

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS
August 18, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Blytheville City Council held its fifth virtual Council meeting at 5:00 p.m. August 18, 2020. Mayor James W. Sanders conducted the meeting from City Hall via the teleconferencing app, Zoom. Joining in remotely were: City Clerk Connie Mosley-Brents, City Attorney Chris Brown and Council Members Barbara McAdoo-Brothers, R. L. Jones, John Mayberry, John Musgraves, Matt Perrin and Vera James. The press was represented by Jonet' Washington.

The invocation was given by Bishop John Mayberry.

Mayor Sanders led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Sanders asked for the Council's wishes for approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2020 regular meeting. Jones made a motion, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members (6/0), the minutes of the July 21, 2020 regular meeting were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk.

Mayor Sanders asked for Committee reports.

POLICE AND FIRE – Barbara McAdoo-Brothers

Committee met August 10, 2020, heard brief reports from Pafford EMS Ambulance Services and Fire Chief Mike Carney. Carney discussed replacing some equipment needed to better the department. The committee discussed the old fireman's pension plan, and the possibility of authorizing the plan to be covered under the AR Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI). There will be further discussions and hopefully this will be brought to the council in September. Police Chief Ross Thompson reported the department has hired 3 officers; still awaiting delivery of the latest vehicles on order; and he is hopeful the department will be relocated to the new Justice Center by the first of next year. McAdoo-Brothers encouraged all council members go by and visit the ongoing construction at the Justice Center. Thompson advise he is working on getting the department accredited. He feels this would be an asset to the City to have the department accredited.

PUBLIC WORKS – Matt Perrin

Committee met August 10, 2020.

Agenda:

- I. Report from Director Mark Key
 - a. Magnolia St drain fixed—all new pipe
 - b. N. Lake storm drain fixed—all new pipe
 - c. S. Franklin storm drain fixed—all new pipe
 - d. Cave in storm drain at 5039 Hemlock—waiting on price to fix
 - e. 1100 Putting Green storm drain cave in—waiting for price to fix
 - f. 621 Broadmoor—sidewalk cave in—waiting on price to fix
 - i. Black Hills Energy Gas Line Cuts: Magnolia-1 cut out, N 7th -3 cut out, South 11th 3-cut out, 800 Howard-1 cut out
 - g. Recycling Update: Spoke with JT Harris on 8/10 -trying to come up with a plan through Waste Pro.
 - h. Renting a milling machine to help out with the walking trails at the Sportsplex
 - i. Condemned housing #46 complete—501 Walls St
- II. Items for the Committee
 - a. Grassroots issue (water running underneath building; have had to replace floors twice)

Mark (and Gary) will reach out to Grassroots owner to determine cause of problem.

b. Any word on the road passing Stracener Bros prop?

Mark will check with Mayor Sanders; believes he is working on it.

III. Remarks & Questions Outstanding

Next Public Works Meeting: Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (Hopefully in-person at The Ritz, but probably over Zoom since Blytheville is the only local government that hasn't figured out how to safely meet in-person.)

PARKS AND RECREATION – R.L. JONES

Committee met August 10, 2020, heard a report from Park & Activities Director Cody Wyatt:

What have we done?

- Walker Park –
 - Public Works removed some broken concrete in front of the Parks Department in Walker Park and removed 6 dead trees – thank you to the men of Public Works!
 - 4 large stumps were removed from Walker Park
 - A leaning light pole by the Gazebo in Walker was repaired by Entergy
 - Continued efforts to add lighting to the tennis courts and updates to the public restroom including a water fountain installation
- Thunder Bayou –
 - TBGL was honored as Northeast Arkansas' Best Golf Course 2020 – Silver on Thursday, July 16th by Jonesboro Radio Group
 - \$15,000 for the lighting project at the driving range which does not include adding employees to run the operation, the Golf Facilities Board will discuss it further once they resume their meetings
- Ritz –
 - Lowe's donated \$500 worth of flooring for Director Lyttle's Office and the city purchased new countertops from Lowe's for the concession stand – huge thank you to them!
 - Renovations are underway in the lobby area including sheetrock repair, wallpaper, and painting
- Museum – Director Hester will send her own report to the Council
- Old First Tee Course –
 - Nucor contractors backed out so the city will work to get the area cleaned up
 - Research has been conducted to see what it will take to maintain that area ourselves and the Mayor would like to utilize that area for our citizens to enjoy
 - Ideas were bounced around about the future of this area including extending the walking trails, new playground, disc golf, aquatic center, etc.
 - Director Wyatt will research how much a new facility like that would cost the city and the feasibility of its operation

AIRPORT AND UTILITIES – Vera James

Committee met August 10, 2020. Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr reported-

- July had 124 locates, 15 emergencies and 24 service calls
- work is completed on 7th and 8th Street, the streets are open
- new treatment plant update

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL – John Mayberry

Committee met August 10, 2020. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported:

- 378 cases generated; 291 cases cleared
- 14 certified letters mailed; 192 letters sent regular mail; \$025.20 in postage fees
- 12 citations issued; 237 notices issued
- 0 work order(s)
- 0 liens placed on properties
- 6 house(s) torn down; 1 torn down by owner
- 10 properties condemned
- 17 vehicle(s) removed by Owners; 0 vehicle(s) removed by Code Enforcement
- Debris removal fees collected \$150.00

For Animal Control Jefferson requested the purchase of a new vehicle.

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – John Musgraves

Committee met August 11, 2020 and approved:

- 1) purchase of a new 2020 Ford F250 ¾ Ton Truck for Animal Control/cost of \$25,013.00
- 2) approved Nabholz Construction Services as construction manager for wastewater treatment facilities improvements/cost of \$8,580,526.00

Committee discussed the old fireman’s pension plan, and the possibility of authorizing the plan to be covered under the AR Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI).

Mayor Sanders called for old business.

ORDINANCE NO. 1896

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SPEED HUMPS

Jones made a motion, James second, and by consent of all the members present, the rules were suspended and the Ordinance was placed on its third and final reading by title only (6/0). Jones made a motion to adopt, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the Ordinance was adopted.

Prior to reading the following Resolution, Mayor Sanders called on Mr. Michael McBride of Stephen’s Bank to address the Council on the financing of the sewer bonds. McBride stated due to the delay of the process, he felt it important to visit with the Council again. Since the time is getting close for the bonds to actually be sold, he wanted to update the Council on the interest rate market and where we stand on the potential issuance. A memo was provided to each council member showing a breakdown of what the bond issue looks like. It is projected that \$8.85 million will generate \$8.65 in new money for the city. The interest rate currently is at 2.78, out 30 years, that would be an estimated annual payment of \$440,000,.00. The interest rate market is currently extremely favorable for cities. He stated they are seeing some of the lowest interest rates ever seen in the history of this country. He cannot guarantee that interest rate is exactly what the city will get when the bonds are sold in a month or so, but again interest rates are still extremely favorable and better than any projections shown previously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE AND NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR BLYTHEVILLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

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 (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020:25

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLYTHEVILLE ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Jones 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 (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas