



BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. INVOCATION - Reverend Mark Smith, Pastor - Thrive Church, 746 California Avenue, Camden, AR

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT ON ROLL CALL

Alderman Chris Aregood
Alderman Gerald Castleberry
Alderman Ebony Gulley
Alderman L.E. Lindsey
Alderman William McCoy
Alderman Marvin Moore
Alderman Edward Winters

ABSENT

Alderman Lawrence Askew

Before starting the evenings business, Mayor Young addressed the question from previous meetings about her salary. The Mayor stated she can give back to the City in more by accepting her full salary. She can and does buy items without affecting a department's budget. She also buys the gift cards for employee of the month, something that the City can't do.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 14, 2023
2. Minutes of Special Called Meeting, March 28, 2023

Motion made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

Alderman Gulley stated that there were some inaccuracies in the minutes, and the commentary did not give the entire story for a reader who wasn't in attendance. In the March 14 minutes, wasting time wasn't a necessary statement. In the March 28 minutes, for further clarity, she asked that former Mayor Lott be allowed to speak because he was accused of knowing and not doing anything and she wanted him to be able to speak to that since he was present, she also said it should be noted that Mr. Green was accountant at this time. Later in the March 28 minutes, where the letter to public works is discussed, she asked for the names of the Aldermen who didn't get a copy of the letter. The Clerk was incorrect, there were 5 Aldermen instead of four. Those Aldermen were Aregood, Lindsey, Castleberry, Winters, and Moore.

Alderman Gulley made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting, Seconded by Alderman Moore. Voting Yea: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters
Voting Nay: Alderman Castleberry

F. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman McCoy

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mark Green, 1016 Amanda, started by thanking Alderman Aregood for the conversation earlier in the week and congratulating L.C. "Buckshot" Smith on his retirement. Mr. Green asked if the problem with Public Works Director Franklin's salary had been resolved and pointed out that the council is not strictly following Robert's Rules of Order.

Callie Hughey, 207 Madison Avenue, thanked Mayor Young for her answer about her salary, and then admonished her for taking so long.

H. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Young presented the Employee of the Month award to Jeffery Thrower of the Parks Department, who thanked the Mayor, Public Works Director Franklin, and Parks Superintendent Brown, and said it was an honor to receive recognition.

1. Biannual Water and Sewer Report - David Richardson, Manager

Mr. Richardson stated that water sales are down from the previous year and improvements are on hold because of the downturn. Brown Engineers is scheduled to replace the last four of six filter controls by the years end. Both the water and waste water plants continue to meet Arkansas Department of Health compliance with no violations occurring. Painting of the Cleveland Avenue tank has been postponed until 2024.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. ORDINANCE NO. 01-23, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A RATE PLAN FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 22, WATER AND SEWERS, ARTICLE II, WATER, DIVISION W, METER AND RATES, SECTION 22-22, RATES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, ARKANSAS. (third reading)

The Ordinance was introduced for the third and final reading by Alderman Lindsey, the City Clerk read the number and title. A motion to approve was made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey. Voting Yea: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

2. ORDINANCE NO. 20-23, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22, WATER AND SEWERS, ARTICLE III, SEWERS, DIVISION 3 RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 22-65, SEWER RATES, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, ARKANSAS. (third reading)

The Ordinance was introduced for the third and final reading by Alderman Lindsey, the City Clerk read the number and title. Alderman Aregood made a motion to approve, seconded by Alderman Winters. Voting Yea: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Passed

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 31-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A USED BUSHHOG AND BUCKET TRUCK; 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 Winters, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

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

Voting Nay: Alderman McCoy Passed

2. RESOLUTION NO. 32-23, A RESOLUTION CREATING A POSITION IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT; 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 Moore, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy Passed

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Young introduced interim Fire Chief Jeremy Covington and announced that interviews for the position of Fire Chief will be held later next week. Interviewers will consist of the Mayor, Assistant Mayor, Fire Chief from a neighboring city, an instructor from the Fire Training Academy, and someone from the Civil Service.

Alderman Moore inquired if the criteria would include living inside the City limits, Attorney Frey stated that the State is trying to do away with that requirement.

Alderman Lindsey stated that he would like a committee meeting to discuss streets, city, county and state, which is which. He asked that the Mayor and Director Franklin meet with the state and county to figure it all out and then have Code Enforcement print out a color-coded map. Alderman Lindsey also said that he would like to be updated on Sandy Beach and the Community Center.

Alderman Aregood stated that he had heard that the utilities fix their own street cuts in El Dorado and Magnolia and asked how do we get them to do it here. Director Franklin said that the gas company does their own street cuts but if they take too long the City will make the repair. Mr. Franklin also said that the City loses money on every repair it makes.

Alderman Moore stated that there was a big gas leak on Progress Street and thanked Public Works for directing traffic. He also said that he hopes the City will address it a little better in the future, people were going door to door to alert the citizens in the area. Alderman Gulley said this is a good reason for audio alerts instead of just using sirens in an emergency.

Alderman Lindsey said if utilities are paying for repairing streets and the City is still losing money, we need to look into raising rates.

Alderman Lindsey asked about the deed transfer on the old Fairview gym. Attorney Frey stated that the school board will meet Tuesday. Alderman Lindsey asked if we'll have it next month, Attorney Frey said yes. He also said that the field house needs to be renovated.

Mayor Young told everyone that the jamboree will be held April 22, there are over 20 teams with just under 300 children signed up to play.

Alderman Aregood made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

Alderman Gulley asked for the status on Teen Town, Mayor Young said they are still talking with South West Arkansas Planning and Development.

Alderman Gulley inquired about JC Productions lease at the Business and Tech Center asking if the rate is twenty-five cents per square foot per month. Attorney Frey stated that the rate is \$3.00 per square foot per year for 1,000 square feet.

Alderman Gulley asked about the Deputy Director position at Public Works. Director Franklin said he requested to add the position, no extra pay just extra duties. Alderman Gulley asked if he could give direct orders. Alderman McCoy added when you're not around. Mr. Franklin said correct. Alderman Gulley said just make sure we're not skirting EEOC laws. Alderman Lindsey said it sounds like he's got his team working together. Alderman Moore stated that it should be a posted job. Alderman Castleberry stated that not everyone is suitable to be a supervisor. Just because they have been here the longest doesn't make them a good supervisor. Alderman Lindsey said to put it in policy, the Director has the ability to appoint and designate someone to be in charge. Alderman Gulley asked Director Franklin, who does his job when he's doing yours? Director Franklin stated You're making us look bad, you keep calling our department out in the meeting.

Alderman Gulley stated that she and Jim Golden would be hosting the Ouachita Partnership for Economic Development Board so the public can ask questions of them. The meeting will be held before the next Council meeting. The date, time and location will be announced soon.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor, Charlotte Young

City Clerk, Donna Stewart