

**CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2019**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the Gassville Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM by Mayor Jeff Braim, Presiding Officer, following a public hearing on a proposed sewer use rate increase.

The Mayor led those in attendance in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and a word of prayer. Upon the calling of the roll, those in attendance were Council Member Kayla Holland, Council Member Anita Seaman, Council Member Tim McFarland, Council Member Naomi Lassen, Council Member Thom Embach, Council Member Ralph Bird, Mayor Jeff Braim, and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. Council Member Naomi Lassen was absent. Chief of Police Tim Mayfield, Fire Chief Michael Glotzl, and Water and Street Superintendent Tony Flippin were also present.

The minutes from the February 19, 2019 regular meeting had been provided to each Council Member. Council Member Seaman moved to approve those minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bird. No corrections or additions were asked for. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The financial report for the month of February, 2019 was submitted to the City Council for its approval. Council Member McFarland moved to approve the report as submitted. This motion was seconded by Council Member Embach. There were no corrections or additions called for. The Mayor then called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Police Chief Mayfield gave the police department report for the month of February, 2019. It was accepted into the record without objection. The new police vehicles on order have been built but not yet delivered to the city.

Fire Chief Glotzl gave the fire department report for the month of February, 2019. It was accepted into the record without objection.

The Mayor gave a report on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, which had met on March 7th. The committee had recommended that the Gassville FD seek an automatic-aid agreement with the Cotter-Gassville Rural Fire Department, which would be beneficial to both departments. The Mayor has met with Ben Strider, Chairman of the Cotter-Gassville Rural Fire District. He agreed with the idea and asked that an

agreement or proposal be drawn up. Fire Chief Glotzl then spoke to the City Council about the issue, identifying the definition, purpose, and scope of an auto-aid agreement. This differs from the mutual-aid agreement Gassville FD currently has with all fire departments in Baxter County. Gassville currently has an auto-aid agreement with only the Cotter FD, though it is dated. Chief Glotzl reported that the Cotter FD is not currently able to provide, for various reasons, a reciprocal response to Gassville under the existing auto-aid agreement. With the City Council's approval, the Mayor would like to meet with representatives of Gassville, Cotter, and the Cotter-Gassville Rural FD to see if a new auto-aid agreement can be worked out between all three departments. Council Member Embach moved to authorize the Mayor and Fire Chief to proceed with drawing up such an agreement. This motion was seconded by Council Member Holland. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Fire Chief Glotzl then presented the City Council with a number of proposed changes to the Gassville FD's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG), some of which had been discussed at the Public Safety Committee Meeting. After the City Council asked a number of questions, it was decided by consensus to table the matter until Council Members have more time to review the proposed changes. Lastly, Fire Chief Glotzl discussed with the City Council the status of fire unit F04. The weakness of the unit was discussed at the Public Safety Committee Meeting. A decision needs to be made on what to do with this vehicle. Options include selling it outright as-is, stripping it and using the equipment on another FD vehicle, or purchasing another chassis for the vehicle to bring it up to operational standards. No decisions were made.

The Mayor provided City Council with the building inspection report for the period of February 12th through March 11th. It was accepted into the record without objection.

Council Member Seaman gave a report from the Parks Committee. The committee recommended that Gassville adopt a no-smoking policy on all city-owned properties. The committee also heard a presentation from Eddie Elliot with the Mountain Home Pilots baseball program. Mr. Elliot was also in attendance at this meeting and will address the City Council on that matter.

Council Member Embach gave a report from the Joint Cotter-Gassville Sewer Commission, which met in regular session. Most of the discussion was again centered around the proposed "Phase II" rejuvenation project with the collection system that has been discussed and recorded in detail at previous meetings.

This will be a large and expensive undertaking. The application process for funding is continuing to work its way through the system, being currently under review by Arkansas Rural Development. Council Member Embach also reported that a new vehicle that was ordered has been received. The older vehicle being replaced will be sold. Operations at the Wastewater Treatment Facility are continuing as normal. Mayor Braim followed up on this report by stating that the first payment on the previous work done to the collection system under "Phase I" is due in June in the amount of \$7,974. The Commission voted to make an additional payment in the same amount at the same time in order to pay off the loan sooner. The goal is to pay off the 10 year loan in 5 years if possible.

Council Member Embach then gave a brief report from the Planning and Zoning Commission. He reported that the Commission met with representatives from the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development Commission (NWAEDD) and discussed updating subdivision codes and regulations. The Mayor noted that the current zoning map is 20 years old and needs to be updated. Slater surveying is helping with that process.

Under unfinished business, the City Council took up proposed **Ordinance 2019-01** on its third reading. Council Member Seaman moved to place the proposed ordinance on its third and final reading by title only. The motion was seconded by Council Member McFarland. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. Thereupon, Recorder-Treasurer Lewis read aloud the title of the proposed ordinance entitled:

"ORDINANCE 2019-01. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 120 WITH REFERENCE TO ZONING WITHIN THE CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS RELATIVE TO CHANGING AREA ZONED RESIDENTIAL R-1 TO AGRICULTURE A-2."

Council Member McFarland then moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Seaman. There were no questions or discussion. The Mayor then called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Under new business, Mr. Eddie Elliott then addressed the City Council with regards to the use of the ball field in the city park by the Mountain Home Pilots baseball organization. The field would be used for baseball, softball, and possible tournaments for teams of 6th graders and under. After the presentation and a period of questions and answers, Council Member McFarland moved that the Mayor be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Mountain Home Pilots to allow them to use the ball field as spoken of, with all monies or proceeds received from admissions, concessions, and etc. be retained by the organization for the benefits of the children participating. This motion was seconded by Council Member Bird. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-02 was next on the agenda for its first reading. This ordinance would ban smoking on all city-owned properties. Council Member Seaman moved to place the proposed ordinance on its first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member McFarland. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. Thereupon, the Mayor read aloud in its entirety the proposed ordinance entitled:

“ORDINANCE 2019-02. AN ORDINANCE TO BAN SMOKING AT CITY PARKS AND ALL CITY OWNED BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS WITHIN THE CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS, DEFINING SMOKING PRODUCTS, PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT FOR VIOLATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

This was followed by consideration of proposed **Ordinance 2019-03**, the sewer rate use ordinance, on its first reading. Council Member Embach moved to place the proposed ordinance on its first reading. This motion was seconded by Council Member McFarland. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. The Mayor then read aloud in its entirety the proposed ordinance entitled:

“ORDINANCE 2019-03. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7 OF ORDINANCE 2001-05 AMENDING A TOTAL USER CHARGE FEE PER 1,000 GALLONS.”

The next order of business was a consideration of banking proposals. The city currently uses Integrity First Bank, which has a branch in Gassville. Integrity First has been bought out by another bank. Changes affecting Integrity First because of this buy-out are uncertain.

The Mayor asked for a proposal for banking services from First Security Bank, which also has a branch in Gassville. Afterwards, Integrity First agreed to match the proposal from First Security, with a two year guarantee on rates and terms. After discussion on the matter, Council Member Bird moved that the city keep and maintain its accounts at Integrity First Bank so long as the two year agreement is kept in place. This motion was seconded by Council Member Holland. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. After the vote, the Mayor noted that the Denton Trust CD and the Water Pump CD are maturing this month. They are currently 12 month CDs. The bank is recommending renewing those CDs for 15 months for a better rate of 2.25% compared to 1.95% on the 12 month CD.

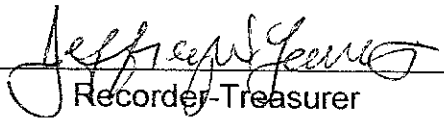
The City Council was next presented with a list of streets that will be submitted to the State Aid Street Committee for overlay work. The maximum amount that can be asked for is \$250,000. The state handles the bid process for any work they approve under their umbrella. This would be for work to be performed during 2020. After discussion, it was decided to submit the entire list of streets to the committee even though the cost for overlays on all of them would exceed the maximum amount. The state would have to inspect any street prior to it being approved. The street would be graded as to its current condition, being either good, fair, or poor.

The final proposal on the agenda for City Council action was consideration of an additional appropriation for a new public works vehicle. The City Council had previously budgeted \$10,000 for this purpose, with the original intent being to purchase a good used vehicle. This vehicle would be replace a 1995 model truck that is in poor condition. A brand new 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 regular cab 2 wheel drive pickup truck is available through the state bid for \$16,702. The addition of a tow package and a long bed would make the bid \$17,377. The cost for the vehicle would be split evenly between the Street and Water Departments. The new vehicle would come with a 3 year, 36,000 mile overall warranty and a 5 year, 50,000 mile warranty on the drive train. Ultimate Dodge in Mountain Home will match the state bid price. After discussion, Council Member Bird moved to appropriate an additional \$3,438.50 each into the Street Department equipment purchase expense line item and the Water Department equipment purchase expense line item in the 2019 budget for the purpose of purchasing the new vehicle. The total purchase price will be \$17,377. The motion was seconded by Council Member Seaman. The Mayor called for the vote. Council Members Holland, McFarland, Seaman, Embach, and Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

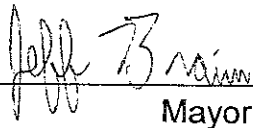
Mayor Braim then updated the City Council on various items, viz:

1. A Mrs. Cox from the "Right to Life Fundraiser" contacted the Mayor about holding a one day event in the city park that would involve a 5K run and a walking event. No date has been set yet.
2. The Mayor received a reply back to the letter he sent to the Arkansas Department of Transportation with respect to the city assuming ownership and control of State Highway 345 between U. S. Highway 62/412 and State Highway 126. The City Council approved the Mayor asking for this at the February meeting. The reply stated that a minute order to approve this transfer has been submitted to the Arkansas Department of Transportation Commission Board for its consideration. There would be stipulations on the transfer, which were enumerated at the last meeting.
3. There was discussion between the Mayor, Superintendent Flippin, and Engineer Danny Ellington concerning health department rules seeming to require mixers for circulation of water in the water tower tank.
4. The new backhoe that was bought has arrived. The old one will be traded in.
5. Police Chief Mayfield told City Council about what he recently learned at a meeting he attended on the subject of the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA).

Submitted by:


Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by:


Mayor

CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS
MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 19, 2019

The City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas conducted a special called public hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 pursuant to prior public notice published in "The Baxter Bulletin". Notice was also posted on the city's website and at various locations in the city. The public hearing was called and convened for the purpose of discussing a proposed increase in sewer use rates. The hearing was held at the Gassville Community Center and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Jeff Braim, Presiding Officer. City officials in attendance were Council Members Kayla Holland, Tim McFarland, Anita Seaman, Thom Embach, and Ralph Bird, along with Mayor Jeff Braim and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. Council Member Naomi Lassen was absent. A complete sign-in sheet of all those persons in attendance is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

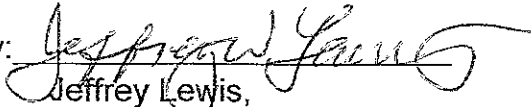
Mayor Braim made an opening statement, explaining the purpose of the meeting and giving some background information on the topic. Susan Poe, a representative from the Arkansas Rural Water Association, had attended the February meeting of the City Council and presented her findings with respect to a sewer use rate study requested by the Mayor. Her study found that sewer revenue derived from the current sewer use rates is not sufficient to meet necessary expenses and that the rates needed to be increased. She offered several different options. The City Council decided to consider increasing the sewer use rate from \$5.50 per thousand gallons to \$6.50 per thousand gallons. The new rate would be broken down as follows: \$5.40 for operations, maintenance, and repairs, \$0.76 for debt service, and \$0.34 for depreciation reserves, totaling \$6.50 per thousand gallons of use.

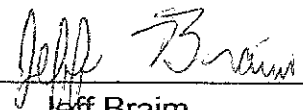
There are currently 712 users in the city. It is estimated that an additional 99 users will be hooked into the sewer system once the sewer expansion project on the East side of the city has been completed. Current average use in the city is 4,000 gallons per customer. In the new service area, it is estimated that usage would be approximately 3,500 gallons per customer.

The Mayor asked for comments and input from both the City Council and the public. Council Member Bird asked how long the rate increase under consideration would be sufficient to meet operating expenses. There was no definitive answer to that question, however the Mayor did note that new rate studies are being asked for every two years for review by the City Council. One member of the public who resides in the anticipated new service area asked how sewer use billing would be determined for customers who are on another water system or well system and not metered by the city. Superintendent Flippin stated that those rates would be based on the occupancy of the household.

The City Council will consider the first reading of an ordinance to establish the new sewer use rate at its regular meeting following this public hearing.

There were no other questions or comments forthcoming, whereupon the public hearing was declared to be adjourned at 6:09 PM.

Submitted by: 
Jeffrey Lewis,
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by: 
Jeff Braim,
Mayor