



CITY OF WARD

P.O. BOX 237 • WARD, ARKANSAS 72176 • 501-843-7686

Council Meeting Minutes October 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by Council member Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Steve Hall, Charles Chapman, Stacey McMinn, Robin Hefner, Casey Brooke, and Rob Ruble. We have a quorum. Mayor Charles Gastineau, City Clerk Krystal Rummel, and City Attorney Chris Lacy were also in attendance.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the September 16, 2025 council minutes, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the department reports for September 2025, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the financials for September 2025, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:** no action taken. Planning Commission did not meet in September 2025.
- VI. **Water Wastewater Advisory Committee Report:** no action taken. September's meeting was cancelled by the mayor.
- VII. **Old Business:**
 - A. **ORDINANCE 2025-17: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE WARD FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CHARGE FOR FIRE RESPONSES AND OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONSES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD (THIRD READING AND ADOPTION)** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve O-2025-17 on its third reading, seconded by Council member Ruble. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 6-0 vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to adopt O-2025-17, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, and Hall-yes. O-2025-17 will go into effect at the first of the year.
 - B. **ORDINANCE 2025-18: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2022-02; AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE PURCHASING, SALE OR EXCHANGE OF**

PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF WARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (SECOND READING WITH MODIFICATION) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve O-2025-18 on its second reading, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-no, Brooke-no, Ruble-no, Hall-no, Chapman-yes. O-2025-18 has failed on its second reading.

C. ORDINANCE 2025-19: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2002-02; ESTABLISHING A GENERAL PENALTY WHERE NO SPECIFIC PENALTY IS PROVIDED OR WHERE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (THIRD READING AND ADOPTION) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve O-2025-19 on its third reading, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, and McMinn-yes. Motion passes with a 6-0 vote. Council member Brooke made a motion to adopt O-2025-19, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, and Hefner-yes. O-2025-19 has been approved and adopted. Council member Ruble made a motion to enact the emergency clause, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, and Brooke-yes. The ordinance will be effective immediately.

D. ORDINANCE 2025-20: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS, AMENDING THE CITY OF WARD MUNICIPAL CODE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (THIRD READING AND ADOPTION) was removed by Mayor Gastineau for next month.

E. ORDINANCE 2025-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE O-2025-05 ESTABLISHING PARKING RULES FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS CONCERNING VEHICLES EXCEEDING ONE-TON AND SEMI-TRAILER TYPE VEHICLES, ESTABLISHING PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (THIRD READING AND ADOPTION) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve O-2025-21 on its third reading, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 6-0 vote. Council member Hefner made a motion to adopt O-2025-21, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, and Hall-yes. Motion passed with a 6-0 vote. O-2025-21 was approved and adopted and will go into effect in 30 days.

VIII. New Business:

A. ORDINANCE 2025-23: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF WARD ORDINANCE 2025-16, ESTABLISHING POLICY CONCERNING PROVIDING CITY UTILITIES TO SUBDIVISIONS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-23 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes. Motion carries with a 6-0 vote. O-2025-23 has been approved on its first reading and will be presented next month for the second reading.

B. ORDINANCE 2025-24: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING POLICY CONCERNING PROVIDING CITY UTILITIES TO DEVELOPED PROPERTIES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF WARD;

DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel.

NOTE: After discussion, Council member Ruble rescinded the motion to approve O-2025-23, and council member Hall rescinded his second. Council member Brooke made motion to amend O-2025-23 to include the language in O-2025-24 and put on its first reading, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion carries with a 6-0 vote. Council member Hall made a motion to suspend the rules for the second and third readings, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-23 as amended, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, and Hefner-yes. Motion passes with a 6-0 vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to invoke the emergency clause, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes and Brooke-yes. O-2025-23 (amended) has been adopted and approved with the emergency clause and will go into effect immediately.

C. RESOLUTION 2025-41: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2026 DODGE DURANGO VEHICLE FROM RED RIVER DODGE IN HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT was read by title only. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2025-41, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

D. RESOLUTION 2025-42: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WILKES COMMUNICATIONS TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) HANDHELD AWIN RADIOS was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2025-42, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

E. RESOLUTION 2025-43: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BOND ENGINEERING TO PREPARE AN UPDATED MASTER WATER PLAN was read by title only. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2025-43, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

F. RESOLUTION 2025-44: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BOND ENGINEERING TO DESIGN AND MANAGE A PROJECT TO OVERLAY/IMPROVE SEVERAL STREETS AND THE CITY HALL PARKING LOT read by title only. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2025-44, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

G. RESOLUTION 2025-45: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK TO DISPOSE OF THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES read by title only. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2025-45, seconded by council member Hefner. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

H. **RESOLUTION 2025-46: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RETIREMENT OF POLICE K-9 HARMON AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP TO HANDLER SEAN BARBER** read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to amend R-2025-46 to include verbiage to buy for \$1.00, seconded by council member Hall. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2025-46 as amended, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

I. **RESOLUTION R-2025-47: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WOOSTER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AS THE LOW BIDDER FOR PHASE IV OF THE WARD SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SIDEWALK PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO SIGN APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROJECT** read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2025-47, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

J. **RESOLUTION R-2025-48: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO PURCHASE WATER METERS AND METER TRANSCEIVER UNITS** read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve R-2025-48, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 5-1 voice vote with Brooke opposing. After discussion, council member Ruble made a motion to amend R-2025-48 by doubling the number of meters purchased, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 vote. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2025-48 as amended, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

K. **APPROVAL OF MILLAGE RATE:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the millage rate, seconded by council member Hall. Motion carries with a 6-0 voice vote.

L. **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM** Mayor Gastineau explained we are not eligible as we received a grant in 2023 and its eligible once every five years.

M. **CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL: TONYA GIBSON** - No action taken

VIII. **Mayor's Report:** no action taken.

IX. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** none

X. **Council Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** no action taken

XI. **Announcements**

- Movie in the Park: October 25th
- Planning Commission Meeting: October 27th, 6:30 pm
- Budget Workshop: November 10th, 6:00 pm
- City Council Meeting: November 18th, 6:30 pm
- Cornerstone Thanksgiving: November 22nd, 11:00 am
- City Offices Closed: November 27/28 for Thanksgiving

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm with a motion by Council Member Hefner, seconded by Council Member Hall. Motion to adjourn passed with a 6-0 voice vote.

We, the undersigned Mayor and City Clerk for the City of Ward, do hereby verify the foregoing to be true and correct record of proceedings of the City of Ward Council Meeting held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: 11-18-25


MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL

