



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

**City Hall**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present were Council Member Bob Fant, Council Member John Wright, Council Member Angela Perea, Council Member Sean Engle and Council Member Katherine Hudson. Also present were City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Allen, Police Chief Chris Kelley, Fire Chief Chance Wright, Building Official Clay Wilson, City Planner Korab Vranovci, and City Attorney Justin Eichmann. Council Member Dan Cross was absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Hudson, Seconded by Council Member Fant. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **1. FEBRUARY 9, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 City Council Meeting. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

##### **2. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Community Policing:

Patrols were conducted of residential and business areas daily.

Enforcement:

Based on community complaints, Officers enforced speed and distracted driving violations throughout the city. Several citations were issued for violations at the City Park crosswalk. JPD enforced Truck Route violations of prohibited truck traffic on Wilkerson St, Elmore St, and Main Dr.

Personnel update:

1 new applicant has been hired and 1 applicant has been given a conditional offer of employment. Advertising for 1 vacant Police Officer position. Utilizing Facebook, Instagram, Interview Now and Indeed for advertising.

Current staffing: 9 Sworn/ 1 Civilian/ 1 Vacant Sworn positions.

Qualification/Training:

Court Security training is being developed to train new hires.

Firearms qualification scheduled for April.

2 Officers will attend Police Mountain Bike training in March.

1 Officer will attend Human Trafficking symposium in March.

Animal Control/Code Officer has been certified Level 1 and Level 2 animal control training with the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA).

Chief Kelley asked for a position to be created for a Civilian Police Clerk. Washington County no longer wants to issue warrants for the small cities. Our Court Clerk was trained to do this through very intensive training. It has been determined that court personnel cannot do this job as it is a conflict of interest. Mayor Keeney said the base rate of \$15.50, we can afford the position and there is enough work to justify a full-time person. Local and national acic/ncic databases will need to be caught up. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the new position. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

### 3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fleet Update:

Ladder 1 – Had meeting with Mechanic, Ladder 1 also has 2 bad cylinders. Unable to fix at fire station, will need to transport L1 to Roland, OK.

Brush 1 – Being built.

Training:

Completed 420 hours of combined Training.

Misc:

Central States Manufacturing Donation

Developing ALS Engine Protocol

Fire Inspector:

Attended Planning Commission, 4 Business inspections

FD received a donation from Central States Manufacturing donating all new siding for the fire station. Includes tear off and installation.

Currently working with Central EMS to upgrade the level of response the FD can give to the community. Looking for a way to work with CEMS to provide an ALS (Advance Life Support) service with the paramedics we currently have on staff. Under the CEMS umbrella, with state approval to use our paramedics as paramedics to start care before CEMS arrives on scene. No narcotics but start potentially lifesaving care sooner. Great service for our citizens. BLS (basic life support) is what we have now with our EMTs - ALS can be provided by paramedics. City Attorney Justin Eichmann does not see any comebacks. No insurance is needed as the City has tort immunity for negligence claims. Civil rights claims covered by ARML. No qualms about it

at all but will certainly be glad to look at it more deeply. Mayor Keeney asked Chief Wright to see what CEMS comes up with and get it to City Attorney Eichmann for review.

#### 4. BUILDING OFFICIAL

Clay Wilson, Building Official:

Building Permits: 2 (commercial build out and new home); Mechanical Permits: 3;

Inspections: 28

Finals: 2 (1 remodel,1 new home)

Multiple meetings with developers and engineers, posted pc signage, held a TPR meeting, HVAC board meeting by zoom, attended a pc work session, held a predevelopment meeting, attended my quarterly storm water meeting, and attended a 4-hour class on storm water management training by zoom.

Vehicle maintenance:

Police department:

3 oil changes installed the new engine and the GPS in 1501.

Public works: Ordered two new tires and rear brake pads for 04 GMC 1 ton.

Korab Vranovci, City Planner:

Worked on the amendments for Planned Unit Development Ordinance.

Attended a Tech Planning Review Meeting

Attended a Planning Commission Work Session

Attended a Predevelopment meeting with engineering company.

Collected zoning spatial data library from the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning to start the city's GIS (geography information system) zoning map.

Digitized city's Master Streep Plan GIS Map almost complete.

Attended the Urban Land Institute Young Leaders Group Networking event.

#### 5. PUBLIC WORKS

The department is patching potholes and street cuts that were not repaired properly. Ashford Knolls drainage project was completed.

Mayor Keeney we accepted the bid on Slape Street for \$158,858. Since that time, McClelland Engineers went to do a pre-inspection before the project starts and discovered the concrete that was expected to be left in place has deteriorated beyond saving. APAC has recommended that it is completely removed, and It will cost an additional \$24,936 to complete the project bringing the total cost to \$183,794. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the cost increase. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. Scheduled start date of 3/18/24.

City was notified about deterioration on Ball Street; road is being undercut by the water draining under and washing away the old cement swales. Engineers are putting a plan together.

Mayor Keeney would like to add 5 sun sails to the park to provide some shade. Cost would be \$54,700 with contingency included. Funds would come out of the Park A&P account. Motion made by Council Member Engle, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright,

Council Member Engle. Can be modified in the future as needed.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Council Member Angela Perea said at the March Planning Commission meeting, a development group presented a request for a PUD rezoning. A lot of public input was given stemming from some misinformation prior to what was actually happening before it was explained that it was just a rezoning request. The HOA president of most of the people present said after the meeting that the Planning Commission is a great group of individuals with being diligent with what is best for the City and its constituents. Council Member Katherine Hudson said she is proud of how PC conducted themselves and the meeting.

7. CITY CLERK/TREASURER

State Turnback and Property Tax have been received, Sales Tax has not.

All businesses are up to date on their Park A&P tax payments. 2023 was closed out this week. \$468,000.00 was transferred to the Street Fund from the General Fund for Ashford Knolls and other upcoming Street projects. The Ashford Knolls project is complete and with the approved change order, cost \$129,671.92.

There are still a few outstanding 2023 Statements of Financial Interest. Please complete the form as soon as possible. This form is required by the State of AR Ethics Commission.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

Worked on planning and the ordinance before the Council. There have been some Code enforcement things that came up. Worked on park regulations back and forth with the Mayor.

9. MAYOR

Working on the grant process on the Greenway lighting project. Next step is to get it back to the State and hopefully let it out for bid as early as June.

Revised plans from Hawkins-Weir for Wilkerson and Main been sent with hope to have rebids to review second week of May.

Refreshing the website, has an app component. New info can be pushed out by all departments in the City. Hope to go live on April 19. Apptegy is the company setting up the website. Michelle Horne has most of the responsibility for the website from the City Admin perspective. FD, PD and Code Enforcement will all have responsibility for their own pages and information.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 10. ORDINANCE 2024-02: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 14.20: PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OF THE JOHNSON MUNICIPAL CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read Ordinance 2024-02 by title only, waiving the second and third readings. Motion made by Council Member Perea, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. City Attorney Justin Eichmann read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve the reading. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to read the emergency clause. Motion made by Council Member Hudson, Seconded by Council Member Wright. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle. City Attorney Eichmann read the emergency clause. Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to approve this reading. Motion made by Council Member Wright, Seconded by Council Member Hudson. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **MOTION TO PAY BILLS**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Perea. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mayor Keeney asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Fant, Seconded by Council Member Engle. Voting Yea: Council Member Fant, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Perea, Council Member Wright, Council Member Engle.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Allen CMC, CAMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer

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Chris Keeney, Mayor