



BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 206 Van Buren NE, Camden, AR 71701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Alderman Cecil McDonald

Alderman James Bell

Alderman L.E. Lindsey

Alderman Terrie Smith

Alderman Joe Askew

Alderman Chris Aregood

ABSENT

Alderman William McCoy

Alderman Marvin Moore

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Larry Mitchell, 649 Magnolia Road, spoke in favor of Resolution No. 60-22.

Mr. Jesse Sanders, 219 Jack Parr said the area around the airport needed to be beautified.

Mr. Terry Thornhill, 1001 Forest View Drive, asked to speak when discussion began on Resolution No. 60-22 by the Council.

Ms. Corliss Sinclair, 585 Agee, said in addition to sports, the committee should also consider tutoring, conflict resolution, and problem solving skills.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 60-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, ARKANSAS, CREATING A YOUTH SPORTS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Mayor introduced the Resolution and the City Clerk read the number and title. Alderman Askew made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Alderman Aregood. Alderman Aregood started the discussion by stating that he doesn't think John Dawson is ready to let go of the Recreation Complex. Alderman Lindsey said there are other things that were much more deserving of a special meeting than forming an exploratory committee and suggested delaying the Resolution until the election is over and we know if there's going to BE an Advertising & Promotion Commission. Alderman Askew stated that he grew up at the Boys Club, raised his kids at the Boys & Girls Club. It's not the Boys & Girls Club anymore. The City can't use our own fields when the Ouachita County Recreation Complex has games and that's not right. Mayor Lott emphasized several times during the discussion that the resolution is only to form an exploratory committee and put them to work. Nothing else.

Alderman Bell made a motion to allow Mr. Thornhill to speak, seconded by Alderman Lindsey. Alderman Askew said there were several people raising their hands and he would like them to have the

opportunity to speak too. Attorney Frey said allowing Thornhill to speak would be opening up audience participation. Alderman Bell withdrew his motion. Alderman Askew made a motion to open audience participation, seconded by Alderman McDonald. The motion passed with a 5-1 vote with Alderman Lindsey voting no.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Terry Thornhill, 1001 Forest View, said as an investor in Camden, people are coming to Camden now to decide if they want to move here. We need to prepare now. It's about doing something to make our city more attractive. Right now, children under age 6 are being left out of sports in Camden and their parents are taking them out of town to play.

Ms. Ebony Gulley, 605 Progress, urged the Council to form the committee and volunteered to be on it. Mr. Jessie Sanders, 219 Jack Parr, spoke in favor of the Resolution.

Mr. Mike Sherman, 240 Adams, stated that this decision is not political, it's about the kids.

Mrs. Nancy Lott, 412 Arkansas, asked why they were arguing so much just to form a committee.

Mrs. Helen Aregood, 3020 Cherokee, suggested taking out the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Whereas and just form the committee.

Mrs. Callie Hughey, 257 Madison, said the kids need something to do, so form the committee.

Alderman Bell made a motion to amend the resolution and strike the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th whereas. Alderman Askew seconded. The motion to amend passed with a 5-1 vote with Alderman Lindsey voting no.

Alderman Askew made a motion to approve the Resolution as amended, seconded by Alderman Aregood. The Resolution was approved by a 5-1 roll call vote with Alderman Lindsey voting no.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Aregood, seconded by Alderman Askew. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.