



BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM
City Hall, 206 Van Buren NE, Camden, AR 71701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Alderman L.E. Lindsey
Alderman William McCoy
Alderman Lawrence Askew
Alderman Chris Aregood
Alderman Edward Winters
Alderman Gerald Castleberry

ABSENT

Alderman Marvin Moore
Alderman Ebony Gulley

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution No. 30-23, a resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Camden to utilize State Aid Street monies for the Camden Overlay Project.

Motion made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

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

2. OTHER BUSINESS

Personnel Issues

Report from Donna Stewart and Lauren Robertson

Aldermen Gulley and Moore arrived.

Alderman Winters asked to address the second item on Alderman Gulley's list, which was the termination of Ben Wooten as Code Enforcement Officer, stating that there are polices and procedures which a council should follow and they should all read the handbook. His remark lead to a lengthy discussion of events ~~leading up to~~ surrounding the termination and scheduling a special meeting.

At 6:42, Alderman Gulley made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Alderman Moore.

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

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

The Mayor broke the tie stating the Council would go into a limited executive session.

The Council reconvened at 7:07.

Alderman Gulley made a motion to overturn the Mayor's decision to terminate Ben Wooten as Code Enforcement Officer, and the hiring of Thomas Vaughan. Alderman Moore seconded.

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

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

Motion failed.

The next discussion was on the first item on Alderman Gulley's list, the perceived retaliation letter of the City to Public Works employees for speaking at the last Council meeting. Alderman Winters pointed out that not all Alderman had a copy of the letter, and copies were made for the ~~four~~ five who didn't have one. After more discussion, Alderman Lindsey made a motion that the Council disavow the letter, adjust the policy manual, and ask Public Works Director Kevin Franklin to speak to the Public Works Employees and let them know that they are entitled to come speak at the City Council meetings. Alderman Aregood seconded.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman Moore

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Askew

Motion passed.

The Council heard the report from City Treasurer Lauren Robertson on the overpayment to Public Works Director Kevin Franklin, and Alderman Gulley requested that former Mayor Lott be allowed to speak since he was in attendance **and had been accused of knowing about the situation and ignoring it**. The Council then heard the explanation of the report from City Attorney Michael Frey. City Clerk Donna Stewart's report was written and provided to the Aldermen and Mayor. Alderman Askew read selected questions he referred to as unnecessary out loud but declined to read the report because it had already been heard from Robertson and Frey. Alderman McCoy referred to the questions as unprofessional.

Mayor Young reminded everyone of L.C. "Buckshot" Smith's retirement party Friday afternoon.

Alderman Winters reminded everyone of the clean up on Saturday.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

Meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.

Mayor, Charlotte Young

City Clerk, Donna Stewart