

A public hearing was held at 4:45 p.m. preceding the regular monthly City Council meeting to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an administrative contract with the Great River Economic Development Foundation (GREED) for the administration of an Arkansas Economic Development Commission Block Grant for a community development project: Blytheville Atlas Equipment Purchase. The hearing was advertised as required by law. Tameka Jenkins of GREED was on hand for questions. However, of the citizens in attendance, no one present had questions or expressed objections. The hearing closed at 5:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS
October 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. October 15, 2019. Present were City Clerk Connie Mosley-Brents, City Attorney Chris Brown and the following Council Members: Vera James, Barbara McAdoo-Brothers, Matt Perrin, John Musgraves and R. L. Jones. Council Member John Mayberry arrived late. Jonet' Washington represented the press.

The invocation was given by Pastor Danny Pankey.

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 September 17, 2019 regular meeting. Jones moved, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the minutes of the September 17, 2019 regular meeting were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk.

Mayor Sanders asked for the Council's approval to amend the agenda due to the addition of a Resolution to accept the bid offered by Nibco Inc. for the sale of the Regal-Beloit building (formerly known as Magnetec). Jones made a motion to amend the agenda, Musgraves second, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the agenda was amended.

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 October 8, 2019:

Fire Report: BFD was recently awarded the Walmart Community Grant for \$2,000.00 to be used toward the purchase of fire prevention and life safety materials for the community. They have completed their annual hose testing to maintain the city's ISO class 3 rating. Pump testing will begin soon. Currently they are preparing for a confined space rescue training drill at the Dell Power Plant. The department recently participated in a training drill at Air Liquide, the scenario pertained to a mock fire of a liquid O2 pump on fire. Annual business inspections for 2019 are approximately 90% complete and no major violations have been found.

Police Report: Department is staffed at 29 officers. Six non-certified candidates and two certified candidates are in the process. The 2020 budgets for Police, Animal Control and Code Enforcement are almost complete. The department recently received approximately \$22,000.00 for the 2017 and 2018 JAG grants to go toward the purchase of tasers and forensic equipment. Officers completed night-fire exercises. In addition, the department has been busy with community events such as

football games, Main Street events and two 5k runs. Pafford reported they had 675 patient calls for the entire county for the month, 348 transports.

PUBLIC WORKS – Matt Perrin
Committee met October 7, 2019.

I. Report from Director Mark Key

- a. This month, repaired/replaced 16 lights at the airport.
- b. Elm Street- working with Nucor about donating all the culverts to help with drainage.

We have one quote from Barker Brothers.

- c. 11 houses demolished this month
- d. 3 new trash trucks will arrive Dec. 1.
- e. Street light outages should be reported by the homeowner to Entergy at 1-800-968-8243.

Give Entergy the pole number and nearest street address.

II. Project Updates

- a. Street repair on Ruddle and Highland – ready to begin, just waiting on contractor
- b. Replacing airport lights – working daily
- c. Demolition of Condemned Properties
- d. Streetlight Outages – see above, also Jefferson says Entergy has a new system

III. Items for the Committee

IV. Remarks & Questions Outstanding

Councilwoman James asked who is responsible for cutting the overgrowth on S. Ruddle Rd. Director Key responded that it's supposed to be the highway department, but that his crew cut it last week.

PARKS AND RECREATION – R. L. Jones

Committee met October 7, 2019 and heard the following report from Parks and Activities Director Cody Wyatt:

What have we done?

- Walker Park – Concession Stand building has begun renovations to become the new Parks Department Office: upstairs windows repaired, new ceiling tiles, and new lighting installed.
- CITY PARK signs have been placed at Nelson, Williams, and Cypress. More to come.
- Lowe's donated plants for the planter box at the corner Broadway & Main St.

What is next?

