

**CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS
MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

The City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas conducted a special called public hearing on Thursday, October 10, 2019 pursuant to prior public notice published in "The Baxter Bulletin". The public hearing was called and convened for the purpose of discussing and considering whether or not the City Council should take up the issue of levying franchise tax fees on utility and telecommunications services that operate within the City of Gassville. The hearing was held at the Gassville Community Center and was called to order at 6:05 PM by Mayor Jeff Braim, Presiding Officer. City officials in attendance were Council Member Tim McFarland, Council Member Anita Seaman, Council Member Naomi Lassen, and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. 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. The Council Members were provided with drafts of six prospective ordinances that would serve to levy said franchise fees should the City Council choose to move forward with them at a regular meeting.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public for questions, comments, or input. None was forthcoming. The Mayor then opened the floor to Council Members and officials to ask questions or make statements. Discussion ensued concerning the amount of additional revenue the city needs to realize to continue providing city services at an appropriate level and what amount of money that would be raised and generated by the levying of franchise tax fees. Shawn Lane, representing Yelcot Telephone Company, Inc., spoke with respect to the fees that would be generated by levying franchise tax fees on their customers at the maximum allowable rate (4.25%), but he could not provide any precise figures. There were no representatives present from any of the other utility companies or telecommunications providers.

Should the City Council ultimately pass ordinances to levy franchise tax fees, copies of those ordinances would be filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office and with the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

After discussion was concluded, Council Member Lassen moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Seaman, and all members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Submitted by: Jeffrey Lewis
Jeffrey Lewis,
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by: Jeff Braim
Jeff Braim,
Mayor