



CITY OF WARD

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

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** was called to order by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:47 pm due to the swearing in ceremony. Prayer was offered by Art Brooke followed by the pledge of allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** by City Clerk Rummel. Chapman-present, Morris-absent, Harbort –present, Hefner –present. We have a quorum with the mayor included.
- III. **New Business:** Motion was made by council member Hefner to skip ahead in the agenda to the election of new council members, seconded by council member Chapman with a 4-0 voice vote.
 - A. **ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 3, POSITION 1**

This position was vacated with the rezoning of the ward districts. No one signed up for the election process. Casey Brooke was allowed three minutes to introduce himself. He grew up in this area and graduated from Cabot High School. He retired from the Air Force, formerly worked in the Ward Water department, and currently works for the VA. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve Casey Brooke, seconded by council member Harbort. Motion passes with a 4-0 voice vote.
 - B. **ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 3, POSITION 2**

This position was also vacated with the rezoning of the ward districts. No one signed up for the election process. Rob Ruble was allowed three minutes to introduce himself. He grew up in the area, medically retired from the Army, and has lived within the city limits since 2017. He is currently on the police force for the city of Beebe and married to Courtney Ruble, HR – Finance director for the city of Ward. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve Rob Ruble, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 4-0 voice vote.
 - C. **SWEARING-IN OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Judge Clint McGue swore in both new members and they were seated on the council. With the new council members, the mayor is no longer included in the quorum.

- IV. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the December 19, 2022 council minutes, second by council member Harbort. Discussion. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- V. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Harbort made a motion to approve the department reports and financials, second by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- VI. **Planning Commission Report:**
Jerry Peters presented the planning commission report. Motion was made by council member Harbort to rezone the area of 811 Moon Road from R1 to R2, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 4-1 roll call vote of council members Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – no, Brooke – yea, Ruble – yea. Motion to approve the planning commission report as presented made by council member Hefner and seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- VII. **New Business continued:**
- A. **RESOLUTION 2023-04 - W3, P1: 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 Chapman, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion passes with a 4-1 roll call vote. Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke- abstain, Ruble- yea, Chapman- yea.
- B. **RESOLUTION 2023-05 - W3, P2: 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 Hefner. Motion passes with a 4-1 roll call vote. Hefner – yea, Brooke- yea, Ruble- abstain, Chapman- yea, Harbort – yea.
- C. **ORDINANCE 2023-01: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2021-01; ESTABLISHING THE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED BY THE WARD CITY COUNCIL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Council member Hefner made a motion to put O-2023-01 on its first reading, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Brooke- no, Ruble – no, Chapman – yea, Harbort- yea, Hefner-yea. Mayor Gastineau explained that in order for the motion to pass, it required at least four yes votes. He was able to cast a ‘yes vote to pass the ordinance. Motion carries. Council member Harbort made a motion to suspend the rules on the second and third reading of O-2023-01, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Ruble – no, Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – no, Brooke – no. Motion does not carry. Council member Hefner made a motion to have a discussion, seconded by council member Harbort. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Hefner asked why the other members were opposed to the ordinance. Council member Ruble did not agree with the voluntary fines. Discussion. Council member Hefner made a motion to vote on the issue a second time, seconded by council member Harbort.

Roll call: Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke – abstain, Ruble – yea. Motion carries. Council member Harbort made a motion to suspend the rules and put O-2023-01 on it's third reading, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke – abstain, Ruble – yea, Chapman – yea. Motion passes. Motion to approve O-2023-01 made by council member Chapman, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Hefner – yea, Brooke – yea, Ruble – yea, Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea. Motion passes. Motion to enact the emergency clause made by council member Harbort, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Brooke – yea, Ruble – yea, Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea. Motion passes and is effective immediately.

D. RESOLUTION 2023-01: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND R-2021-33 THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Discussion. Motion to approve R-2023-01 made by council member Ruble, seconded by council member Harbort. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote: Ruble – yea, Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke – yea.

E. RESOLUTION 2023-02: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE R-2021-34 THE ANNUAL WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Discussion. Council member Harbort made a motion to approve R-2023-02, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote. Chapman – yea, Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke – yea, Ruble – yea.

F. RESOLUTION 2023-03: A RESOLUTION REPEALING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION R-2022-03; ESTABLISHING MINIMUM HOURLY RATES AND SALARY FOR MEMBERS OF THE WARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Discussion. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2023-03, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 roll call vote: Harbort – yea, Hefner – yea, Brooke – yea, Ruble – yea, Chapman – yea.

G. REPEAL RESOLUTION 2022-04: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MINIMUM HOURLY RATES AND SALARY FOR MEMBERS OF THE WARD WATER WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

The Public Works department was newly created and we are not ready to submit a resolution with those minimum salaries, but working on it. Council member Chapman made a motion to repeal R-2022-04, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.

H. SETTING OF 2023 SPRING CLEAN UP

Discussion about hazmat and shredder services provided. Council member Ruble made a motion to move forward with plans for 2023 Spring Clean up as presented, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.

I. PROCLAMATION – 2023 NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

Mayor Gastineau read this proclamation declaring Tuesday, January 17, 2023 the National Day of Racial Healing.

J. CITY COUNCIL KEVIN MORRIS RESIGNATION AND DECLARING VACANCY

Council member Kevin Morris submitted his resignation as a result of the passing of both his wife and mother. Motion to accept the resignation made by council member Hefner, seconded by council member Harbort. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote. Motion to declare the vacancy for Ward 1, Position 2 made by council member Chapman, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with 5-0 voice vote. Members of the public who wish to apply must live within the city of Ward Voting Ward 1, be eligible to take office and fill out an Affidavit of Eligibility due to the City Clerk by noon February 20th, 2023.

VIII. Mayor's Report: See attachment

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None

X. Announcements

- Planning Commission Meeting: January 23, 2023, 7pm
- Mayor's Virtual Town Hall Meeting: February 16, 6:30 pm
- City Council Meeting: February 20, 2023, 6:30 pm
- Great American Eclipse: April 24, 2024

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 7:44 pm with a motion by Council Member Harbort, second by Council Member Ruble. 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 16, 2023 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: February 20, 2023


MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL