



BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

City Hall, 206 Van Buren NE, Camden, AR 71701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. INVOCATION - Dr. Steve Watson, Pastor - First Baptist Church, 348 W. Washington St., Camden, Arkansas 71701

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Alderman Lawrence Askew

Alderman Chris Aregood

Alderman Gerald Castleberry

Alderman Ebony Gulley

Alderman L.E. Lindsey

Alderman William McCoy

Alderman Marvin Moore

Alderman Edward Winters

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Winters made a motion to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Passed

F. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Alderman Aregood made a motion to approve the August 2023 financial report, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey. There was a question about an expense in Public Works that caused a line item to be over budget. The Treasurer went to find the invoice and make a copy for everyone. The Council moved on to Audience Participation to avoid making everyone wait.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Willie Cooper, 544 Louisiana, asked that the ordinance to allow his company to do business with the city be pulled from the agenda.

Vinie Wilkins, 573 Texas, inquired what she should do about stray dogs in her neighborhood since the pound is full.

Jim Golden, 1475 Woodland Drive, passed out a report from OPED and thanked the city for its financial support.

Helen Aregood, 3020 Cherokee, expressed her support for Resolution No. 54-23.

Carolyn Green, 108 Hildreth, asked that a fence be placed around the drainage ditch between 412 and 414 North Adams for safety purposes.

The Council returned to the financial report. The Treasurer passed out copies of the invoice and payment, it was weed killer that had been coded wrong. Mayor Young called for the vote.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Mayor Young voted yes to pass the financials.

H. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. David Richardson, Manager Camden Water Utilities

In response to City Ordinance NO. 22-04, the following is Camden Water Utilities Biannual Report for September 12, 2023. This report consists of planned and completed projects and other pertinent information. This report does not reflect the day- to - day operations of Camden Water Utilities. The following report has been reviewed by the Water and Sewer Commission and approved to be presented to the City Council by the Manager on their behalf.

On July 18, 2023 Camden Water Utilities signed acceptance letters with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture for two loans at an interest rate of 1.75 %. The 1st loan is from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$3520,061.00 and is to be used for Phase Two of the Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. The 2nd loan is from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$2,869,137.00 and is to be used for the Phase Two of the Water Infrastructure Improvements. Both of these loans are in compliance with the 20 Year Master Plan to rehabilitate our aging water and sewer infrastructure.

WATER PLANT

Brown Engineers , LLC has completed replacing all six filter controls at the Water Plant and the system is working great. In my last report I mentioned we were working on getting DE-Registered from the Risk Management Plan which is required when the inventory of CL2 is over 2500 lbs. With the addition of Bleach to our treatment process we are now able to stay below the threshold limits which will allow us to DE-Register saving money and provides a safer environment for our employees and the community. Since my last report the Health Department has granted our request to become DE- Registered.

Currently we are working on improving our communication with the 5 water tanks in our system by replacing the old radio communication system with PLC systems. This system gives us better communication with redundancy, more dependable and parts are more readily available.

We continue to work on painting the concrete structures at the water plant and pressure washing the old Water Plant.

Lead and Copper sampling was done this year on 30 homes and the results were that all homes were below the allowable limits. Our next scheduled sampling period for Lead and Copper is in 2026. The Plant continues to meet A.D.H. compliance with no violations occurring.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

We are currently seeking bids to paint the final tank on Cleveland Avenue inside and out and schedule the contract to start the Spring of 2024. Once completed the 5 water tanks should not need painting again for another 15 to 20 years.

With in house labor, we installed 1800 feet of 6" water main and two hydrants inside the city limits on Forest View to an area that did not have fire protection. .

In June we had to hire RBIS Contractors to come in and repair the 12" water main that hangs off the Hwy 7 Bridge at Greater Saint Paul Church. At some point in recent history an oversize load hit the top of the Bridge that broke three hangers which caused the main to become unstable. Fearing that the main may fall into on-coming traffic an Emergency was declared and repairs were made as quick as possible.

We continue to work on our Meter Replacement Program. This year we are installing another 400 radio read meters.

WASTEWATER PLANT

In my last report I mentioned that we had received ADEQ approval to add Peracetic Acid (PAA) as a disinfectant at the Wastewater Plant to replace chlorine gas and sulfur dioxide. This system has now been on line for four months and is working better than expected. Our 5 year permit with ADEQ to discharge waters from our wastewater plant into the Ouachita River expired in August of 2023. We filed in January for a new permit and recently received a draft permit with Mike and myself reviewing the permit for 5 days. It is now in the hands of EPA for review and after that it will be published in the News Paper as a Public Notice for public comments. There is not a lot of difference between the Draft Permit and the Old permit other than the addition of sampling for Mercury. This spring the Operators painted all concrete structures in the plant and the inside of the control building making the 40 year plant look new again.

PLC were added to monitor all critical components, replacing the old outdated system that no longer worked.

Future plans are in the works to replace the 12 old aerators with units that use half the power and yet produce more velocity and oxygen.

The wastewater Plant continues to meet compliance.

WASTEWATER DISTRIBUTION

We are currently under contract with Kampco out of Texarkana, AR who is replacing approximately 3640 feet of 30" sewer main running behind Wal-Mart through flood prone areas to behind Buddy's wrecking yard and 3542 feet of 24" sewer main from behind Carnes Park running straight to the plant. 300 feet of 8" sewer main on the dead end of West Maple St. has already been completed. The total cost of this project is \$2,617,852.00 and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2023. A change order to this contract included a section of 8" sewer main on Apple Street and on the dead end of Prospect Street. Due to the rainy season we've had this summer the contract is a little behind schedule but should be completed by this fall.

The rehabilitation of the Apple Street lift station has been completed and our focus now is to rehabilitate Kent Street Lift station

Mayor Young announced Veteran's Appreciation on Thursday and the Camden Cleanup in October. She also introduced the employee of the month, Michael Jackson.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance 03-23** An Ordinance permitting an Official of the Camden Water and Sewer Commission to be interested in contracts with the City of Camden, Arkansas
Died for lack of an introduction or motion.
2. **Ordinance No. 4-23**, an ordinance repealing Camden Code Section 2-54 regarding advertising of bids for public improvements; and for other purposes. (third reading)
Alderman Lindsey introduced the Ordinance for the third and final reading. The City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry. After some discussion, Alderman Lindsey made a motion to table the Ordinance until the October meeting, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Tabled until October

3. Ordinance 05-23 An Ordinance amending Article II of the Camden code; Establishing Rates and Procedures for Collection of Garbage for Commercial Customers; and for other purposes.

Alderman Lindsey introduced the Ordinance and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood. Alderman Lindsey made a motion to amend Section 1,2,3,4,5 as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 11-16 of the Camden Code of Ordinances is amended by deleting the second paragraph defining "back door collection".

SECTION 2: Section 11-18 of the Camden Code of Ordinances is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 1 1-18. — Care of containers; discontinuance of collections when containers are faulty.

All containers shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times and shall be free of rodents, pests and stinging insects. Whenever a garbage or trash container has deteriorated, or has been damaged and is no longer sanitary or capable of retaining its load due to normal wear and tear, it shall be repaired or replaced by the city. When an owner fails to take reasonable care of containers after notice has been given by the city, further collection will be discontinued until new containers have been purchased from the city.

SECTION 3: Subsection (c) of Section 1 1-20 of the Camden Code of Ordinances is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

sec. 11-20

(c) Special collection service.

Minimum base fee \$15.00

Additional charges will be based upon man-hours and equipment hours to be determined by the Mayor with the approval of the Board of Aldermen.

SECTION 4: Subsection (e) of Section 11-20 of the Camden Code of Ordinances regarding fees for commercial collection is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

(e) Schools, churches, businesses or industrial establishments, with the exception of downtown zoning district C-3 (central business district), shall pay the following monthly fees to the city for removal of garbage and trash:

- (1) Each service unit, per cubic yard \$ 16.00
- Minimum monthly fee, per using establishment \$ 19.00
- Monthly fee for downtown central business district \$ 24.00

(2) Collection charge per month:

	1 pickup per week	2 pickups per week	3 pickups per week	4 pickups per week	5 pickups per week
3 yard container	\$ 48.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 144.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 240.00
4 yard container	\$ 64.00	\$ 128.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 256.00	\$ 320.00

SECTION 5: Section I I -33 of the Camden Code of Ordinances is amended by adding the following language to the end of the Section:

"Commercial dumpsters must be placed on a solid surface of concrete or asphalt. A surcharge fee of \$2.00 per month will be added to the bill for each dumpster not in compliance after 12/1/2023."

SECTION 6: Section 11-46 of the Camden Code of Ordinances regarding special trash collections is deleted because that topic is addressed in Subsection (c) of Section 11-20.

Motion to accept as amended made by Alderman Lindsey, seconded by Alderman Askew. After discussion, Alderman Lindsey made a motion to remove the prior amendment and presented the same as above but striking the last sentence in section 2.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Amendment passed

Alderman Gulley made a motion to table the Ordinance until the October meeting, Seconded by Alderman Moore.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Gulley, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

Voting Nay: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman Winters

The Mayor voted yes to table the Ordinance until the October meeting.

- 4. Ordinance No. 06-23**, an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 6-12 assessing a lein on certain property located at 777 Bradley Ferry Road SE.

Alderman McCoy introduced the Ordinance and the City Clerk read the number and title. Alderman Moore made a motion to approve for discussion, seconded by Alderman McCoy.

Alderman Askew made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance for the third and final reading Seconded by Alderman Gulley.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Alderman Castleberry made a motion to amend the Ordinance, setting the amount of the lien as \$496.20. Alderman Winters seconded.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Motion to accept as amended made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Askew.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

- 5. Ordinance No. 07-23**, an ordinance amending Camden Code 2-46, 2-52, and 2-53, regarding purchases and contracts; and other purposes.

Alderman Aregood introduced the Ordinance for the second reading and the City Clerk read the number and title.

J. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Ordinance No. 8-23**, an ordinance fixing the rate of taxation for the year 2024; declaring an emergency; and for other purposes.

Alderman Askew introduced the Ordinance and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Alderman Moore made a motion to suspend the rules and put the Ordinance up for the third and final reading. Alderman Askew seconded.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Motion to approve made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Alderman Moore made a motion to accept the Emergency Clause, Seconded by Alderman Askew.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

- 2. Resolution No. 52-23**, a resolution amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget for police and Fire Salaries and employer payroll contributions.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

- 3. Resolution No. 53-23**, a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a contractual agreement with Michael Rogers Designs LLC, to provide architectural services for the city of Camden.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

Alderman Gulley made a motion to table the Resolution, seconded by Alderman Moore. The motion failed by voice vote.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

Voting Yea: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman Winters

Voting Nay: Alderman Askew, Alderman Gulley, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

The Mayor voted yes to pass the Resolution.

- 4. Resolution No. 54-23**, a resolution amending the 2023 Annual Operating Budget; providing pay raises for sworn police officers and dispatchers; and for other purposes.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

Motion to amend made by Alderman Gulley, died for lack of a second.

Voting to approve

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Gulley

Passed

- 5. Resolution No. 55-23**, a resolution amending the Annual Operating Budget for 2023; and for other purposes.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

- 6. Resolution No. 56-23**, a resolution confirming the appointment of members to the Historic Advisory Commission; and for other purposes.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion made by Alderman Moore, Seconded by Alderman McCoy.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

- 7. Resolution 57-23**, a resolution appointing LaRhonda Moore to the Civil Service Commission.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion made by Alderman Moore, Seconded by Alderman Askew.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

- 8. Resolution No. 59-23**, a resolution authorizing the Chief Elected Official to sign an application for CDBG.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman Castleberry requested an update on the Caddo Street curb problem.

Alderman Askew stated that the trees on the Trace need to be trimmed by Cleveland and Jackson. He also stated that paving will start Friday on Chestnut, Sycamore, and Cleveland.

Alderman Moore commended Terrell Newton for a good job and informed Chief Woody that he had chased someone out of a vacant house at the corner of Viser and Ratcliff.

Alderman Gulley requested to speak with the Mayor about an incident with the Assistant Mayor alleging public harassment. She expressed discomfort with Miss Horn's confrontational approach and questioned how she knew details about her residence. Additionally, she highlighted suspicious interruptions in her live feed and sought assurance of the same respect given to other aldermen in maintaining a peaceful personal life without undue interference.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry. Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

City Clerk, Donna Stewart