

CITY OF LONOKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (Via Zoom)
December 13, 2021

The Lonoke City Council held a city council meeting via ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. on Monday December 13, 2021. Mayor Trae Reed called the meeting to order with the invocation given by Bro. Efreem Jones. City Clerk Jeribeth Edwards called the roll and declared a quorum.

Mayor	Trae Reed
City Clerk	Jeribeth Edwards
Treasurer	
Deputy Clerk	Regina Ibbotson
Council Members	Efreem Jones, Alice Bridges, Raymond Hatton (arrived late), Ryan Biles, Gib Richardson (arrived late), Michael Florence, Koy Butler, and Suzette Elmore
City Attorney	Ginger Stuart
Police Chief	Matt Edwards
W/S/S Supt.	Jim Kelley/Thomas Stivers
C.C. Director	Mike Brown
Fire Dept.	Justin Wittenberg
Parks Director	Roy Don Lewis
Community Dev.	Jeremy Gosdin
Economic Dev.	Gene Eagle
News Media	Rick Kron

Visitors Anna McClung, Cindy Reaves, Sterling Penix, and Gary Padget.

MINUTES: Mayor Trae Reed asked for acceptance of the November 8th, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Koy Butler made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Alice Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (none)

2022 Executive Board Report – Anna McClung was present and gave report. She mentioned that the board would like to see the City of Lonoke have a 150 celebration. She mentioned the cost could be up to \$30,000.00. Michael Florence chimed in and mentioned the board is hoping for a lot of sponsorship money. Many of the city council members thanks Anna and the other volunteers.

(Raymond Hatton and Gib Richardson signed in during the 2022 Executive Board Report.)

LONOKE COUNTY LIBRARY- no action needed

Economic Development Report: Mr. Gene Eagle was present and gave report.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Mr. Mike Brown was present and gave report. He mentioned the Community Center received America rescue plan revenues of \$42,543.28. The evens basketball. No action needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT- Mr. Jeremy Gosdin was present and gave report. No action required. Starting in January the City of Lonoke plans to start a micro-ship program. This will help to keep up with the dogs in the city of Lonoke.

PUBLIC WORKS (Water & Street/Animal Control)- Mr. Kelley and Mr. Thomas Stivers were present and gave report and updates. Mayor Reed introduced Mr. Stivers to be the new head of the water and street department when Mr. Kelley leaves the City of Lonoke.

A. Approve invoice from InLine to repair and convert all facets of Hwy. 70 stoplight to LED platform- Mr. Kelley had a bid from InLine for a total of \$4,986.74. Mr. Kelley mentioned he only has one quote because it's extremely hard to find a company to work with right now. Raymond Hatton made a motion to repair and convert all facets. Michael Florence seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Quotes for Maintenance on Water/Sewer Generators- (a) A quote from Powerhouse Electric Inc. for \$1,465.00 to service the D-150 Generator at the main water plant location in Lonoke. Alice Bridges made a motion to approve the annual service contract. Suzette Elmore seconded the motion. Motion carried. (b) A quote for \$1,465.00 to service the D-125 Generator at the wells. Gib Richardson made the motion to accept the annual contract. Alice Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried. (c) A quote for the Olympian D-100-4 Kw generator service at the Rosemary Lift station for \$1,335.00. Gib Richardson made a motion to accept the annual contract. Suzette Elmore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Bid Results for Lincoln Street Sidewalks Project- Bond Engineers East, Inc. opened a bid for the Lincoln Street sidewalks on Dec. 7th. Harris Construction bid \$141,069.65. Burkhalter Technologies, inc. bid \$187,054.25. Bond Engineering recommends the City of Lonoke to accept the low bid submitted by Harris Construction Management for \$141,069.65. Alice Bridges made a motion to accept the bid from Harris Construction. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Bid Results for Hwy 70 Lift Station Improvements- Bond Engineers opened a bid for the Highway 70 Pump Station Improvements. Three bids came in. J.R. Fox Company, Inc. for \$139,024.00. Another from J&R Contractors, Inc. for \$162,671.84. Another bid from Environmental Process Systems, Inc. for \$172,609.00. Lastly a bid from Reece Construction Co., Inc. for \$198,500.00. Bond Engineers are looking into the company with the lowest bid and will be back in touch with the city. Koy Butler made a motion to go with J.R. Fox Company, Inc. for the low bid. Michael Florence seconded the motion. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Matt Edwards was present and gave report. Chief Edwards mentioned that the total billed to immigration and Probation/Parole was a total of \$3,728.00. Chief Edwards announced that he has filed for some grants for body cameras and other equipment. The Police Department received

\$25,000.50 for body cameras only. Chief Edwards mentioned that body and in car cameras are a need for the future of the department. He is working diligently to get the cameras for the City of Lonoke.

A. ADC Jail Review Report- Chief Edwards has suggested the jail be closed due to funding and staffing. Chief Edwards went through the jail review and explained the jail operation to the council. Chief Edwards explained that the jail houses parole violators. The state Parole board pays the Police Department \$32.00/day. Also, the jail houses immigration, which has slowed down tremendously. Mr. Penix was present and was available to have conversations regarding closing the jail. He explained that to run a jail is a very expensive mission and jail standards are changing all the time. Mr. Penix did explain that the City of Lonoke does have a County Jail a few miles up the road. Efrem Jones asked Chief Edwards what would it take to not shut the jail down. The mayor mentioned that the City of Lonoke would have to hire additional employees. Efrem Jones expressed his concern on closing the jail due to violence. Chief Edwards mentioned that Sheriff Staley has explained that the county jail can hold prisoners. Raymond Hatton chimed in and expressed his concern on closing the jail. Ginger Stuart explained to the council that Chief Edwards has spent many hours of his time trying to figure out what the right thing to do is. The mayor thanked everyone for weighing in on the topic.

PARKS/MOSQUITO: Mr. Roy Don Lewis was present and gave report. Mr. Lewis mentioned that the Christmas lights are up and working. Suzette Elmore mentioned the Christmas lights look great.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Justin Whittenburg was present and had to leave on a fire call. Mayor gave report.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Bulk Solid Waste Quotes- (Green/Republic) Mayor Reed asked the council to enter into a contract with Green Environmental for Bulk Solid Waste. Ginger Stuart mentioned that the City of Lonoke may need to put this subject back out for bid since we didn't receive any bids at the prior request. Mayor Reed told the council that this subject will be tabled until January 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance 787- "An Ordinance Amending the Unified Dev. Code; Declaring an Emergency and other purposes"- Ryan Biles made a motion to put Ord. #787 on the floor. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 787 in its entirety. Raymond Hatton made the motion to accept the 1st reading of Ordinance No.787. Ryan Biles seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Michael Florence made the motion to suspend the rules- 2nd reading- title only. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye voice votes. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 787- title only- 2nd reading. Gib Richardson made the motion to accept the 2nd reading-title only- of Ordinance No. 787. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) hand votes. Michael Florence made the motion to suspend the rules-3rd reading-title only. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye voice votes. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 787- title only – 3rd reading. Gib Richardson made the motion to accept the 3rd reading- title only Ordinance No. 787. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Efrem Jones made a motion to adopt the

ordinance. Ryan Biles seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Michael Florence made a motion to adopt the emergency clause. Alice Bridges seconded the motion carried.

B. Ordinance 788- “An Ordinance to Waive the Requirement of Competitive Bidding for the Procurement of Chemicals for Spraying Mosquitos by the City of Lonoke, Declaring an Emergency and for other purposes”-

Koy Butler made a motion to put Ord. #788 on the floor. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 788 in its entirety. Efre Jones made the motion to accept the 1st reading of Ordinance No.788. Gib Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Koy Butler made the motion to suspend the rules- 2nd reading- title only. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye voice votes. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 788- title only- 2nd reading. Alice Bridges made the motion to accept the 2nd reading-title only- of Ordinance No. 788. Suzette Elmore seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) hand votes. Koy Butler made the motion to suspend the rules-3rd reading-title only. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye voice votes. Ginger Stuart read Ordinance No. 788- title only – 3rd reading. Alice Bridges made the motion to accept the 3rd reading- title only Ordinance No. 788. Suzette Elmore seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Koy Butler made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with (8) aye hand votes. Michael Florence made a motion to adopt an emergency clause. Gib Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Adoption of 2022 Preliminary Budget-

Mayor Reed went over the preliminary budget for 2022. Mayor mentioned the recommendations that came from the Budget and Finance Committee. Mayor Reed mentioned that the committee had decided that the water and sewer rates has not been raised since 2014. If these rates are possibly raised this could potentially help the Police Department. Michael Florence to adopt the 2022 preliminary budget. Ryan Biles seconded the motion. Motion carried. The final budget will be passed in January 2022. Alice Bridges mentioned that the extra mile walking trail should be talked within the council more. She isn’t sure that the City of Lonoke has the funds for this project. Suzette Elmore mentioned the concerns on the walking trail as well. Motion carried.

D. Amend Southern Paramedics Contract-

Gary Padget was present, Mayor Reed explained that it is time to renew the contract with the Southern Paramedics. Ginger Stuart made the comment that she approves the contract. The City of Lonoke is fortunate to have this service. Rib Richardson made a motion to approve the contract. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Approve Contract for Services for Services with Jim Kelley-

Mayor Reed asked the council to approve the contract with Jim Kelley. This contract will start December 17-December 31,2021. Mr. Kelley will bill the City of Lonoke for \$32.25 per day. Starting January 1,2022, Mr. Kelley will be available to the city of Lonoke for \$1,000.00 per month, until March 31, 2022. This contract can be resolved if Mr. Thomas Stivers does not need assistance from Mr. Kelley. Koy Butler made a motion to approve the contract. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PAY THE BILLS: Koy Butler made a motion to pay bills. Gib Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BILLS ALREADY PAID IN NOVEMBER 2021

City General	\$56,121.39
Water	\$27,167.35
Street	\$34,060.73
Community Center	\$13,195.48
Retail One Cent	\$4,196.13
Criminal Justice	\$882.89
I.D.C One Cent	\$11,700.00
Advertising Promotion	\$27.98
Municipal Court Cost	\$1,200.00

BILLS TO BE PAID DECEMBER 2021

General Fund	\$8,478.51
Water	\$16,541.01
Street	\$14,669.48
Court Automation	\$388.50
Community Center	\$4,685.97

ADJOURN: Suzette Elmore made a motion to adjourn. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Henry F Reed III

Attest:

City Clerk