

**CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS  
MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas conducted a special called public hearing on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 pursuant to prior public notice published in "The Baxter Bulletin". The public hearing was called and convened for the purpose of discussing a proposed water and sewer revenue bond ordinance for the expansion of the wastewater collection system. 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, Anita Seaman, and Rick Peglar, along with Mayor Braim and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. Council Members Tim McFarland, Naomi Lassen, and Ralph Bird were absent. Also present were Attorney Ron Kincade, Engineer Ken Cotter, and Jay Stallard with NWAEDD. 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 City Council voted in 2012 to authorize the Mayor to seek funding to expand the city sewer system, and the process has been ongoing since that time. Earlier this year, funding was secured for the project, to-wit:

\$848,000 grant from Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC).

\$237,000 grant from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

\$365,000 loan from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mr. Stallard informed council that ANRC was originally intended to head-up the project since it was the primary funding source. This has recently changed, and Deborah Garcia with the Arkansas Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) will now have oversight of the project. The grant from ANRC was available from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) federal money, which had passed through AEDC to ANRC. That is why AEDC has now decided to assume oversight.

The Mayor announced the following estimated timeline for the project:

January, 2018 – Engineering plans and specifications to be completed and acquisition of utility easements completed

April, 2018 – Bid opening

May, 2018 – Pre-construction conference

June, 2018 – Construction to begin

March, 2020 – Completion date

April, 2010 – Final inspection


The Mayor opened the floor for discussion. Alderman Peglar asked if residential service connections would come online incrementally as the project proceeds or not until the project is fully completed. Mr. Cotter replied that it would be up to the city to decide that question and pointed out that the city would assume ownership of a connection once it has been activated and the warranty would begin to run from that date. He stated that generally with most projects of this nature all the connections are made at the same time upon the completion of the project.


Mr. Mark Kapshandy spoke and thanked the council for its efforts in making this project come to fruition and for keeping the public informed. He asked some questions concerning loan re-payments, how the customer's bills would be calculated, and about connection costs to the residents. There was a period of general discussion on these questions.

Mr. Cotter stated that the contract to be let would provide that all residential service connections would be made by the contractor or a sub-contractor without any costs to the resident as part of the contract. The same would apply to demolition of existing septic tanks.

Deposits for sewer system service would have to be paid for by the customer and would not be covered in the contract. The deposit amount is either already established in an existing ordinance or will have to be set by council at a later date. The current deposit for combined residential water *and* sewer service is \$105 according to Superintendent Tony Flippin. It was also noted that any residents within 300 feet of a city sewer line would be required under the law to connect to it.

At the conclusion of discussion, the public hearing adjourned at 6:36 PM, to be followed by a meeting of the City Council.

Submitted by:   
Jeffrey Lewis,  
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by:   
Jeff Braim,  
Mayor