

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was held at 4:00 P.M. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 at 121 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Blytheville, Arkansas to allow the citizens and the users of the City of Blytheville, Arkansas sewer system, and all other interested persons, an opportunity to be heard concerning the confirmation of existing sewer rates and the proposed issuance of bonds secured by net revenues of the sewer system. The hearing was advertised as required by law. Attorney Ryan Bowman of Friday, Eldredge and Clark was on hand for any questions concerning the bond issue. There were no objections and the hearing closed at 5:00 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS September 15, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Blytheville City Council held its sixth virtual Council meeting at 5:00 p.m. September 15, 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 August 18, 2020 regular meeting. Jones made the motion, seconded by Musgraves, and by consent of all members (6/0), the minutes of the August 18, 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 September 4, 2020. No report from the Fire Chief Mike Carney. Police Chief Ross Thompson reported the department is currently staffed at 35 and budgeted for 39. The department is still working on their application for accreditation. There was discussion about application for the 2021 Police Academy, the reduction in our crime rate and skycops.

### **PUBLIC WORKS** – Matt Perrin

Committee met September 3, 2020.

Agenda:

- I. Report from Director Mark Key – whole crew is healthy and at work
- II. Items for the Committee
  - a. Update on Grassroots issue? (water running underneath building; have had to replace floors twice) Gary Carr has been by and spoken with the owner. It's not a city issue, but a leak due to the adjacent building's bad roof. Code Enforcement has been asked to respond to building that is causing the issue.
  - b. Any word on the road passing Stracener Bros prop? Month 2, no clear word, but mayor has been working on it.
  - c. Check in on Vector progress this season PW and council members had gotten calls about Vector. Director Key spoke with them and they've said that they've been getting to the whole city. Their weekly schedule varies, but will try to get a schedule to PW for when citizens call with concerns.

### III. Remarks & Questions Outstanding

**Next Public Works Meeting:** Monday, October 12th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION – R.L. JONES**

Committee met September 3, 2020, heard a report from Park & Activities Director Cody Wyatt:

##### What have we done?

- Walker Park –
  - Continued efforts to add lighting to the tennis courts and updates to the public restroom including a water fountain installation
  - No Mississippi County Fair this fall due to COVID-19
  - 3 busted/missing slides in Walker getting a quote to replace them as soon as possible
  - National Fitness Campaign
    - Fitness Court: The City has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from NFC towards the total of \$130,000 cost to implement. This would be a free circuit-style workout court that could give new purpose to one of the tennis courts in Walker. Goal is to have 100% sponsorship for the remaining \$skycaps.
      - Council tabled the resolution for 9/8/2020 in order to have more time to research the proposed project.
- Thunder Bayou –
  - TBGL held their last tournament of the year, the club championship winners were: Championship Division – Mark Slay, Senior Division – Cameron Beacham, and Super Senior Division – Rick Harrison
- Ritz –
  - 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 –
  - Thank you to Public Works for cutting the First Tee Course!
  - Director Wyatt did reach out to Nabholz gave a quote of \$4 - 4.5 million dollars for a 15,000 square foot community center that included a \$1.8 million dollar pool. This information was given for the council to consider the future of a community center in Blytheville.
- Additionally –
  - Blytheville was selected once again for a feature in Business View Magazine! “Resilience in Arkansas” is the name of the feature showcasing how some cities in AR are continuing growth during the pandemic. Some key points will include the Justice Complex, Mississippi County Courthouse, ATLAS Tubing, Blytheville Air Force Base Museum, and more!

Committee held a Special Meeting September 8, 2020:

Continued discussion on the Fitness Court grant opportunity. Council asked that Director Wyatt reach out to more businesses to see how much they would be willing to contribute before we pass the resolution. Tabled this topic until the next Parks & Rec Meeting on 10/12/2020.

**AIRPORT AND UTILITIES** – Vera James

Committee met September 3, 2020.

Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr reported:

- August had 76 locates, 9 emergencies and 20 service calls
- issues at the current treatment plants
- construction update on new treatment plant

Finance Director John Callens gave a brief report regarding the Waterworks Department.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL** – John Mayberry

Committee met September 3, 2020. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported:

- 241 cases generated; 191 cases cleared
- 35 certified letters mailed; 164 letters sent regular mail; \$325.25 in postage fees
- 8 citations issued; 199 ordinance violation notices issued; 146 ordinance violation door tags
- 0 work order(s)
- 0 properties condemned; 0 liens placed on properties; 27 lien notices issued
- 0 property liens paid
- 6 house(s) torn down; 2 torn down by owner
- 21 inoperable vehicle(s) removed by Owners; 0 vehicle(s) removed by Code Enforcement
- \$150.00 debris removal fees collected

For Animal Control Jefferson reported the kennels are full, only emergency strays being picked up.

**FINANCE AND PURCHASING** – John Musgraves

Committee met September 4, 2020 and approved:

- 1) transferring administration of the retirement coverage for eligible members of the Blytheville Fire Relief and Pension Fund to the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI)

At this point, Mayor Sanders called on Mr. Michael McBride of Stephen's Bank to address the Council regarding the sewer bonds. He reported the bonds were sold that morning, with an interest rate of 2.584 which is less than originally projected. Still with the 30-year maturity that generates more construction funds for the project, \$8,525,000.00 and results in a lower annual payment of \$435,000.00. He stated they were very pleased with the outcome.

Ryan Bowman with Friday Eldredge and Clark spoke about the two ordinances presented on the agenda. The first ordinance is simply confirming the city sewer rates, it does not increase the sewer rates in any way. The second ordinance is the one that actually authorizes the issuance of the bonds in the principal amount of \$8,945,000.00.

Mayor Sanders called for new business.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1897**

***AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING RATES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO***

Musgraves offered the Ordinance, and made the motion, seconded by James, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the first time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by Musgraves, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the second time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the third time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to adopt the Ordinance. The vote was 6/0. The Mayor declared the Ordinance adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1898**

***AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF BETTERMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SEWER REVENUE BONDS PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY***

Jones offered the Ordinance, and made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the first time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the second time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the third time by title only. The vote was 6/0. McAdoo-Brothers made the motion, seconded by Jones, to adopt the Ordinance. The vote was 6/0. Musgraves made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to enact the emergency clause. The vote was 6/0. The Mayor declared the Ordinance, with the emergency clause, adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1899**

***AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING ADMINISTRATION OF RETIREMENT COVERAGE FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THE BLYTHEVILLE FIRE RELIEF AND PENSION FUND TO THE ARKANSAS LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (LOPFI) AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN IRREVOCABLE AGREEMENT WITH LOPFI***

McAdoo-Brothers offered the Ordinance which was read in full by the City Clerk. Perrin made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the second time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to suspend the rules and read the Ordinance for the third time by title only. The vote was 6/0. Jones made the motion, seconded by McAdoo-Brothers, to adopt the Ordinance. The vote was 6/0. Musgraves made the motion, seconded by Jones, to enact the emergency clause. The vote was 6/0. The Mayor declared the Ordinance, with the emergency clause, adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020:26**

***A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS APPROVING A PROPOSED CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND PERFORM UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES***

Musgraves offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Jones made the motion seconded by Musgraves, to adopt the Resolution. The vote was 6/0. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020:27**

***A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON SAID PROPERTIES LOCATED IN BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS***

Perrin offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Mayberry made the motion, seconded by Jones, to adopt the Resolution. The vote was 6/0. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted.

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Sanders reviewed the 2019 Legislative Audit findings with the Council Members. The audit procedures indicated the officials holding the offices of Mayor, Clerk/Treasurer, Finance Director, Police Chief and District Court Clerk were in **substantial** compliance with Arkansas fiscal and financial laws. The Mayor stated, "In other words there were no findings, this is a clean audit. "

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas