



## BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
City Hall, 206 Van Buren NE, Camden, AR 71701

### MINUTES

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INVOCATION** - Reverend Jeffrey Franklin, Pastor – Greater Saint Paul Baptist Church, 896 S Adams Avenue, Camden, Arkansas.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Alderman Lawrence Askew

Alderman Chris Aregood

Alderman Gerald Castleberry

Alderman L.E. Lindsey

Alderman William McCoy

Alderman Marvin Moore

Alderman Edward Winters

Alderman Ebony Gulley

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 9, 2024

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Gulley

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Moore

2. Minutes of Special Called Meeting, January 23, 2024

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman Gulley

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

3. Minutes of Special Called Meeting, January 29, 2024

Motion made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman Gulley

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

4. Minutes of Special Called Meeting, January 30, 2024

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman Gulley

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

#### **F. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

Alderman Lindsey made a motion to amend the financial report with a correction on the first page to general fund expenses, the amount should be \$8,812,264. Seconded by Alderman Winters.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman Askew, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Gulley. Mayor Young voted yes to pass the amendment.

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

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

Voting Nay: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Gulley

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Askew, Alderman Moore

Mayor Young voted yes to pass.

#### **G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Catherine Richardson, 804 Lincoln Drive, asked for a state or federal audit to be conducted.

James Silliman, 1151 Woodside, spoke on behalf of the Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development and thanked the city and public works for their efforts in picking up litter.

Callie Hughey, 257 Madison, stated that the city was ignoring her Freedom of Information (FOIA) request and accused the city of forging checks.

Paul Kelly, stated that he owns property by Walmart and the city is not picking up around it.

Bishop Arnold, 518 Sharp Avenue, said that everything around Camden is growing, but Camden isn't. He encouraged the council to spend money on the area children.

Julian Lott, 412 Arkansas, former Mayor of Camden, asked that the blame for Camden's current problems stop being passed to him as he is no longer in charge.

Angela Snowden, 516 Pierce, said the city had lied for the last year and rules are being changed as we go along.

Doc Bryce, 612 Fairview Road, announced his investigative report, his FOIA request to the City Clerk, and then made a verbal FOIA request to Alderman Gulley.

#### **H. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Young gave the State of the City address, emphasizing the improvements to our parks and the upcoming inclusive playground at Carnes Park. Plans are being made for improvements at Sandy Beach. At the beginning of 2023, there were over 200 street lights out now that number is no more than 25 at any given time. Stripes have been painted on Cash Road to make it safer for new drivers going to school. All departments have been directed to put our citizens first and she reiterated that we work for the people. Mayor Young stated that we are not each other's enemy and she would like to consider this year a fresh start and a new path forward.

Mayor Young introduced James Bentz as the employee of the month.

#### **I. OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Ordinance No. 15-23**, an ordinance providing for the accounting of the Public Safety Sales Tax and Use Tax; and for other purposes. (Third & final reading)

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

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Askew, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Gulley. The City Clerk thought the Ordinance had failed, the City Attorney said the Mayor could vote to pass, it was the suspension of rules that the Mayor can't vote on. He asked that it be put at the end of business so he could have a chance to double check.

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution No. 09-24**, a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development (OPED) to provide certain Economic Development Services for the City of Camden; and for other purposes.

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Askew, Alderman Gulley. Mayor Young had to vote to pass the Resolution.

2. **Resolution No. 10-24**, a resolution confirming the appointment of Cathy Cash to the Keep Camden Beautiful Committee.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

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

3. **Resolution No. 11-24**, a resolution confirming the re-appointment of Sandra Wood to the Camden Housing Authority.

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

4. **Resolution No. 12-24**, a resolution confirming the appointment of Brandon Burns to the Airport Commission as an Ex-Officio Member.

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

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

5. **Resolution No. 13-24**, a resolution confirming the appointment of Nick Tuberville to the Airport Commission as an Ex-Officio Member.

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy

## **K. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Mayor pointed out the Federal Audit that was included in the packet, conducted by Independent Accountant Emrich & Scoggins.

Chris Aregood presented an Animal Control Ordinance from Smackover to compare to Camden's and discuss at the next meeting.

Revisited Ordinance 15-23, the Mayor can vote to pass an Ordinance. Mayor Young voted yes to pass the Ordinance.

Alderman Gulley in response to the Mayor's State of the City address, stated that Ward 3 is not an enemy of the city and she doesn't come to the meeting to be hostile.

Alderman Moore said that the Mayor is invited to the next meeting in Ward 3.

Alderman Askew asked if Resolution 9-24 had passed, some of the audience members weren't clear about the results.

City Attorney Frey informed the Council about the depository committee which in the past had consisted of the Mayor, Treasurer, and City Clerk. The last meeting was in 2016. He asked the Council to reconstitute the committee and told them that they had the option to replace the Treasurer with a Council Member.

Alderman Moore made a motion to appoint Alderman Gulley to the Committee, seconded by Alderman McCoy.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Gulley, Alderman Castleberry Passed

Alderman Askew asked if there was going to be a workshop to go over questions and errors. The Mayor requested that the Council compile questions and she will set a meeting.

Alderman Moore asked if the next curfew meeting had been scheduled yet. The Mayor said she is looking for a different venue and an open date in the school events schedule.

Alderman Gulley stated that it should be on the Treasurer to say why numbers changed in the 20 & 21 reports.

Alderman Askew said they should consider getting the Treasurer a laptop so she can have access in the chambers.

Alderman McCoy requested that we get a microphone and speakers for the Council Chambers.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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Mayor, Charlotte Young

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City Clerk, Donna Stewart