



CITY OF WARD

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

Council Meeting Minutes August 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Public Meeting – Fun Park Grant Application:** Discussion. No action taken.
- II. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:34pm. Prayer was offered by Council member Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Steve Hall, Charles Chapman, Stacey McMinn, Robin Hefner, Casey Brooke, and Rob Ruble. We have a quorum. Mayor Charles Gastineau, City Clerk Krystal Rummel, and City Attorney Chris Lacy were also in attendance.

Note: Representative Whooten was present and spoke briefly in support of the new facility.

- IV. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the July 15, 2025 council minutes, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve the July 28, 2025 council minutes, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.
- V. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the department reports for June and July 2025, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.
- VI. **Planning Commission Report:** Planning Commission report given by Chairman Erin Mixon. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the final plat for Oakland Grove, Phase IV, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to approve the final plat for Moonlight Meadows, Phase I, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion is approved with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to approve the Planning Commission report, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion approved with a 6-0 voice vote.

VII. **Water Wastewater Advisory Committee Report:** no action taken. Next meeting until September.

VIII. **Old Business:**

- A. **50-ACRE PROPERTY ON HWY 31: UPDATE** - no action taken.
- B. **404 E 2ND PROPERTY: UPDATE:** no action taken.

IX. New Business:

A. ZELLA'S TRASH SERVICE CONTRACT EXTENSION DISCUSSION

- Contract Expires: October 1, 2025
- Contract Length: Currently 3 Years
- Discussion, Public Comment
- Vote to Extend Contract with no raise in fees for additional 3-years or Issue RFP for a New Service

Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the extension, seconded by council member Hall. Motion is approved by a 6-0 voice vote.

B. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL DISK GOLF IN THE PARK

Presented by Parks and Rec director Michelle Fitzgerald. No action taken.

C. ORDINANCE 2025-16: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING POLICY CONCERNING PROVIDING CITY UTILITIES TO SUBDIVISIONS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve O-2025-16, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. Motion is approved by a 6-0 vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to suspend the second and third readings, seconded by council member Hall. Council member Hall made a motion to adopt O-2025-16, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, and Hall-yes. Council member Ruble made a motion to enact the emergency clause, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. Motion carries with a 5-1 vote.

D. ORDINANCE 2025-17: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE WARD FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CHARGE FOR FIRE RESPONSES AND OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONSES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD (FIRST READING)

was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-17, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, and McMinn-yes. Motion carries with a 5-1 vote. O-2025-17 has been approved on its first reading and we will continue this next month.

E. ORDINANCE 2025-18: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2022-02; AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE PURCHASING, SALE OR EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF WARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member McMinn made a motion to table this until next month, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Brooke-no, Ruble-no, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, and Hefner-no. With a vote of 3-3, Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative. Final vote is 4-3 to table until next month.

F. ORDINANCE 2025-19: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2002-02; ESTABLISHING A GENERAL PENALTY WHERE NO SPECIFIC PENALTY IS PROVIDED OR WHERE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (FIRST READING) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to change the first offense to not exceed \$250, second offense not to exceed \$500, third offense not to exceed \$750, and fourth offense not to exceed \$1000, seconded by council member Hall. Motion passes with a 4-2 voice vote for the changes. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-19 with the changes and without the emergency clause, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-no, and Brooke-no. O-2025-19 has been approved on its first reading and will continue next month.

G. ORDINANCE 2025-20: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS, AMENDING THE CITY OF WARD MUNICIPAL CODE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (FIRST READING) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to change section 6 to include the mayor is authorized to make minor changes to the UDO in concurrence with the Planning Commission and briefing of the council after the fact, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to modify the last motion to include notifying council by the next meeting, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to approve O-2025-20 on its first reading, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-no, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. O-2025-20 was approved 5-1 on its first reading and will be brought back next month for the second reading.

H. ORDINANCE 2025-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O-2025-05 ESTABLISHING PARKING RULES FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS CONCERNING VEHICLES EXCEEDING ONE-TON AND SEMI-TRAILER TYPE VEHICLES, ESTABLISHING PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (FIRST READING) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to change the wording to match the heading to state exceeding one ton, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve O-2025-21 on its first reading, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, and Hall-yes. O-2025-21 has been approved on the first reading with a 6-0 vote and will be brought back next month for the second reading.

I. ORDINANCE 2025-22: AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF WARD POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, REPEALING AND REPLACING CITY OF WARD RESOLUTION 2024-18, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve O-2025-22 on its first reading with rewording of section 3, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-no, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, and Chapman-yes. O-2025-22 has been approved on its first reading with a vote of 5-1 and will be brought back next month for the second reading with rewording of section 3.

J. RESOLUTION 2025-26: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2026 DODGE DURANGO POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLES FROM RED RIVER DODGE IN HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to change the additional costs up to \$11,000 to fully equip the unit, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2025-26, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

K. RESOLUTION 2025-27: A RESOLUTION SETTING TERM LIMITS FOR THE WARD WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member McMinn made a motion to approve R-2025-27, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

L. RESOLUTION 2025-28: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WARD CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MCMINN TO THE WARD WATER AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING SAME AS CHAIRPERSON was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2025-28, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

M. RESOLUTION 2025-29: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JACK BOLES TO THE WARD WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2025-29, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

N. RESOLUTION 2025-30: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR CITY CLERK TO APPLY FOR A FUN PARK GRANT THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TROURISM was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2025-30, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

O. RESOLUTION 2025-31: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR CITY CLERK TO MOVE ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUNDS TO PARKS AND RECREATION was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2025-31, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

P. RESOLUTION 2025-32: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A SEPARATE CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION GRANT FUND was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to table until next month, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

Q. RESOLUTION 2025-33: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTACT WITH UTILITY ASSOCIATES, INC FOR ADDITIONAL CAMERAS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2025-33, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.

VIII. **Mayor’s Report:** Council member Chapman made a motion to allow the Mayor to go to individual dealers to request quotes and bids for 2 SUV-type EV vehicles, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Hefner-no, Brooke-no, Ruble-no, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, and McMinn-yes. Mayor voted in the affirmative to break the tie. Motion passes with a 4-3 vote.

IX. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** John and Jessica Yarbrough spoke about parking in front yards. No action taken.

X. **Council Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Council member Ruble had a question about the fire chief’s vehicle. No action taken.

XI. **Announcements**

- Planning Commission: August 25th, 6:30 pm
- Labor Day – City Offices Closed: September 1st
- City Council Meeting: September 16th, 6:30 pm

XII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm with a motion by Council Member Hefner, seconded by Council Member Hall. 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 Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: _____

MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL