

CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2017

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at the Gassville Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Jeff Braim, Presiding Officer. The Mayor led those in attendance in saying the pledge of allegiance to the flag and in offering a word of prayer.

Upon the calling of the roll, those in attendance were Alderman Kayla Holland, Alderman Tim McFarland, Alderman Anita Seaman, Alderman Naomi Lassen, Alderman Rick Peglar, Alderman Ralph Bird, Mayor Jeff Braim, and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. Department Heads in attendance were Police Chief Tim Mayfield, Fire Chief Bill Johnson, and Water and Street Superintendent Tony Flippin. Bookkeeper Teresa Cooke was also present.

The minutes from the December 20, 2016 council meeting were submitted for approval. Alderman Lassen moved to approve those minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Alderman Bird. The Mayor called for additions or corrections. None were offered. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The financial statement for the month of December 2016 was submitted for approval. Alderman Peglar moved to approve the financial statement as presented. This motion was seconded by Alderman Holland. The Mayor asked for comments or corrections. None were forthcoming, whereupon he called for a vote on the motion to approve. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried and the financial report to stand approved.

Prior to undertaking any further business, Mayor Braim presented some awards to select council members. First, he asked Alderman Seaman and Alderman Lassen to step in front of the council bench to be recognized. Each of these Aldermen attended the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference last week in Little Rock. Each of them has completed sufficient training hours to become Certified Municipal Officials and had been recognized as such at the conference. Mayor Braim formally presented them with their certificates. The Aldermen were required to complete 21 hours of continuing education and training to achieve this status.

The Mayor then asked for Alderman Peglar to come forward. Alderman Peglar has completed twenty-five years of service on the Gassville City Council. In the presence of his wife and family, Alderman Peglar was presented with a plaque by the Mayor in recognition of his distinguished and loyal service to the City of Gassville for all those many years.

Following the awards and recognition, Police Chief Mayfield gave the police department report for the month of December, 2016 and also for calendar year 2016. The reports were accepted into the record without objection.

Fire Chief Johnson gave the fire department report for the month of December, 2016 and also for calendar year 2016. The reports were accepted into the record without objection.

The Mayor gave the building inspection report for the period of December 14, 2016 through January 9, 2017 and also the report for calendar year 2016. These reports were accepted into the record without objection.

Alderman Peglar gave a report from the Joint Cotter-Gassville Sewer Commission. The Commission met last Thursday. Mr. Tim Mays, an engineer from Fayetteville, attend the meeting and accompanied Commissioners on a tour and examination of the wet well and above-ground sewer pipes along the river trail upstream from Cotter. The problems and issues with the wet well and these pipes have been discussed at length in prior meetings. The wet well has not been in operation since before Alderman Peglar joined council and the above-ground pipes are deteriorating, with rust being noted on top of the pipes. These deficiencies need to be remedied. Engineer Mays believes this will be a bigger project that he initially thought. He will come back and provide Commissioners with a ball park estimate of the cost to remedy these issues, and he will also be looking for possible funding sources that may be available.

It was also reported by Alderman Peglar that Carolyn Gill has replaced John Adams as the Cotter City Council representative on the Joint Commission. It was also noted that an invoice for \$1,000 was received for service work performed by a man who lives in Flippin, Arkansas to calibrate meters at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He charges \$500 for this service, which is performed once per year. He neglected to bill the city for the service in 2015 and has now sent an invoice for 2015 and 2016 for \$1,000. This will now have to be paid from the 2017 operating budget, which was not anticipated.

There was no unfinished business to take up.

Under new business, council was asked to take up consideration of **Resolution No. 2017-01**, the 2017 Budget Resolution. The Mayor informed council that he had made some changes in the 2017 budget since council last met in work session on the budget. He increased General Fund Expense Line Item 1275 – Community Center – from \$1,500 to \$5,500. He did this in order to allow for flooring in the Community Center/Council Chambers to be replaced. This prompted discussion among council members as to whether or not the current condition of the flooring was such that there was an immediate need to have the flooring replaced. The current flooring dates to the construction of the building in 1991. After a period of discussion, Alderman Peglar moved to suspend consideration of replacing the flooring at this time. This motion was seconded by Alderman Holland. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. Alderman Seaman voted against the motion. The Mayor declared the motion carried. Budget line item 1275 will revert back to its original amount of \$1,500.

The Mayor had also made the following additional adjustments to the proposed budget:

General Fund Expense Line Item 1330 – Professional/Technical – increase by \$500.

General Fund Expense Line Item 1339 – Office Supplies – increase by \$500.

General Fund Expense Line Item 1344 – Telecommunications – increase by \$250.

The proposed budget and proposed budget resolution now reflect these changes. Recorder-Treasurer Lewis then read aloud proposed **Resolution No. 2017-01**, which included these changes in its body, entitled:

“RESOLUTION 2017-01. 2017 BUDGET RESOLUTION”

Alderman Holland asked questions concerning the variations between the beginning and ending balances in several departments, particularly questioning whether sufficient income was being generated in the water and sewer department to cover expenses. The Mayor stated that Susan Poe with Arkansas Rural Water will be presenting a new rate study to council later this year, and council can then consider whether any rate increases may be needed. Alderman Peglar then moved to adopt **Resolution 2017-01** as read. This motion was seconded by Alderman Bird. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried and **Resolution 2017-01** to be approved.

Proposed **Resolution No. 2017-02** was then up for consideration. This is the budget reconciliation resolution. Recorder-Treasurer Lewis read aloud the proposed resolution entitled:

“RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02. A RESOLUTION RECONCILING THE PROJECTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016 WITH THE ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES.

Alderman McFarland moved to adopt the resolution as read. This motion was seconded by Alderman Seaman. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried and **Resolution No. 2017-02** to be approved.

The City Council next took up the organization of city government for 2017. By consensus, council decided:

- Regular council meetings will remain the same, being the third Tuesday at 6:30 PM at the City Hall/Community Center
- Special meetings and committee meetings will be held also at the City Hall/Community Center at 6:30 PM as called, unless otherwise arranged. Notice to the media will be provided in advance.
- The meeting agenda and order of business for the City Council will remain the same. The agenda will be finalized the Friday before the regular meeting.
- The Mayor’s committee appointments were accepted, except that Alderman Lassen will be taken off the Personnel Committee and added to the Planning and Zoning Commission per her request.

The final item of business was consideration of proposed **Ordinance No. 2017-01** concerning an amendment to the zoning regulations. Alderman Peglar moved to have the proposed ordinance placed on its first reading. This motion was seconded by Alderman Bird. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. Thereupon, Recorder-Treasurer Lewis read aloud the proposed ordinance entitled:

“ORDINANCE 2017-01. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 98-08 (ZONING) SECTION 8. SPECIAL USES IN THE CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS.”

Following the reading of the ordinance, council had a period of discussion concerning the purpose and need for this ordinance, as well as whether it would conflict with any kind of federal regulations, since the ordinance deals with the placement of telecommunications towers and broadcast satellites. Additional clarification and legal advice is needed.

The Mayor then updated council on several issues, to-wit:

1. Last week the State Aid Street Committee voted to award construction funding to the City of Gassville in the maximum amount of \$400,000 for the South School Street reconstruction project. The total construction cost is estimated to be in the \$750,000 range. The city has already set aside \$80,000 in a savings account toward this cost, and an additional \$75,000 has been appropriated for this in the 2017 budget. The state anticipates letting the bid for the project in June, 2017. The project will have a projected two year completion time. Attorney Ron Kincade has already completed the necessary deed work, and Superintendent Flippin has been out obtaining signatures to those deeds from property owners along School Street. So far, only one property owner has refused to sign.
2. The Gassville-Cotter Chamber of Commerce is having a kick-off event dinner at the Cotter VFW on Friday, January 21st from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 per person, available at several outlets, and includes a catered buffet dinner.
3. The Mayor stated that Karen Montgomery with Brooks-Erixson Consultancy wants to meet with him next week concerning the library use study. She also wants to meet with council members either in a group or individually. Council expressed its preference that she attend a regular council meeting to speak with them jointly at that time.
4. The Mayor advised council that Mr. Roger Buresh with Threshold Ministries has expressed interest in purchasing a lot that the city owns that is behind the police department's garage. They want to use the lot for parking. Council did not indicate any desire to sell the lot.
5. A letter from Suddenlink was ready by the Mayor concerning a programming change.

6. The new police department vehicle is on order.
7. Several officials attended the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Conference last week in Little Rock. The AML Summer Convention will be in June.
8. The Mayor will be calling for a meeting of the Parks Committee.
9. It was announced that Tommy Gracy is looking to move forward with development of his planned subdivision on Kemp Street. This will include the building of houses to sell. The Planning and Zoning Commission has already approved the preliminary plat.

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM upon motion of Alderman Bird, seconded by Alderman Holland, with all members voting in favor.

Submitted by: Jeffrey Lewis
Jeffrey Lewis,
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by: Jeff Braim
Jeff Braim,
Mayor