

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS
JANUARY 15, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Blytheville, Arkansas met in regular session at its regular meeting place in the Municipal Courtroom at 5:00 p.m. January 15, 2019. Present were Mayor James Sanders, City Clerk Connie Mosley-Brents, City Attorney Chris Brown and the following Council Members: John Mayberry, Barbara McAdoo-Brothers, Matt Perrin, John Musgraves and R. L. Jones. Vera James arrived late.

The invocation was given by Dr. Steve Bailey.

Following the invocation, everyone was asked to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sanders asked for the Council's wishes for approval of the minutes from the December 18, 2018 regular meeting. Jones moved, seconded by Musgraves, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the minutes of the December 18, 2018 regular meeting were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk.

Mayor Sanders called for any person(s) wishing to speak on agenda items to come forward. No one came forward.

Mayor Sanders asked for Committee reports.

POLICE AND FIRE - Barbara McAdoo Brothers

Committee met January 7, 2019. Committee heard from Police Chief Ross Thompson. The department is currently staffed at 32 officers and budgeted for 40 officers for 2019. Non-certified hiring phase will begin in March. Certified officer hiring is available at any time. Two positions are open for dispatchers. No budget revisions needed at this time. Minor changes have been made to the uniform policy. Working on a training schedule and subject matter for 2019. This will include in-house training, as well as off- site training. The department is announcing the 2nd annual Citizens Police Academy beginning January 31, 2019. Attendance is by application which can be found online at www.cityofblytheville.com/276/Citizens-Police-Academy and limited to the first 20 applicants. The academy is an 8-week course that generally meets on Thursday night from 6 to 9 p.m. Some of the subjects that will be covered are radar operation, traffic stops, police canine operations, defensive tactics/handcuffing, less lethal munitions, SWAT operations and mock court.

PUBLIC WORKS - Matt Perrin

Committee met December 7, 2019 and heard the following update from Public Works Director Mark Key:

- House at 1232 Thompson torn down, had fallen down into the road and was unsafe
- Working on getting electricity back to all Main Street arches
- Filled 35 potholes in December
- Picked up 80 tires in December
- 1 work order from Code Enforcement completed
- **The leaf truck is now back in service and picking up leaves on curbs.** Mark noted that we may want to budget for a second truck next year.
- Drainage work continues at Millan and Ash Extended, with Jowers Construction

PARKS AND RECREATION - R. L. Jones

Committee met January 7, 2019 and heard from Cody Wyatt regarding the activities and cleaning in all city parks. At the council meeting, Delta Gateway Museum Director Leslie Hester provide the Council with an update on events at the Museum, and Ritz Civic Center Director David Lyttle gave an update on events at the Ritz.

AIRPORT AND UTILITIES - Vera James

Committee met January 7, 2019. Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr reported there were 152 service locates, 12 emergency locates and 61 wastewater service calls requested, all completed. The department replaced 240-feet of gravity sewer pipe at 1024-1034 West Pecan Street. Carr spoke about the current job still underway at Milan and East Ash Street, and the bids that were taken for the CIPP work to be done at Moultrie and 7th Street. Also, the committee voted to allow the Mayor to enter into negotiations for the purchase of 9.4 +/- acres of land for expansion of the Wastewater South Treatment Plant.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL - John Mayberry

Committee met January 8, 2019. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported there were 185 cases generated, with 120 cases cleared. 35 certified letters were mailed, costing \$234.50 in postage fees. 5 liens were placed on properties. They received 30 notices, 17 work orders and issued 6 citations. There was 1 house were torn down, 10 houses condemned. There removed 3 vehicles, while 4 vehicles were removed by the owner. The lighting project for South Franklin to Partee Street to the new Highway 18 and South 2nd Street to the Railroad track has a scheduled completion date of January 19th.

Jefferson reported for Animal Control there were 215 service calls; 300 contacts; 13 captured/surrendered; 9 citations issued; 15 warnings; 24 animals picked up; 1 reclaimed; 0 adopted; 2 fostered, 1 euthanized; 3 transferred to Humane Society, 26 total animals in the shelter, and 5 trips to the landfill. In addition, Jefferson mentioned that the Hot Springs Police Department and their Nuisance Abatement Board meet on Tuesday nights. He hopes that some council members could attend with him to learn from them.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING - John Musgraves

Committee met January 14, 2019. Finance Director John Callens gave a financial report for the one-cent sales tax for the month of December. Compared to last December it is up \$32,325.00, and it is up \$74,795.00 for the year. The city portion of the county sales tax for the month of December is up \$23,078.00. The city portion for the year is \$108,072.00, about a \$100,080.00 increase. Lining and Coating Solutions, LLC. of Olive Branch, MS was awarded the contract for the wastewater repair project on Moultrie Street. Their bid was \$31,577.00. It was mentioned there could be some unforeseen issues that could increase the project. The Finance Committee voted to allow the Mayor to negotiate for the purchase of land at a cost of \$65,000.00 for the new construction and expansion of the Wastewater South Treatment Plant.

Mayor Sanders spoke about the new Justice Center project and the many obstacles in working with the USDA for the past two years. Since the tax is levied for a period of 10 years, the City is falling behind. If possible, the City would now like to look at different avenues of financing.

At this time, Mayor Sanders reminded the Council of their first of the year business to elect a President Pro Tempore. McAdoo-Brothers made a motion to nominate Musgraves, the motion was seconded by Mayberry. There being no other nominations, the motions carried unanimously. Musgraves will serve as President Pro Tempore for the year 2019.

ORDINANCE NO. 1840

AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING ORDINANCE NO. 1840 (Council Procedures)

Jones offered the Ordinance, which was read in full by the City Clerk. On the motion of Jones, seconded by Mayberry, and by consent of all members present, the rules were suspended and the Ordinance was placed on its second reading by title only (6/0). On the motion of Jones, seconded by Mayberry, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the Ordinance was placed on its third reading by title only (6/0). A motion to adopt was made

by Jones, seconded by Mayberry, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the Ordinance was adopted. On the motion of Musgraves, seconded by Mayberry, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the emergency clause was enacted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:01

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW MEMBERS TO THE BLYTHEVILLE RITZ COMMISSION

Mc-Adoo Brothers offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. A motion to adopt was made by Jones, seconded by Musgraves, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:02

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH
KENNETH CROSSKNO FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN LAND**

Musgraves offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. A motion to adopt was made by Jones, seconded by Mayberry, and by consent of the majority of all members present (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:03

A RESOLUTION AWARING CONTRACT TO LINING AND COATING SOLUTIONS, LLC.

McAdoo-Brothers offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. A motion to adopt was made by Jones, seconded by Musgraves, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

There being no further business before the Council, Jones made a motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to adjourn. The motions carried unanimously and the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas