AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE O-2015-06 AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016.”) and asked that it be placed on its first reading. Jeff Shaver 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-2015-06-1 has passed its first reading. Next the mayor asked that the rules be suspended and that O-2015-06-1 be placed on its 2nd/3rd reading. Jeff Shaver motioned; Gary Matheny 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-2015-06-1 has passed its 2nd/3rd reading. Finally the mayor asked that the rules be suspended and that O-2015-06-1 be placed up for adoption. Jeff Shaver 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-2015-06-1 has been adopted.

Mayor Brooke introduced Resolution R-2017-01 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AMENDMENT NO.3 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MID-ARKANSAS UTILITIES PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITY, AND THE MID-ARKANSAS WATER ALLIANCE.) and asked that it be placed on its first and final 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. Resolution R-2017-01 has passed.

Mayor Brooke introduced Resolution R-2017-02 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LICENSE FOR ANTENNA SPACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS, AN ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT) and asked that it be placed on its first and final reading. Jim Wier 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. Resolution R-2017-02 has passed.

Announcements

Next City Council Meeting February 13, 2017
Planning Commission Meeting January 23, 2017
Seniors meet ever Thursday at noon
LWPWA Meeting February 7, 2017
Chamber of Commerce Meeting February 7, 2017

Adjournment

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

APPROVED DATE: _____

Art Bork

MAYOR

ATTEST:

John E Barclay

CLERK

CITY SEAL

