

CITY OF LONOKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2018

The Lonoke City Council held its regular council meeting in the administration room of City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2018. Mayor Wayne McGee called the meeting to order with the invocation given by Efrem Jones. Mayor McGee asked Deputy City Clerk, Regina Ibbotson to call the roll. Deputy Clerk Ibbotson called the roll and declared a quorum.

Mayor	Wayne McGee
City Clerk	Jeribeth Edwards (absent)
Treasurer	Phillip Howell
Deputy Clerk	Regina Ibbotson
Council Members	Efrem Jones, Janie Darning (absent), Raymond Hatton, Pat Howell (absent), Woody Evans, Michael Florence, Koy Butler, and Wendell Walker
City Attorney	Ginger Stuart
Police Chief	Randy Mauk
W/S/S Supt.	Jim Kelley/Jim Ed Ransom
C.C. Director	Mike Brown
Fire Dept.	Justin Whittenburg
Parks Director	Roy Don Lewis
News Media	Allison Goodman, Lonoke Democrat Jeffrey Smith, The Leader
Visitors	Danny Whitehurst, Will Staley, Jim Bailey, Gene Eagle, And Cindy Reaves

MINUTES

Mayor Wayne McGee asked for acceptance of the minutes and the special meeting minutes as recorded. Efrem Jones made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

THRIVE: Will Staley with Thrive was present and presented a mock-up of billboards, handouts, and social media ads derived from slogans previously selected to draw new families, businesses, etc. to our town. He also showed a one page layout of the video storyboard that they are working on for us. He noted that the website should be live by the end of the month.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS:

Mayor McGee addressed the council and media with his State of the City Address covering the 2017 fiscal year. He notes that the City of Lonoke made great strides in working on infrastructure related issues, such as paving streets, replacing water lines, manhole rehabilitation, rehabbing the interior of

the downtown water tower, lift station upgrades, culverts for drainage and many others. The city also did several enhancements, which included lighting the existing walking trail, rehabbing the exterior of the downtown water tower and adding a kitchen addition onto the Lonoke Community Center. The city issued building permits for construction projects valued at over 2.8 million dollars during 2017, which included a Burger King, the Donut Palace, and eight new single family homes, as well as many other projects. We worked together and passed a 1.25% sales tax increase which will go into effect on April 1, 2018 to start repairing and replacing the major water and sewer infrastructure problems that we can't fix ourselves, cover the clarifier, install radio read water meters, and a .25% tax to help to fund our police department and volunteer fire department. Due to the steady collection and increases in city sales tax, we paid off our Community Center Bond issue eight years early. The City has been selected to receive two more grants through the Ark Highway Dept to construct more sidewalks in the school zone and to extend the walking trail from around the Church Street parking area to Hwy 89. These projects will be completed in the summer of 2018. There are good things going on in Lonoke and more to come.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Mr. Mike Brown was present and gave report. The activities going on this month is a Driver's Test (new times-see handout), Baptist Health Checks, Diabetic Workshop, Soccer Sign-ups and "90 Days of Action - Dare to Be". The January 2018 Member of the month is Robin Smith, and a new boot camp class will begin at 5:00 am with Austin Rowton instructing. The Fire Alarm panel at the Community Center needs to be replaced. The cost is \$4,200 + tax. Koy made the motion to replace the fire alarm panel. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Justin Whittenburg was present and reviewed his report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Water: Jim Kelley was present and gave report. Mr. Kelley mentioned that he had to have an Insert-A-Valve installed at the water treatment plant. The cost was \$5,100.00. Invoice is in the bills to be paid. The retaining wall at Perry's Lift Station is complete. There are three aerators down at the sewer pond and House Industries is coming to look at them. He thinks is just a bearing issue. He presented two quotes for repairing N Center Street where the water main break occurred. There are from Sanford Compton for \$22,285.00 and Redstone Construction for \$38,200.22. Michael Florence made the motion to put this work out for bid. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Street: Jim Ed Ransom was present and gave report. Mr. Ransom mentioned that he is starting the street sign project. The signs will cost \$2,345.92. Koy Butler made a motion to purchase the signs. Efre Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. Leaf & Limb disposal site quotes were presented. Our current provider, Gentry/Canterberry Farms would like to raise their price to \$1,600 per month. Two other quotes were presented at \$1,200 per month, which was our original agreed upon price. They were from Danny Whitehurst for a 24 mth contract and Randy Phillips for a 36 mth contract. Options were discussed including the distance to the disposal sight. Mr. Whitehurst's property is 4 miles from town and Randy Phillips is 6.8 miles from town. Woody Evans made the motion to go with the

Whitehurst proposal. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor McGee also mentioned that the city was awarded another grant through Metroplan to install more sidewalks throughout the school area. The total dollar amount awarded will be available by the next council meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Randy Mauk was present and gave report. He noted that \$8,970.00 was billed to immigration and Probation/Parole for the month of January. Mr. Mauk also mentioned that he is negotiating with immigration to try to get a rate increase of holding their detainees. The current rate is \$30/day per man.

PARKS/MOSQUITO: Mr. Roy Don Lewis was present. Mr. Lewis told the council that registrations for baseball and softball will be going on every Saturday in February at the Community Center. He also mentioned that the handicapped playground at the city park is open. His action items included: **(1)** Backstop padding for Field #2 – BSN Sports - \$1,079.07. Wendell Walker made the motion to purchase the padding. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(2)** Windscreen for Fields 1 & 3 – BSN Sports - price of \$2,720.64. Efreem Jones made the motion to purchase the windscreen. Wendell Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(3)** Mosquito Truck Repair – Seely’s Automotive – To fix all items listed on the diagnosis sheet, plus repair the transmission (3 yr wrty), the cost is \$6,282.18. Efreem Jones made the motion to repair the truck. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(4)** Entergy Invoice – Lighting for new trail extension \$15,241.21. Koy Butler made the motion to pay the invoice for Entergy to put lights on the trail extension. Wendell Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(5)** Field Clay – Director Lewis needs a load of field clay to upkeep the pitching mounds at the ball park. Cost of load from Southern Athletic Fields is \$2,316.25. Woody Evans made the motion to purchase the clay. Michael Florence seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(6)** Gravel for Walking Trail Bed – Roy Don mentioned that they will need to order gravel (SB2) for the bed of the new walking trail. He estimated that he would need approximately \$12,000 worth of gravel. Michael Florence made the motion to purchase up to \$12,000 of gravel. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried. **(7)** Culvert for Walking Trail Extension – Three pieces of 6’ culvert will have to be purchased to span the ditch to extend the walking trail to Hwy 89. Cost of the pipe is approximately \$16,000. Koy Butler made the motion to purchase the culvert. Michael Florence seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. CONDEMNED PROPERTIES:

1. **Resolution to “Condemn Property at 214 E. 11th Street- Roberts:** Previously tabled till Mar’18 mtg.
2. **Resolution 9-1-2017 to "Condemn Property at 509 Reynolds"-** The City has hired Randy Phillips to clean up this property down as soon as weather permits. Tabled.

B. WATCH LIST:

1. **Mallard Point Golf:** Previously tabled till Mar’18 meeting.
2. **Grimes- 104 Willow Loop-** Previously tabled till Mar’18 meeting.

3. **Davis- 502 Barnes-** Owner has hired Randy Phillips to clean up this property. Equipment is unloaded at site and will be done this week.
4. **Privett- 5th Street apartments-** Previously tabled till Mar'18 meeting.

C. NEW PROPERTIES TO CONSIDER FOR CONDEMNATION

1. BROWN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST- 319 BROWN: City is going to push this property down.

2. COLE- 217 HARRISON – Ginger Stuart will give letter to Efrem and have them report to council in March meeting. Motion carried.

3. CANNON- 208 HARRISON: Property is on the ground awaiting removal.

4. MARSHALL- 218 HARRISON: Property is on the ground awaiting removal.

5. SPRING- 317 HARRISON ENGLAND – Woody Evans made a motion to give this property until next meeting. Wendell Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. CUMMINGS- 221 VASSER LANE- Ginger Stuart will order title search and report back in March meeting. Cost to clean up this property is \$3500.

7. GENTRY- 719 S. CENTER- Waiting on property owner to provide dumpsters for house debris.

8. BELLO-319 REYNOLDS STREET- Ginger Stuart will order title search and report back to council in March meeting. Cost to clean up this property is \$4,000.

Woody Evans made the motion to give all properties listed till the March meeting. Efrem Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION 2-1-2018- “A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IN ARKANSAS; AND TO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DEFENSE PROGRAM (MLDP) AGAINST THOSE ENTITIES AND PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SOCIETAL CRISIS.”-** Attorney Stuart read the Resolution and explained a little about the opioid class action lawsuit. Koy Butler made a motion to accept the resolution. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **RESOLUTION 2-2-2018 – “A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF LONOKE TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS (TAP)”** Mayor McGee explained to the council that this was to allow the city to accept the grant funds for the additional sidewalk expansion within the Lonoke School District area. Raymond Hatton made the motion to accept the resolution. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. **QUOTES TO REPAIR ROOF AT DR. HOLMES OLD OFFICE** - Two quotes were presented to repair the leaky roof at 305 W Front Street. They were: (1) Freet Roofing –shingled roof \$9,200, 26 ga. metal roof \$16,500 plus \$2,100 to remove old shingles and repair damage in valleys and (2) Nick Witty Remodel & Construction – shingled roof \$8,175 plus tax, 26 ga. Metal roof \$9,265 plus tax. This includes repairing any damage in valleys. Koy Butler made the motion to accept the low metal roof bid from Nick Witty for \$9,265. Woody Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **CM&M QUOTE** – Mayor McGee presented this quote from CM&M to run new conduit and wiring to power the lights on the westbound off ramp. While replacing the lights, it was discovered that this wire had been cut and there was no way to get them working without running a new service line. Motion was made by Woody Evans to pay to replace the wiring to those lights FOR \$10,933 and to pay it from LIDC funds. Raymond Hatton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **WALKING TRAIL TREE STUMPS** – There have been several damaged trees on the walking trail and other areas of town that we have had cut down or cut down ourselves. The Mayor asked for permission to pay \$25 per stump to have the stumps ground up to a total of \$1,500. Woody Evans made the motion to have the stumps ground down for up to \$1,500. Koy Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. **MALLARD POINT GOLF COURSE** – Michael Florence mentioned to the city council that Jay Lucas was considering donating the city the property that contained the front nine holes of the golf course. He asked if the city would be interested in this idea. The council seemed interested and would like to have an idea of how much it would cost to rehabilitate the course and get it playable.

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

BILLS ALREADY PAID IN JANUARY 2018

City General	\$142,627.24
Water	\$42,194.50
Street	\$15,597.33
Community Center	\$104,684.20
Retail One Cent	\$1,606.79
Criminal Justice	\$2,463.34
IDC One Cent	\$3,905.00

BILLS TO BE PAID IN FEBRUARY 2018

General Fund	\$10,666.795
Water O&M	\$18,024.60

Street	\$6,253.52
Community Center	\$6,840.99
Criminal Justice	\$787.56
Court Automation	\$763.00

ADJOURN: Woody Evans made a motion to adjourn. Raymond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Wayne McGee

Attest:

City Clerk