

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS
January 21, 2020 – 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 21, 2020. Present were City Clerk Connie Mosley-Brents, City Attorney Chris Brown and the following Council Members: Barbara McAdoo-Brothers, Matt Perrin, R. L. Jones, John Musgraves, John Mayberry and Vera James.

Jonet' Washington represented the press.

The invocation was given by Pastor Willie Williams.

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 17, 2019 regular meeting. Jones moved, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the minutes of the December 17, 2019 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. There were none.

Mayor Sanders asked for Committee reports.

POLICE AND FIRE – Barbara McAdoo-Brothers

Committee met January 14, 2020:

Fire Report: Brought forth a bid for a new tanker truck for \$361,461.00 saving the city 3% to waive the bidding process and order now. It will take 8 -12 months to build at EVS MidSouth. Musgraves made the motion to send this bid to the Finance Committee and McAdoo-Brothers seconded.

Police Report: Department is staffed at 35 officers. Currently accepting applications for officers and will begin assessing applications on February 8. They are currently working on promotions to the rank of Lt and Sgt. BPD has one dispatch position open as well as a new clerical position. They are preparing to purchase 4 budgeted police package vehicles. Work continues on the new Justice Complex. There was discussion on the process of adding stop signs in the city limits. Chief Thompson supplied the Council with city ordinance #626 for their review.

Pafford Report: 737 911 calls, they have 3 new paramedics and are fully staffed. Pledging donations to the Humane Society for the holidays.

PUBLIC WORKS – Matt Perrin

Committee met January 13, 2020.

- I. Report from Director Mark Key
 - Currently working largely on storm drains, work is slow with all of the rain
- II. Project Updates
 - a. Street Repair on Ruddle and Highland
 - We can expect work to begin as early as two weeks from now.
 - b. Condemnation Demolitions Public Works (in conjunction with Code Enforcement) has torn down 27 houses to date.

c. Road Repairs: Scott St (east of Laclede), Division (north of Walnut)
The concrete truck is in high demand and PW is working to get it scheduled for these jobs.

III. Items for the Committee

a. Westminster Road Closure

Exec. Director for Westminster asked for city to help in slowing down traffic coming through Westminster from Gosnell (BGRAA apts). Following the meeting, Perrin shared the draft resolution for speed bumps with Mrs. Swanson in order to hopefully proceed. Councilman Perrin also set to meet with Mayor Sanders regarding concern and whether something can be worked out with City of Gosnell.

b. Adding Stop Sign (1st & Walnut)

Request to add stop signs running north and south at 1st & Walnut. Motion was made by Councilman Perrin, seconded by Councilman Jones. Will send to full council.

c. Resolution supporting AR 2020 Prop 1 – ½ cent sales tax on gasoline

A resolution was presented supporting AR 2020 Prop 1, extending the ½ cent sales tax on gasoline that is otherwise set to sunset in 2023. Motion was made by Councilman Jones to send to full council, seconded by Councilman Perrin.

d. Council compensation based on attendance

Councilman Perrin brought forth a draft to amend the rules of the City Council requiring council attendance to meeting in order to receive full compensation. After much discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Perrin to send the amendment to full council; citing the need for accountability of the council to the people. Both Councilmen Jones and Mayberry failed to second.

IV. Remarks & Questions Outstanding

PARKS AND RECREATION – R.L. JONES

Committee met January 13, 2020 and heard a report from Park and Activities Director Cody Wyatt:
What have we done?

- Ritz Civic Center –
 - Letter of Intent for the State Historic Preservation Grant was accepted on December 20th, 2019.
 - Revival Architects will be here tomorrow, January 22nd to discuss and decide our priorities for repairs of the Ritz to apply for the grant with.
- Walker Park Office –
 - Renovations continue on the new Parks Office and expect to be finish by the end of this month. We will host a drop-in at the office for the community to stop in and see the finish product.
- Greeting Card Mural –
 - Nucor has partnered with the City with a donation of metal for a mural for downtown.
- Delta Gateway Museum –
 - Lowe's has donated the materials for the new "Sharecropper Home" interactive exhibit and construction has begun!
 - Two bids were submitted for a new HVAC system for the Kress Building.
 - D&L, Inc. \$24,311.00
 - Milligan Heating, A/C & Electrical LLC. \$46,655.00
 - Councilman Jones motioned to send D&L's bid to the Finance Committee and Councilman Mayberry seconded.

What is next?

- Saturday, February 1st – Super Saturday: Southern Bancorp @ 10 am – 2 pm
- Saturday, February 8th – Toy Story 4 for \$5: Ritz Civic Center @ 1 pm
- Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, February 11th, 13th, & 15th – Baseball/Softball Registration: Chamber Tues & Thurs @ 5 pm – 8 pm, Sat @ 10 am 5 pm
- Saturday, February 15th – Johnny Tolley 'Ole Time Variety Show: ANC A/V Hall @ 7 pm (FREE)
- Monday, February 17th – Black History Month Celebration: Delta Gateway Museum @ NOON
- Friday, February 28th – Heritage Party: Delta Gateway Museum @ 6 pm

AIRPORT AND UTILITIES – Vera James

Committee met January 13, 2020 and heard from Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr. He reported there were 64 normal locates, 14 emergency locates and 42 service calls for December. He said an area on 7th Street will need to be repaired because it sunk after a previous repair to the asphalt. There was discussion of a new solar system and it was decided that the Mayor be allowed to enter into an agreement with Entegrity. Jones made a motion, seconded by Brothers, authorizing the Mayor to enter into the agreement and sending this to the Finance Committee for their approval. Finance Director John Callens reported for the Waterworks Department and he mentioned the Municipal Airport received a \$1,000,000.00 grant and their budget would be adjusted.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL – John Mayberry

Committee met January 13, 2020. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported:

- 316 cases generated; 178 cases cleared
- 145 certified letters mailed; 182 regular letters mailed; \$1,036.75 in postage fees
- 116 citations issued; 212 notices issued
- 0 work order(s)
- 0 liens placed on properties
- 6 house(s) torn down
- 10 properties condemned
- 48 vehicle(s) removed by Owners; 0 vehicle(s) removed by Code Enforcement
- Debris removal fees collected \$0.00

For Animal Control Jefferson reported:

- 175 service calls; 190 contacts made
- 5 warnings issued; 0 citations written
- 18 captured
- 6 euthanized
- 0 adopted; 0 fostered; 0 reclaimed
- 6 transferred to Humane Society
- 5 landfill trips
- 18 animals in the shelter

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – John Musgraves

Committee met January 14, 2020 and approved:

- 1) the purchase of a new tanker truck for the Fire Department
- 2) the HVAC replacement for the Delta Gateway Museum
- 3) project development agreement between Wastewater and Entegrity Energy Partners
- 4) approved the necessary amendments to the 2020 budget for the Parks & Recreation Dept (Museum) and the Municipal Airport. All items will be presented to the full council for their vote.

At this time, Mayor Sanders reminded the Council of their first of the year business to elect a president pro tempore. Musgraves nominated Mayberry. McAdoo-Brothers nominated Perrin. Upon voice vote (4/2), it was determined Mayberry will serve as President Pro Tempore for the year 2020.

The City Attorney asked if any Council Members wished to propose changes to their rules of order and procedures. He stated the current rules passed by the council will stand unless changes are made. Perrin prepared and distributed a resolution that would add the requirement to attend a minimum of four meetings per month to receive full compensation. Perrin made the motion to adopt, McAdoo-Brothers second. By a majority vote (4/2), the proposed resolution was defeated. Perrin and McAdoo-Brothers voted yes.

The Mayor called for new business.

ORDINANCE NO. 1889

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLYTHEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Musgraves offered the Ordinance, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Jones made a motion, Musgraves second, and by consent of all the members present, the rules were suspended and the Ordinance was placed on its second reading by title only (6/o). Jones made a motion, Mayberry second, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the third time by title only. Jones made a motion to adopt, Musgraves second, and by consent of a majority of the members present (6/o), the Ordinance was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF PROPERTIES

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO D&L, INC.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:03

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE SUPPORTING THE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1018 OF 2019 (HJR 1018 OF 2019), PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CONTINUE A LEVY OF A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR STATE HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES; COUNTY ROADS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION; AND CITY STREETS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE RETIREMENT OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED IN ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 91, AS SPECIAL REVENUE TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY REVENUE DISTRIBUTION LAW

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:04

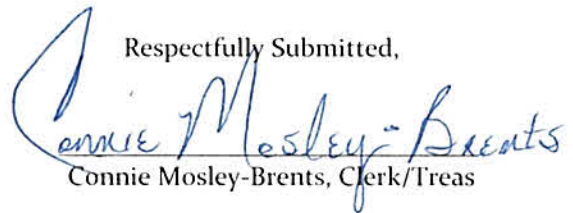
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ENTEGRITY ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:05
***A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020***

Musgraves offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Jones made a motion to adopt, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members present (6/o), the Resolution was adopted.

There being no further business before the Council, Perrin made a motion to adjourn, Musgraves second. The motion carried unanimously; the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas