

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS
FEBRUARY 19, 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. February 19, 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, R. L. Jones and Vera James.

The invocation was given by Pastor Danny Rigney.

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

Mayor Sanders called for approval of the minutes from the January 15, 2019 regular meeting. Perrin moved, seconded by Musgraves, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the minutes of the January 15, 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. No one came forward.

Mayor Sanders asked for Committee reports.

POLICE AND FIRE - Barbara McAdoo-Brothers

Committee met February 12, 2019. Committee heard from Fire Chief Mike Carney the department is fully staffed with 31 personnel. They will continue their testing process on a regular basis to maintain an eligibility list. P-1 (100 ft ladder truck) is now back in service. Ladder test was recently performed with outcome showing passing grades in all categories. We are currently looking to purchase eight Level A Haz-Mat suits. BFD has the only full functioning Haz-Mat team in Mississippi County. They will be looking to upgrade air-monitoring equipment also. Fire Prevention: the department will soon be starting their annual fire inspections. There are over 900 buildings on the list this year. Also, they check business permits and licenses. Training: recently 5 members of BFD participated in a grain bin rescue class in Jonesboro. This class was made possible by an invitation from Farm Bureau Insurance Company.

Police Chief Ross Thompson reported 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. All civilian positions are filled. No budget revisions needed at this time. Policies: implementation of a policy regulating the operation of Proactive Policing Street Crime Units. Training: two officers completed DARE certification since last meeting. The second annual Citizens Police Academy is currently underway with 10 enrolled. Thompson requested a resolution or ordinance to allow the department to demolish the current range house as a part of their efforts to improve the facility. The demolition will be done by the Public Works Department at a minimal cost to the city. Motion to approve was made by McAdoo-Brothers, seconded by Musgraves.

At this time, Mayor Sanders called Chief Thompson to come forward. Thompson introduced 2 of the 11 volunteer officers of the Proactive Policing Street Crime Unit. They spoke of the duties involved in their proactive approach to assist in fighting crime in our community and neighborhoods. The Council commended them in their efforts.

PUBLIC WORKS - Matt Perrin

Committee met February 11, 2019.

- I. Report from Director Mark Key
 - New tractor has been budgeted for and are working on purchasing
 - Looking into leasing new waste truck for \$170k, 5 years with guarantee \$55k buyback
- II. Council Participation
 - Perrin offered a discussion regarding council members' compensation based on attendance to meeting, citing former Resolution 2015.01.
 - Councilmen Jones and Musgraves argued that they spend time talking to constituents and that doesn't get counted and also noted that their constituents hadn't complained about this issue. Finally, they stated that if their constituents were unhappy with their work, they could vote them out.
 - Perrin stated that as it is, everyone attends the meetings. That this is a show of good faith to the people who voted us in; that we're opting to hold ourselves accountable.
 - Perrin made a motion to send to full council. No 2nd was made from either Councilman Jones nor Councilman Mayberry.
- III. Remarks & Questions Outstanding
 - Perrin asked about houses condemned in the Nov. 2018 resolution.
 - Response was that these properties were added to a list of condemned properties. Questions remain about the process for selecting which condemned properties are demolished and in which order.
 - A representative from Main Street Blytheville had asked in Jan. about the lights on Main Street not working
 - Public Works is still working on the repair.
 - The city has received \$250K from State Aid Street Committee to repair Ruddle Rd and Highland. No timeline has yet been set as to completion, but Perrin asked that consideration be given to improvements including sidewalks and bike routes in order to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

PARKS AND RECREATION - R. L. Jones

Committee met February 11, 2019 and heard from Cody Wyatt regarding the activities and cleaning in the city parks. The committee voted to allow the Rotary Club to take over a pavilion at Walker Park and place their sign on it. At the council meeting, Delta Gateway Museum Director Leslie Hester provided the Council with an update on the Museum and events there, and Ritz Civic Center Director David Lytle gave an update on events at the Ritz.

AIRPORT AND UTILITIES - Vera James

Committee met February 11, 2019. Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr reported the work on Moultrie was expected to be completed by the middle of March, but due to the weather that date has been extended. There was a request from the Mayor to enter in an agreement with Northeast Mississippi County Water Association. It was motioned by Jones, seconded by Brothers, to allow the Mayor to enter into the agreement with them. This will be presented to the full council at the February meeting. There was heated discussion concerning the issue of giving Arkansas Northeastern College a water credit for the next 10 years. It was decided by both Jones and James to discuss it at the next committee meeting before taking it to the full council in March. Also, notify the public of the date and time the committee will meet to give them an opportunity to have some input.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL - John Mayberry

Committee met February 11, 2019. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported:

- 249 cases generated, 98 cases cleared
- 135 phone call generated cases.
- 35 certified letters mailed, costing \$216.55 in postage fees

- 20 citations issued, 18 notices
- 5 works orders
- 0 liens placed on properties
- 0 houses torn down
- 10 properties condemned
- 2 vehicles removed by Code Enforcement, 9 vehicles removed by owners
- 30 notices received

The lighting project for South 2nd from Railroad track to Williams Park and North Plaza has been completed.

Councilman Perrin addressed the committee about having the city codes codified. This will be done by the Arkansas Municipal League Ordinance Codification Services. The cost is \$6,000.00. Perrin made the motion, seconded by Mayberry, to send this to the Finance Committee.

Jefferson reported for Animal Control:

- 300 service calls, 275 contacts made
- 50 warnings issued, 10 citation written
- 11 captured
- 3 euthanized
- 1 adopted, 2 fostered,
- 10 transferred to Humane Society, 6 to Animal Rescue
- 4 trips to landfill
- 28 animals in the shelter

FINANCE AND PURCHASING - John Musgraves

Committee met February 11, 2019. Several purchases were approved, mostly for Public Works and one purchase for Waterworks. Committee voted to amend the Clerk's budget for professional services by \$6,000.00 for ordinance codification services offered by the AR Municipal League.

Mayor Sanders called for new business.

ORDINANCE NO. 1865

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS AND THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATERS RELATING THERETO

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1866

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT FOR PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLYTHEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Musgraves 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 Jones, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the emergency clause was enacted.

ORDINANCE NO. 1867
**AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING
THE PAYMENT FOR PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE
BLYTHEVILLE WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1868
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE/PURCHASE AND FINANCING OF CERTAIN
EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLYTHEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 1869
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE/PURCHASE AND FINANCING OF CERTAIN
EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLYTHEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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

The Mayor spoke briefly about how the government shutdown was affecting the City's ability to finance the Justice Center improvements with the USDA. He and Finance Director John Callens have been checking with other financial sources about the possibility of securing the same bonds on open market. According to Mayor Sanders, the City can secure a good rate through Stephen's without having to secure money and secondary money through the government. Representatives from Stephen's have presented their proposal in committee meetings, and with committee approval, they are presenting the next item on the agenda for consideration by the full Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:04
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING OF BONDS TO FINANCE JUSTICE
CENTER IMPROVEMENTS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO**

Musgraves 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. 2019:05

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING OF SEWER REVENUE BONDS; AND
PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO**

Musgraves 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. 2019:06
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN UNNEEDED,
OBSOLETE,
AND NON-OPERATIONAL SCRAP EQUIPMENT**

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. Before the vote, Perrin called for point of debate questioning if the money from the sale of the scrap equipment would go into the Parks & Rec fund. The Mayor stated the Parks & Rec fund was designated by the Finance Committee, that is where the money will go. By consent of all members present (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019:07
A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE FOR THE
FISCAL
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019:08
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE
DELTA GATEWAY MUSEUM COMMISSION**

Jones 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. 2019:09
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE
BLYTHEVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD**

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019:10
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE
BLYTHEVILLE BASEBALL FACILITIES BOARD**

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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019:11
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT(S)/RE-APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE
BLYTHEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Musgraves offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. A motion to adopt was made by Jones, seconded by Musgraves. Perrin called for point of debate, stating that it would seem more prudent if the council voted individually on the candidates. He asked how to make that adjustment. City Attorney Brown advised Perrin that he could make a motion to table the item, and the council would have to vote on that. Perrin made the motion to table, seconded by James. The vote to table was (3/3) with McAdoo-Brothers, James and Perrin voting yes,

Musgraves, Mayberry and Jones voting no. The Mayor abstained from voting. Brown advised there was a motion and a second to adopt before the point of debate, and to proceed with a vote on the Resolution. By consent of a majority of the members present (5/1), the Resolution was adopted. Perrin voted no.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:12
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT(S)/RE-APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE
BLYTHEVILLE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Jones 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. 2019:13
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE
RITZ COMMISSION

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

Regarding the next item on the agenda, Mayor Sanders called for Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr to come forward to explain the urgency for the sewer line repair on Lockard at Hollywood Street. The street cave-in and collapsed sewer line is located near the Sonic Drive-In parking area.

ORDINANCE NO. 1870
AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO
JOWERS GENERAL CONTRACTING FOR THE LOCKARD AND HOLLYWOOD STREET
SEWER MAIN POINT REPAIR

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas

