



## CITY OF WARD

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

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### Council Meeting Minutes March 28, 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. Hall-present, Chapman-present, Harbort –resigned, Hefner –present, Brooke-present, Ruble- present. We have a quorum.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the February 20, 2023 council minutes, second by council member Chapman. Discussion. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Chapman 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:**  
The Planning Commission did not meet last month, so there is no report.
- VI. **Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Tony Thurman, Cabot Public School Superintendent**  
Dr. Tony Thurman presented the millage change and bond restructure. Some of these changes affect pre-K services and improvements to the athletic department. If approved, a new Pre-K school will be built just off the Austin exit and will have a Safe Room that will be available to local residents including Ward.
- VII. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **ORDINANCE O-2023-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF WARD ORDINANCE 2014-07, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (2<sup>ND</sup> READING)**  
Mayor Gastineau handed the council members a letter from city attorney Chris Lacy's office. The letter was a response to a complaint sent to the attorney general regarding reconnect fees. See attachment. He explained this would streamline the billing process to be in line with surrounding areas. Also, it would reduce reconnection costs for citizens. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve O-2023-07 on its second reading, seconded by council member Ruble.

**C. ORDINANCE O-2023-05: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT CREATING LRAFB REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE; IDENTIFYING CITY OF WARD OFFICIALS TO THE COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

Discussion. Council member Ruble made a motion put O-2023-05 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Ruble – yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes. Motion passed its first reading. Council member Ruble made a motion to suspend the rules and put O-2023-05 on its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to approve O-2023-05, seconded by Council member Ruble. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote.

**D. ORDINANCE O-2023-06: AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF NON- OWNER-OCCUPIED SHORT-TERM RENTALS FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD, DELCARING AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

Discussion. This ordinance was withdrawn by Mayor Gastineau will be placed on the agenda next month. Council member Ruble made a motion to table to next month, seconded by council member Hall. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.

**E. RESOLUTION R-2023-07: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO USE ONE OF MORE OF THE BELOW LISTED ARCHITECT FIRMS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES**

Discussion of the top four architect firms. Council member Hefner made a motion to R-2023-07, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 vote.

**F. RESOLUTION R-2023-08: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NON-PROFIT AGENCY AS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

Discussion. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote.

**G. RESOLUTION R-2023-09: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO REGISTER THE CITY OF WARD AND/OR THE WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM WITH THE LAW FIRM OF NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC FOR THE PURPOSES OF REPRESENTING THE CITY OF WARD AND/OR THE WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM IN RE: AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS (AFFF) PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION, MDL NO. 2873 (D.S.C.)**

Discussion. Mayor Gastineau stated that by not joining, we will get nothing from the settlement and it costs us nothing to join. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Brooke-no, Ruble-Hall, Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes. Motion passes with a 4-1 roll call vote.

**H. RESOLUTION R-2023-10: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR ARKANSAS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

Discussion. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote.

**I. RESOLUTION R-2023-11: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM WESLEY KYLE KINDLE, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS 601 COOK STREET, WARD, ARKANSAS**

The city was approached by Mr. Kindle who needed to dispose of the property partly due to back taxes. Discussion of possible uses for the property. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve as long as the title came back clear, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote.

**J. RESOLUTION R-2023-12: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO USE ONE OF MORE OF THE BELOW LISTED ENGINEERING FIRMS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Discussion. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Chapman-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote.

**K. TAP/RTP WORKSHOP**

We have an opportunity through ARDOT to suggest projects and secure funding. This workshop will be held Monday, April 10, 2023.

**L. DISPOSITION OF FURNITURE, ELECTONICS, ETC – CITY HALL YARD SALE**

The city has a lot of old furniture and office equipment. No computers or laptops will be sold. Council member Hall made a motion to approve the event, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.

**VIII. Mayor's Report:** Mayor Gastineau presented the State of the City report. See attachment.

**IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** None

**X. Announcements**

- Eggstravaganza: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00pm
- City Council Meeting: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm
- Public Hearing: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm
- Planning Commission Meeting: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm
- Spring Clean Up: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-3:00pm
- Movies in the Park: May 6<sup>th</sup>, Dusk
- Fishing Derby: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-12:00pm

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 8:06 pm with a motion by Council Member Ruble, second by Council Member Hefner. Motion to adjourn passed with a 5-0 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 Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: April 17, 2023

  
MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL

## March 28, 2023 City Council

### Mayor's Report

- **SRTS IV: Sidewalk Project (80%/20%)**
  - Waiting on ARDoT to release the project
- **Meter Replacement Project (ARPA Funds)**
  -
- **Unified Development Ordinance**
  - Staff is reviewing with a April 1 deadline to finish
- **License Plate Reader Camera**
  - Contractor awaiting ARDoT permits
- **Nuisance/Abatement Notice 4<sup>th</sup> Street (burnt house)**
  - Work in Progress
- **Consolidated 911 Center**
  - No Change
- **Broadband Deployment**
  - Connect2First is continuing to lay fiber in the city are surrounding area
- **Virtual Town Hall Meeting**
  - Next Virtual Town Hall will be May 18, 6:30 pm. There will be no set agenda, just talk
- **2023 Water/Wastewater Rate study**
  - Act 605 Requires a Rate Study every 5-years
  - Last rate increase was 2018
  - It will take several months for ARWA to workup the study due to demand
  - Public Hearing(s) before any increase takes place
- **Spring Cleanup: April 29<sup>th</sup>.....NEED VOLUTEERS**
- **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
  - **April 10, 2023 – Informational Meeting at Veterans Park Event Center**
    - **10 am.... ALL invited**