- Tuesday, October 8th – Williams Park: Wellspring Church's Adopt-a-Park & Kids JAM – 3:30 pm
- Friday, October 11th – Blytheville High School: BHS Homecoming Activities – 5 pm
- Saturday, October 12th – Ritz Civic Center: Hocus Pocus – 1 & 7 pm
- Saturday, October 12th – Downtown Blytheville: MCAEOC Cancer Color Run – 7 am
- Tuesday, October 15th – Williams Park: Wellspring Church's Adopt-a-Park & Kids JAM – 3:30 pm
- Monday, October 21st – Holiday Inn: Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 am
- Tuesday, October 22nd – Williams Park: Wellspring Church's Adopt-a-Park & Kids JAM – 3:30 pm
- Saturday, October 26th – M&D Outfitters: NEA's 3rd Annual Duck Calling & Gumbo Contest – 10 am

- Tuesday, October 29th – Williams Park: Wellspring Church’s Adopt-a-Park & Kids JAM – 3:30 pm
- Thursday, October 31st – Downtown Blytheville: Trick-or-Treat on Main Street – 5 to 7 pm
- Tuesday, November 5th – Williams Park: Wellspring Church’s Adopt-a-Park & Kids JAM – 3:30 pm
- Saturday, November 9th – Downtown Blytheville: Veteran’s Day Parade – 11 AM

Notes:

Director Cody Wyatt proposed to the committee to take \$10-\$15K from the Parks C.D. to fund an assessment from Revival Architecture to find any and all issues of the Ritz and a plan of repairs to apply for the 2020 grant cycle of from Arkansas Historic Preservation.

- More discussion about the geese issue in Walker Park, Jones asked that we try more scare tactics before deciding to purchase a trained dog. Audience member, Susie Langston, mentioned that some local hunters might have an already trained dog that could help us with our problem and we will be exploring that option.
- Wyatt also mentioned that she included \$6K into the Parks budget for 2020 to repair the lighting at the tennis courts.

At the Council meeting, Jones invited Delta Gateway Museum Director Leslie Hester to address the council. She gave a report of the scheduled upcoming events for the museum.

AIRPORT AND UTILITIES – Vera James

Committee met October 7, 2019. No one from the Airport Commission was present, however Mayor Sanders gave an update on the damaged lights at the airport stating the engineer has looked at the lights and the damage is significant. They will need to be replaced/repared, especially for night time landing. A plan is being developed with Public Works to avoid this type of damage in the future. Wastewater Superintendent Gary Carr reported for September there were 117 locates, 5 emergencies and 17 service calls. He also reported the work has been completed on 9th and 11th Street and the asphalt company will be in the week of either Oct 7th or 14th to do their part. Carr reported the blowers at the West and South treatment plants have burned up and have to be replaced. Costs for the West is \$4,357.85 and the South is \$7,689.95. The West plant will be removed and a solarfield put in at the South plant at a savings of \$25,000.00 per year for 5 years. Mr. Brad Wingfield an engineer from PMI will do the design and get bids for the work. All fire hydrants will be checked and painted.

CODE ENFORCEMENT & ANIMAL CONTROL – John Mayberry

Committee met September 9, 2019. Code Enforcement Director Ricky Jefferson reported:

- 263 cases generated; 176 cases cleared
- 129 certified letters mailed; 129 regular letters mailed; \$1,077.73 in postage fees
- 33 citations issued; 49 court cases; 52 notices issued
- 2 work order(s)
- 0 liens placed on properties
- 5 house(s) torn down
- 10 properties condemned
- 0 vehicle(s) removed by Code Enforcement; 12 vehicle(s) removed by the owner

For Animal Control Jefferson reported:

- 255 service calls; 200 contacts made
- 75 warnings issued; 3 citations written
- 5 captured
- 0 euthanized

- 0 adopted; 0 fostered; 4 reclaimed
- 15 transferred to Humane Society
- 3 landfill trips
- 20 animals in the shelter

