



CITY OF WARD

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

Council Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by council member Steve Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Steve Hall, Stacey McMinn, Robin Hefner, Casey Brooke, and Rob Ruble. We have a quorum. Mayor Charles Gastineau, City Attorney Chris Lacy, and City Clerk Krystal Rummel were also in attendance. Council Member Charles Chapman was absent.
- III. **Review/approval of Council Minutes:** Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 council minutes, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the department reports for October, seconded by council member Hefner. Financials for October will be included next month. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:** Presented by Erin Mixon. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve the replat for lots 65-67 of Oakland Grove Subdivision, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the Planning Commission report, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 5-0 voice vote.
- VI. **Water Wastewater Advisory Committee Report:** Council member McMinn stated Zella's was the guest speaker to talk about trash pick-up. Next month members were invited to tour the wastewater facility and will reconvene in January.
- VII. **Street Parking Committee Report:** Chief Benton stated the committee will also meet next in January.
- VIII. **Old Business:** None
- IX. **New Business:**
 - A. **RESOLUTION R-2024-44: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ZELLA'S TRASH SERVICE INC. FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2024-44, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Hall-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 4-1 vote.

B. RESOLUTION R-2024-45: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2024-45, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote.

C. RESOLUTION R-2024-46: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL WARD WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble will need to abstain as his wife's salary is included in the budget. Council member Hall made a motion to approve R-2024-46, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-abstain, Hall-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion carries with a 4-1 vote.

D. ORDINANCE O-2024-23: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE O-2023-24; CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2024-23 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hall. Roll call: Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn- yes, Hefner-yes. Motion carries with a 4-1 vote. Council member Hall made a motion to suspend the second and third readings, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion is approved with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Hall made a motion to adopt O-2024-23, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall- yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-no. Final vote 4-1. O-2024-23 has been approved and adopted, and will go into effect January 1, 2025.

E. ORDINANCE O-2024-24: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-04, REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE 2023-25 SETTING FORTH THE DUTIES OF THE CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2024-24 on its first reading, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: Hall-yes, McMinn- yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to suspend the second and third readings, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion is approved with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Hefner made a motion to adopt O-2024-24, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion passes 5-0. O-2024-24 has been approved and adopted, and will go into effect January 1, 2025.

F. ORDINANCE O-2024-25: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING O-2023-28; APPOINTING A CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF CITY ATTORNEY; ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE CITY ATTORNEY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve O-2024-25 on its first reading, seconded by council member Brooke. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn- yes. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote. Council member Brooke made a motion to suspend the second and third readings, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion is approved with a 5-0 voice vote. Council member Brooke made a motion to adopt O-2024-25, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Brooke-yes,

Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes. Motion passes 5-0. O-2024-25 has been approved and adopted, and will go into effect on January 1, 2025.

G. ORDINANCE O-2024-26: AN ORDINANCE; REPEALING AND REPLACING O-2023-26; CLARIFYING THE DUTIES OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE CITY OF WARD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hall made a motion to approve O-2024-26 on its first reading, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn- yes, Hefner-no, Brooke-no. Resulting vote was 3-2, Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative making the final vote 4-2. Council member Hall made a motion to suspend the second and third readings, seconded by council member McMinn. Voice vote resulted with 3-2, council members Hefner and Brooke voting no. Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative, making the vote 4-2. Council member Hall made a motion to adopt O-2024-26, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hall-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-no, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes. Voting resulted in 3-2, Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative, making the vote 4-2. O-2024-26 has been approved and adopted, and will go into effect on January 1, 2025.

H. RESOLUTION R-2024-47: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING A CONTRUCTION ENGINEERING DESIGN TO INCLUDE SURVEY WORK, ADH REVIEWS AND BID MANAGEMENT was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2024-47, seconded by council member Hefner. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote.

I. RESOLUTION R-2024-48: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2025 DODGE DURANGO POLICE PURSUIT VEHICLES FROM RED RIVER DODGE IN HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Hefner made a motion to approve R-2024-48, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Hefner-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion carries with a 5-0 vote.

J. Discussion Concerning the Ward Fire Department District and Dues (Mayor Gastineau). Mayor Gastineau showed slides of the servicing area for the Ward Fire Department and dues/millage rates collected by surrounding fire departments. Council member Hefner made a motion to allow the mayor to informally contact the county leaders to work towards a solution, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote.

K. Discussion on selling Water Operations Building (Mayor Gastineau) Mayor Gastineau discussed selling the Water Operations building and reinvesting those monies. Council member Ruble made a motion to list the property, seconded by council member McMinn. Ward resident Don Waymack spoke giving his support to list it. Roll call: Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, Hall-yes, McMinn-yes, Hefner-no. Motion carries with a 4-1 vote.

L. Set Public Hearing for Sewer Rate Increase: December 3, 6:30 pm (Mayor Gastineau) Council member Hefner made a motion to set the Public Hearing for December 3, 6:30pm, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 5-0 voice vote.

VIII. Mayor's Report: No action taken

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: no action taken

X. Announcements

- Planning Commission Meeting: November 25th, 6:30 pm
- City Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving: November 28-29th, all day
- Christmas Parade: December 8th, 4:00 pm
- City Council Meeting: December 17th, 6:30 pm

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm with a motion by Council Member Hefner, seconded by Council Member Brooke. Motion to adjourn passed with a 5-0 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, November 19, 2024 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: 12-17-2024


MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL



CITY SEAL