



CITY OF WARD

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

Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order:** by Mayor Gastineau @ 6:30pm. Prayer was offered by Council member McMinn, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following council members were present: Charles Chapman, Stacey McMinn, Casey Brooke, and Rob Ruble. Council members Steve Hall and Robin Hefner were out sick. 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 Chapman made a motion to approve the August 19, 2025 council minutes, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion passes with a 4-0 voice vote.
- IV. **Department Reports and Financials:** Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the department reports for August 2025, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion passes with a 4-0 voice vote.
- V. **Planning Commission Report:** Planning Commission report given by Chairman Erin Mixon. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the final plat for Crescent Cove, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve the Planning Commission report, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion approved with a 4-0 voice vote.
- 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 (SECOND READING)** was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-17 on its second reading, seconded by Council member Brooke. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 4-0 vote. O-2025-17 will move forward to next month for the third and final reading.
 - 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 (TABLED/FIRST READING)** was read by

title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to increase the mayor's spending limit in Section 2 of O-2025-18 to up to \$25,000 and approve O-2025-18 on its first reading, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, and Chapman-yes. Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative. Final vote 4-1, motion carries. Request to suspend the rules for the second and third reading died for lack of a motion. O-2025-18 will continue to next month.

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 (SECOND READING WITH MODIFICATIONS) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to set the fine penalties as \$1000 for the first offense, \$2000 for the second offense, \$3000 for the third offense, and \$4000 for the fourth offense, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Brooke-no, Ruble-yes, Chapman-yes, and McMinn-yes. Mayor Gastineau voted in the affirmative. Final vote 4-1, motion carries. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve O-2025-19 on its second reading, seconded by council member Chapman. Roll call: Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, and Ruble-yes. Motion carries with a 4-0 vote. O-2025-19 will move forward to next month for the third reading.

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 (SECOND READING WITH MODIFICATIONS) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve O-2025-20 on its second reading, seconded by council member Ruble. Roll call: Ruble-yes, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes. Motion carries with a 4-0 vote. This will move forward next month for the third reading.

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 (SECOND READING WITH MODIFICATIONS) was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve the modification concerning commercial vehicle parking, section 5 "It shall be unlawful for any person to park any commercial vehicle – exceeding one-ton - on any street in the city for any period of time except for loading and unloading. This includes semi-trailer type vehicles", seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve O-2025-21 on its second reading, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: McMinn-yes, Brooke-yes, Ruble-yes, and Chapman-yes. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote. O-2025-21 was approved on its second reading and will be brought again next month for the third reading.

F. ORDINANCE 2025-22: AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF WARD POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, REPEALING AND REPLACING CITY OF WARD RESOLUTION 2024-18, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (SECOND READING). Mayor Gastineau wanted to table this for more research.

G. RESOLUTION 2025-32: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A SEPARATE CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION GRANT FUND (TABLED) Mayor Gastineau requested to skip this for discussion later in the meeting.

VIII. New Business:

A. RESOLUTION No. R-2025-34: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COSMIC CONSTRUCTION LLC TO INSTALL A SIX (6) INCH WATER LINE was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2025-34, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

B. RESOLUTION No. R-2025-35: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE AN OMEGA 63P BLOWER FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2025-35, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

C. DISCUSSION ON USE OF ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES \$791,516 LOAN. Council member Brooke made a motion to reject the loan by ANRD, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Mayor Gastineau presented Resolution 2025-36: **A RESOLUTION REJECTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO SIGN THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO REJECT THE LOAN** which was read in its entirety by City Clerk Rummel. After discussion, council member Brooke withdrew his previous motion to reject the loan, and council member Chapman withdrew the second to the motion. Mayor Gastineau stated the need to open a separate checking account required for the loan. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A SEPARATE CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION GRANT FUND** Resolution 2025-32 was read by title only. Council member Chapman made a motion to approve R-2025-32, seconded by council member McMinn. Roll call: Brooke-no, Ruble-no, Chapman-yes, McMinn-yes. Motion did not pass with a final vote of 2-2.

D. DISCUSSION ON USE OF GRANT AND CITY FUNDS FOR EVS AND EV CHARGERS

Council member Brooke made a motion to reject the grant for Electric Vehicles, seconded by council member Ruble. Mayor Gastineau presented R-2025-39, **A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE EPA CPRG EV FLEET REPLACEMENT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE METROPLAN BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO SIGN THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO REJECT THE FUNDS** which was read in its entirety by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Ruble made a motion to approve R-2025-39, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Council member Ruble made a motion to reject the grant for EV Chargers, seconded by council member Brooke. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Mayor Gastineau presented R-2025-37, **A RESOLUTION REJECTING THE EPA CPRG EV CHARGING STATIONS FUNDS AWARDED BY THE METROPLAN BOARD AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR CITY CLERK TO SIGN THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO REJECT THE FUNDS**

which was read in its entirety by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2025-37, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

E. DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL STREETS TO OVERLAY WITH LOCAL STREET FUNDS

Council member Brooke made a motion to overlay the dead-end streets (Stephens, Langsford, Kirkland, Hilburn, Grant, Circle B) and the City Hall parking lot, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote. Council member Chapman made a motion to allow Mayor Gastineau to engage with Bond Engineering to work up an overlay bid package for the streets named, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

F. ANNOUNCEMENT: 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP WITH CPA – NOVEMBER 10, 2025, 6 PM- no action taken

G. ANNOUNCEMENT: BETH GLOVER RETIREMENT

H. INTRODUCTION: ANGEL WILLIAMS, CHIEF COURT CLERK- Council member McMinn made a motion to accept Angel Williams as the new Chief Court Clerk, seconded by Council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

I. RESOLUTION NO. R-2025-32: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL TO SIGN WARD DISTRICT COURT CHECKS was read by title only by City Clerk Rummel. Council member Brooke made a motion to approve R-2025-38, seconded by council member Ruble. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

VIII. Mayor's Report: Council member Ruble made a motion to purchase a new Dodge Durango for the fire chief, seconded by council member Chapman. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.
DISTRIBUTION/DISCUSSION ON WATER/WASTEWATER AUDIT FOR YEARS ENDING 2024 AND 2023 – Council member Brooke made a motion that the Water/Wastewater Audit for years ending 2024 and 2023 has been received and accepted, seconded by council member McMinn. Motion carries with a 4-0 voice vote.

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: none

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

XI. Announcements

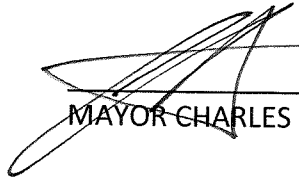
- Planning Commission: September 22nd, 6:30 pm
- Harvest Fest: October 11th, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Ward Sports Complex
- City Council Meeting: October 21st, 6:30 pm

XII. Adjournment

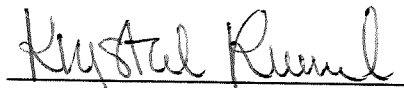
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm with a motion by Council Member Brooke, seconded by Council Member McMinn. Motion to adjourn passed with a 4-0 voice vote.

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, September 16, 2025 at 6:30PM.

APPROVED DATE: 10/21/2025


MAYOR CHARLES GASTINEAU

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK KRYSTAL RUMMEL

CITY SEAL

