



## CITY OF WARD

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

### Special Council Meeting Minutes – 2/23/21 Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order:** was called to order by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance
  
- II. **Roll Call (COVID-19 Protocols):** by City Clerk Ruble. Council Members Rummel – here, Wier – here, Harbort – here, Hefner – here, McMinn – here, and Shetron – absent. We have a quorum
  
- III. **Confirmation of Public Access via Facebook Live:** City Clerk Ruble announced to any one following the meeting on Facebook Live that they can text any comments or questions to 501-259-1273.
  
- IV. **Special Business:**
  - a. **RESOLUTION 2021-06:** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE A USED POLICE VEHICLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES: Mr. Wier made a motion to buy car #1 at \$17,995.00. Mr. Wier withdrawals his motion and makes a motion to purchase 2 used police cars, second by Mr. Rummel. Discussion. Motion passes with a 4-1. Wier-yea, Harbort-yea, Hefner-nay, McMinn-yea, and Rummel-yea.
  
  - b. **FEBRUARY WATER BILL DISCUSSION:** Mayor Gastineau discussed the action that will be taken for the February water bills as outlined in the attached document.
  
- V. **Announcements – (COVID-19 Protocols Apply, as needed)**
  - City Council Meeting: March 15 at 6:30 pm
  - Planning Committee Meeting: March 22 at 7:00 pm
  
- VI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm with a motion by Mr. Wier, second by Mrs. 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 Special Meeting held on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 at 6:30pm.

APPROVED DATE: April 19, 2021

[Signature]  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
CITY CLERK

CITY SEAL

## February 2021 Water Bill Adjustment Explanation

### Background:

As you are aware of, we just experienced a record-setting snow fall with equally record-setting low temperatures. The office was closed to all non-essential operations on February 11 and for half a day on February 12 due to an ice/sleet storm. The offices were closed on February 15 for President's Day and then again February 16 – 18 due to the snowfall.

### Normal Meter Reading/Billing

Meter reading normally begins on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> with billing sent out around the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Currently there are 4,627 meters which must be read. Water operations personnel are pulled off their regular duties to read meters which takes 5-7 to complete.

**Problem:** The meters did not get read because of the weather and the office being closed prior to the time in which the bills need to be sent out.

### Solution:

In consultation with the vendor, we can send out estimated bills. However, the method of estimating depends on the history of the residence. Please note this is the only options available according to the vendor.

1. If the residence has history to the same period last year, last year's usage will be used. HOWEVER, if a residence's bill for last year was extremely high or low, it will be manually adjusted by the water office manager to better reflect their actual average.
2. If the residence has less than one year of history, the last month will be used. Again, if extremely high or low, it will be manually adjusted by the water office manager to better reflect their actual average.
3. If the residence has no history (i.e. they just moved in), an average of the last 12 months of the *previous* occupant will be used. Again, if extremely high or low, it will be manually adjusted by the water office manager to better reflect what is a normal average.

**Next Month's Bills:** We all know that most everyone ran their water for several day to ensure try and prevent their water pipes from freezing. It worked for most, but not all. It is our hope that people understand their next month's bill will probably be much higher and plan for that.