FINANCE AND PURCHASING – John Musgraves

Committee met October 8, 2019 and voted on the yearly millage tax – leaving it at 4 mills instead of increasing it. They heard from Tameka Jenkins of the Great River Economic Development Foundation requesting the city endorse two local businesses, Atlas Tube and FrigorTec, to participate in the tax back program. She asked that the city pass resolutions for such, and in addition, pass resolutions necessary for Atlas Tube to receive a block grant through the AR Economic Development Program project. The city will serve as the grant administrator. Committee voted to authorize bidding for alarm systems currently installed in city buildings, and in addition the committee voted to amend the budget for city parks and pools.

A special Finance Committee meeting was held on October 15, 2019 to accept the bid offered by Nibco Inc. for the sale of the Regal-Beloit building (formerly known as Magnetec). Nibco Inc. bid \$701,101.00.

The Mayor called for new business.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:65

A RESOLUTION FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 2019, PAYABLE IN THE YEAR 2020, AS SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION (MILLAGE)

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 (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:66

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003) ATLAS TUBE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:67

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003) FRIGORTEC LP

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:68

A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE FURTHERANCE OF FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES IN THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS (REQUIRED BY HUD FOR ALL CDB GRANTS)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:69

A RESOLUTION FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATOR (ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION/ATLAS TUBE)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:70

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION (FOR CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE TO SUBMIT AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPLICATION TO THE STATE FOR ATLAS TUBE 2019 EXPANSION)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:71

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND FINDING CERTAIN STRUCTURES WITHIN THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS TO BE UNSAFE; UNSANITARY AND UNFIT AND DIRECTING THAT SAID STRUCTURES BE DEMOLISHED AND REMOVED

James 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. 2019:72

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. Musgraves made a motion to adopt, McAdoo-Brothers second, and by consent of all members present (6/0), the Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:73

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGN-BUILD PROCESS FOR THE NEW BLYTHEVILLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:74

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BLYTHEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (LUCRETIA MCDONALD)

James offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Jones made a motion to adopt, James second. Before voting Perrin asked the Mayor, "Why did you decide to rescind your initial appointments to this commission? There were two commission appointees the council failed to confirm, but that didn't mean they were done. According to state law the only way to pull them from this is for you to have rescinded that." Mayor Sanders stated, "It's was over because you all didn't appoint them." After much discussion, Perrin made a motion to table the Resolution. City Attorney Brown stated the motion and second to adopt should be handled first, before moving to a motion to table. On roll call, and by consent of a majority of members present (4/2), the Resolution was adopted. Perrin and McAdoo-Brothers voted no.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019:75

***A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE
BLYTHEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (SHEILA WARD)***

Musgraves offered the Resolution, which was read in full by the City Clerk. Jones made a motion to adopt, Musgraves second. Before voting Perrin stated, "I want to make it clear that what seems to be happening is that there are different rules for different folks and that seems to be a common theme in this administration, so I need to call that out for my own sake." Perrin was referring to what he says is a precedent that was set two months ago set by Jones and Mayberry, that new commission appointees are expected to report to committees to be interviewed. On roll call, and by consent of a majority of members present (5/1), the Resolution was adopted. Perrin voted no.

***RESOLUTION NO. 2019:76
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BLYTHEVILLE, ARKANSAS ACCEPTING THE BID
FOR THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE
(REGAL-BELOIT BUILDING - FORMERLY KNOWN AS MAGNETEC)***

McAdoo-Brothers 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.

Before adjourning, Mayor Sanders asked State Rep. Johnny Rye to come forward to present him with his Distinguished Legislator plaque on behalf of the Arkansas Municipal League. Rep. Monte Hodges, who was also in attendance at the Council meeting, received his Distinguished Legislator plaque at the last Municipal League meeting which Rep. Rye was unable to attend. Hodges and Rye were acknowledged for their noteworthy legislative service.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Mosley-Brents, Clerk/Treas