



## CITY OF WARD

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

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### Council Meeting Minutes January 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by council member Steven Hall followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Steven Hall, Charles Chapman, Stacey McMinn, Casey Brooke, and Rob Ruble. We have a quorum. Council member Hefner is out sick and is an excused absence. Mayor Charles Gastineau, City Attorney Chris Lacy, and City Clerk Krystal Rummel were also in attendance.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the December 18, 2023 council minutes, second by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Brooke made a motion to approve the department reports and the December financials, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:** There is no Planning Commission report as they did not meet last month.
- VI. **Old Business:**
  - A. **OVERRIDE MAYOR VETO MOTION CONCERNING THE EMS CONTRACT** Mr. Gary Padget with Southern Paramedic Service approached the council. Mayor Gastineau explained Mr. Padget has offered to withdraw the \$20,000 subsidy in the contract if the city moves forward with them. The procedure is to ask for a motion to override the veto. Council member Brooke made a motion. Motion died for lack of a second. Council member Hall made a motion to allow Mayor Gastineau to move forward extending the contract with Southern Paramedic Services without the \$20,000 subsidy, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 4-1 vote.

VII. New Business:

- A. ORDINANCE 2024-01: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2023-01; ESTABLISHING THE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED BY THE WARD CITY COUNCIL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Mayor Gastineau explained this is an annual ordinance and law requires us to set these procedures in January. Council member McMinn made a motion to approve O-2024-01 on its first reading, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to suspend the rules for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member McMinn made a motion to approve O-2024-01, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. Motion carries. Council member Chapman made a motion invoke the emergency clause, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes. O-2024-01 has been approved. Mayor Gastineau requested a motion to skip further down the agenda to discuss meeting dates requested by council member Ruble. Council member Ruble made a motion, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote.
- B. DISCUSSION ON CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES (COUNCIL MEMBER RUBLE)** Council member Chapman made a motion to change the council meeting dates to the third Tuesday of every month and to change O-2024-01 to reflect that if approved, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote.
- C. ORDINANCE 2024-02: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY PARKING OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, TRAVEL TRAILERS WITHIN ANY AND ALL ZONES WITH THE CITY OF WARD FROM APRIL 1, 2024 TO APRIL 12, 2024; ESTABLISH A PERMITTING/FEE PROCESS; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES; WAIVING THE PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE 2009-01; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member McMinn made a motion to approve O-2024-02 on its first reading, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion passes with a roll call vote of 5-0. Mayor Gastineau requested to table this to next month and give everyone a chance to look over it.
- D. ORDINANCE 2024-03: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCES 2014-07, 2014-07-1, 2019-09 AND 2023-02; PRESCRIBING A CHANGE IN THE RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR WATER AND SERVICES RENDERED BY THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Mayor Gastineau explained we had a working session to discuss the changes. Council member Brooke made a motion to add a line in paragraph V that allows for 1 time a quarter no charge, after 1 time a quarter you could be charged \$25, and this fee could still be waived by the water office manager. Motioned seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 vote. Council member McMinn made a motion include language that we are going to refund the fees if the meter is found to be faulty. Motion seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes. Motion passes with a 5-0 vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to table this until next month, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote.

- E. RESOLUTION 2024-01: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND R-2022-35 THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2024-01, seconded by Council member Hall. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. R 2024-01 is approved
- F. RESOLUTION 2024-02: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE R-2022-36 THE ANNUAL WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2024-02, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-abstain (due to his wife's pay comes from this budget), Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion carries with 4-1(abstain), R-2024-02 is approved.
- G. RESOLUTION 2024-03: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE WARD WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE; DEFINING MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2024-03, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes. R-2024-03 is approved with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Gastineau explained that this requires a council member as chairman. Council member Hall made a motion to appoint council member McMinn, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- H. RESOLUTION 2024-04: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THREE (3) 10-HORSEPOWER PUMP FOR VARIOUS WASTEWATER LIFT STATIONS (UPDATED)** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2024-04, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes. R-2024-04 is approved.
- I. ~~RESOLUTION 2024-05: A RESOLUTION REPEALING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION R-2022-03; ESTABLISHING MINIMUM HOURLY RATES AND SALARY FOR MEMBERS OF THE WARD POLICE DEPARTMENT (WITHDRAWN BY MAYOR)~~**
- J. RESOLUTION 2024-06: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LONOKE COUNTY SAFE HAVEN, INC.** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve R-2024-06, seconded by Council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion carries 5-0 vote.
- K. RESOLUTION 2024-07: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF WARD TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID FUNDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2024-07, seconded by Council member Ruble. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. R-2024-07 is approved.

L. **INFORMATION ON 2024 ELECTION CYCLE** Mayor Gastineau reminded council members they are up for re-election this year. An attachment with the rules was included in the council package and read before council.

VIII. **Mayor's Report:**

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

X. **Announcements**

- December 21 – Planning Commission Meeting, 7 pm
- January 22, 2024 – Planning Commission, 7pm
- February 20, 2024 – City Council Meeting, 6:30pm
- February 19, 2024 – Offices Closed in Observance of President's Day
- February 20, 2024 – Early Primary Election voting begins
- April 8, 2024 – Great American Eclipse

XI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm with a motion by Council Member Ruble, second by Council Member Brooke. 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 Monday, January 19, 2024 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: February 20, 2024

  
MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL

