



## BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

### MINUTES

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#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INVOCATION** - Superintendent Ronald Matheney, Pastor, Johnson Memorial Church of God in Christ, 885 Lincoln Drive, Camden, Arkansas.

#### **C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **D. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT

Alderman Ebony Gulley

#### **E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

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

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

Motion to accept the February 2023 Financial report made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

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

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

Corliss Sinclair, 585 Agee, NW, requested a dog park in Carnes Park, and suggested a centrally located senior center.

Callie Hughey, 257 Madison Avenue, once again harangued the Mayor over her campaign promise and insisted on knowing how the Public Works Director ended up being overpaid in 2022.

Carolyn Green, 108 Hildreth, NE, asked for help with a dilapidated building behind her house and a commercial truck that parks down the street.

Alderman Gulley arrived.

Robert Arnold, 518 Sharp, wants to host a March for Youth on April 8<sup>th</sup>. He said it should be on Easter Weekend because Camden needs a resurrection.

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

Mayor Young reminded everyone that the Water Utilities will be flushing the system March 27-31. She made the City Employee of the Month presentation to Officer Leslie Herring. Officer Herring was nominated by citizens for her kindness and involvement with the people of the City. She has delivered flowers to the elderly, and toys to children in the Housing Projects. Mayor Young introduced the poster for Staycation coloring and stated that there will be something for children going on everyday during Spring Break.

The Mayor introduced Police Chief Boyd Woody to give his annual report. Chief Woody highlighted a few areas of his report. 75% of all cases have been solved, calls were down overall, and accidents were down for 2022 also. The animal control numbers were higher even though they only pick up dogs. Chief Woody stated that things are going so well because the Police Department has a good relationship with the citizens of the City. Chief Woody introduced Assante Rogers as the new Public Relations Officer and she invited everyone to apply for the Citizen's Police Academy.

Alderman Moore made a motion to have an executive session for personnel issues, Alderman Askew seconded. The council returned at 8:25 and announced that they had made a request to the Mayor for certain information to be available by the next meeting.

## **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. (second reading)

Alderman Moore introduced the Ordinance and the City Clerk read the number and title. A motion to suspend the rules and put the Ordinance for the third and final reading was made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

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

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

Motion failed, the third reading will be next month.

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. (second reading)

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

3. RESOLUTION NO. 14-23, 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.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey. James Silliman introduced Janelle Reaves and Florence Nunn, the small business consultants who are available at OPED once a week, a free service offered to the community. They explained what they do to help people who want to open a business. During discussion, it was pointed out that the Resolution should not have been on the agenda because it failed at the previous meeting. The City Clerk said she had made a mistake and took full responsibility for it. Aldermen Moore and Askew continued to question the Resolution being on the agenda. The Clerk firmly stated several times that she had made a mistake.

Alderman Moore repeatedly said it wasn't a mistake and cut the Clerk off at one point, clearly saying "This wasn't a mistake". The Clerk gave up and let them waste the Council's time.

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

1. RESOLUTION NO. 20-23, A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF KAREN McCLANE TO THE CAMDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman McCoy.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Passed
2. RESOLUTION NO. 21-23, A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA WOOD TO THE CAMDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman McCoy.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Passed
3. RESOLUTION NO. 22-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OUACHITA COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Winters.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Passed
4. RESOLUTION NO. 23-22, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Passed
5. RESOLUTION NO. 24-23, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman McCoy.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. Passed
6. RESOLUTION NO. 25-23, A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 7-17 AND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman Winters. After discussion, Alderman Gulley made a motion to table the Resolution until the June meeting, Seconded by Alderman Moore.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters. The Resolution was tabled.
7. RESOLUTION NO. 26-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EVENT CENTER AT FAIRVIEW PARK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
Motion to approve made by Alderman Aregood, Seconded by Alderman McCoy. After some discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Lindsey to amend the bottom of section 1 to read subject to approval from the Camden Fairview School Board, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.  
Voting Yea: Alderman Aregood, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman

Moore, Alderman Winters

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Askew, Alderman McCoy

After more discussion, a motion made by Alderman Gulley, to set the lease term as 25 years, Seconded by Alderman Lindsey.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman Gulley, Alderman Lindsey, Alderman Moore, Alderman Winters Voting No: Alderman Aregood Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy

A 15 minute break was requested by Alderman Aregood. Discussion resumed after the break and a motion to approve as amended was made by Alderman Lindsey, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman McCoy Passed

8. RESOLUTION NO. 27-23, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023; ADDING NEW REVENUE AND EXPENSE LINE ITEMS FOR A POLICE GRANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

9. RESOLUTION NO. 28-23, A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 7-17 AND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL; SHORTENING THE WAITING PERIOD FOR EMPLOYEE INSURANCE COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman McCoy. After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Gulley to table the Resolution until the June meeting, Seconded by Alderman Askew.

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

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

The motion to table failed. A vote was taken to approve the Resolution.

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

Voting Abstaining: Alderman Gulley Passed

10. RESOLUITON NO. 29-23, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY AND RESCUE GRANT BUDGETS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLAIMING REVENUE REPLACEMENT FUNDS FOR POLICE AND FIRE SALARIES AND EMPLOYER PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS.

Motion to approve made by Alderman Lindsey, 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 Moore stated that the Keystone area is flooding and needs some work.

Alderman Lindsey said garbage fees probably need to be raised by 50% and pointed out the worksheet that he passed out before the meeting started. He also said that if the A&P would put \$100,000 back into parks for maintenance, the City could probably increase Officer pay by \$1.50.

Alderman Winters said his subdivision has requested yield signs, stop signs, a 20 mph limit, and that the City change the north side of Dooley Womack Drive back to Jefferson because that is how it is listed on maps and

driving aps. Mr. Winters encouraged the Aldermen to participate in the City-wide clean up on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It will begin at Thrive Church on California Avenue.

Alderman Gulley inquired about a new tenant at the technology building and was informed that JC Productions is renting some warehouse space. She also said she would like Camden to increase innovation in the technology area. Alderman Gulley also asked about a vote to rehire the former Code Enforcement Officer and was told by the City Attorney to make a motion. This caused a lively round of discussion and it was revealed that the Council had decided to call a special meeting during their executive session. Some Aldermen wanted to put it to a vote at that moment while others felt they needed more time to discuss it and wanted the special meeting. Eventually Alderman Askew made a motion to call a Special Meeting for Tuesday, March 28 at 6:00. Aldermen Gulley and McCoy both seconded. City Attorney Michael Frey suggested a voice vote for the record.

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

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

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Alderman Askew, Seconded by Alderman Aregood.

Meeting ended at 12:18 a.m. Wednesday, March 15.

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Mayor, Charlotte Young

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City Clerk, Donna Stewart