



CITY OF WARD

P.O. BOX 237 • WARD, ARKANSAS 72176 • 501-843-7686

Council Meeting Minutes February 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by Steven Hall followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** by City Clerk Rummel. Chapman-present, Harbort –present, Hefner –present, Brooke-present, Ruble- present. We have a quorum.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the January 16, 2023 council minutes, second by council member Ruble. Discussion. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Harbort made a motion to approve the department reports and financials, second by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:**
Jerry Peters presented the planning commission report. Erin Mixon elected as secretary. Discussion of the Plex subdivision on Elm street. Motion to approve the planning commission report as presented made by council member Harbort and seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- VI. **New Business:**

A. ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 1, POSITION 2

Three candidates were presented to the council and given three minutes to introduce themselves. First was Steven Hall. He grew up in northern Arkansas where his father was the code enforcement officer for 20 years. Mr. Hall served as a pastor for the last 37 years, and served on various boards, budgets, mission trips, and holds the rank of Captain with the Beebe Police Department. Harry “Butch” Price was the second to speak. He and his wife researched the area and chose to live in Ward. Currently he is retired. The last to speak was Ronnie Wheeler. He lived in Ward the last 21 years. He is from Kansas City, MO. He worked as a Field Operations manager and is currently retired. He volunteers

weekly at the VA. City attorney Chris Lacy collected the voting ballots with the following results: 3 votes for Steven Hall, 1 vote for Butch Price, and 1 vote for Ronnie Wheeler. Mayor Gastineau swore in Steven Hall and he was seated on the council.

B. RESOLUTION R-2023-06: A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF WARD BY THE MAJORITY VOTE OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

Discussion. Motion to approve made by council member Harbort, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-1 roll call vote. Harbort – yes, Chapman- yes, Hall- abstain, Hefner – yes, Brooke- yes, Ruble- yes.

C. ORDINANCE O-2023-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF WARD ORDINANCE 2014-07, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The water office manager, Brittney, was present to answer questions regarding changing the water bill due date. She stated there are approximately 4200 customers and 80-90 disconnections each month. Discussion. Council member Ruble made a motion put O-2023-02 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call Chapman-yes, Hall -yes, Hefner -yes, Brooke –no, Ruble – yes, Harbort – no. Motion passed its first reading. With no further movement to suspend the rules, this ordinance will be placed on the agenda next month for its second reading.

D. ORDINANCE O-2023-03: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FRANCHISE TAX FOR FIBER OPTICS SERVICES WITHIN THE CORPORATE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Discussion. As more people have access to fiber optic services, a steady decline is shown with the cable TV franchise fee. This ordinance would help combat the loss of revenue. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve O-2023-03 on it's first reading, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Hall- yes, Hefner- yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Harbort-yes, Chapman-yes. Motion passes. No further movement to suspend the rules. This ordinance will be placed on the agenda next month for it's second reading.

E. ZELLA'S TRASH SERVICE FUEL SURCHARGE

Megan Haymes with Zella's Trash spoke about the need to extend the fuel surcharge an additional 6 months. Diesel prices are still high and landfill costs are scheduled to increase an additional 5%. Council member Harbort made a motion to extend the fuel surcharge, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

F. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ENGINEERING PROPOSALS

Mayor Gastineau asked CAPDD to put out an RFQ for engineers. A committee to include council members Hefner, Ruble, and Harbort will review and score each engineering firm that submitted.

G. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ARCHITECT PROPOSALS

Likewise, a committee to include council members Brooke, Hall, and Chapman will review and score the architect proposals.

H. SETTING DATE FOR HAZMAT/SHREDDING EVENT

The HAZMAT company suggested holding a separate event from the Spring Clean up date as a less expensive option. This event would be three hours long, but would include shredders. Discussion. Council member Ruble made a motion to hold a separate event, seconded by council member Hall. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

I. STREET AID COMMITTEE REQUEST LETTER

Street aid has funds available to assist in overlaying city streets. Mayor would like to request aid in paving Markham Street, Owen Street and North Street. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve request letter be sent, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

J. CITY HALL FLAG POLE RELOCATION/ADDITION

Mayor Gastineau explained the current situation with the flag pole. While it is broken, there is also a need to have a second pole when certain flags are to be flown half-staff. Poles will be repositioned in the front of the building with 5-foot ADA sidewalks leading to them. Council member Harbort made a motion approve the Flag and Banner quote and the sidewalk quote, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hefner-no, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Harbort-yes, Chapman-yes, Hall-yes. Motion passes with a 4-2 roll call vote.

VIII. Mayor's Report: See attachment

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

X. Announcements

- Planning Commission Meeting: February 27, 2023, 7:00 pm
- Public Hearing on CDBG: March 20, 2023, 6:00 pm
- City Council Meeting: March 20, 2023, 6:30 pm
- Grace Community Eggstravaganza: April 8, 2023 1:00-3:00 pm
- Great American Eclipse: April 24, 2024

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 7:39 pm with a motion by Council Member Hefner, second by Council Member Ruble. Motion to adjourn passed with a 6-0 voice vote.

We, the undersigned Mayor and City Clerk for the City of Ward, do hereby verify the foregoing to be true and correct record of proceedings of the City of Ward Council Meeting held on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: March 28, 2023



MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL

February 20, 2023 City Council

Mayor's Report

- **SRTS IV: Sidewalk Project (80%/20%)**
 - Waiting on ARDoT to release the project
- **Meter Replacement Project (ARPA Funds)**
 - Contract Signed....material being ordered
- **Unified Development Ordinance**
 - Staff is reviewing with a April 1 deadline to finish
- **License Plate Reader Camera**
 - Contractor awaiting ARDoT permits
- **Nuisance/Abatement Notice 4th Street (burnt house)**
 - Slight progress being made.
- **Consolidated 911 Center**
 - County has agreed on location for new AWIN tower near Sheriff's office
 - County submitted grant application for \$400k toward cost to construct
 - AWIN will erect new AWIN tower on Tucker Prison grounds to better server the sound end of the county
 - 911 Center location still to be determined by more than likely will be within Cabot city limits
- **Broadband Deployment**
 - Connect2First is continuing to lay fiber in the city
 - Residential and Commercial hook ups beginning soon west of Hwy 367
 - City Hall...and surrounding residents to be hooked up within a month or two.
- **Short-Term Rental**
 - Proposed Senate bill 197 as amended
 - Currently, ABNB listing within city limits
 - Home (Near Wilson Loop and Willard) - \$138 night
 - Room (Lilly Ann?) - \$36 night
 - Home (Legacy Farms) - \$229 night
 - Room (Dobbin Dr) - \$50 night
 - Home (Langford St) - \$129 night
 - NONE – that I am aware of – are licensed to do business in Ward
- **Virtual Town Hall Meeting(s)**
 - Initial Meeting was “ok” with 12 people were on line at any given time. Some good conversation via text and Chat.
 - Thanks to Council Member Harbolt for correcting me as to which council seat was open
 - Next Virtual Town Hall will be May 18, 6:30 pm. There will be no set agenda, just talk

- **Ward Centennial**
 - Incorporated June 14, 1923
 - Centennial Celebration Events are being planned
 - Movies in the Park
 - “Poor-Boy” Supper
 - Expanded 4th of July Celebration
 - July 1st (and maybe 4th?)
 - **ANYBODY who like to get involved with the planning and execution of events, contact Jamee or Michelle at City Hal.**
- **Ward > Austin > Cabot Bike/Pedestrian**
 - ARDoT has approved the Trailhead at Ward Park
 - \$85,000 Construction
 - Design cost are up to city buy are reimbursable through Metroplan when using one of their approved Engineering firms
 - Half Engineering will work up the design ONCE ARDoT releases the project
- **Great American Eclipse Event**
 - April 8, 2024
 - Planning begins NOW and MAY include
 - Temporary RV Park in the City Park
 - Suspension of placement of RVs in Subdivision, etc