



City Council Meeting Minutes December 6, 2021

Sammy Hartwick, Mayor	Present
Stephen Ferguson	Present
Mark Hardin	Present
Ty Kelso	Present
Larry Johnson	Present
Richard Snuggs	Present
Matt Reynolds	Present

Roll call indicated a quorum was present.

Matt Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting, Ty Kelso seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Chamber Report – Ashton Pruitt

The chamber has again gotten many new members in the month of November. They also held their Chamber elections where Chris Ward from Elite Core, Richard Weaver from Kona Ice, and Misty Birdwell from Birdwell Farms were elected. Dustin Chapman and Paula Winn finished their two terms of service with the Chamber. The Hometown Holiday event was a success for many local businesses. The Christmas Parade is on December 9th at 6:30pm. There are close to 30 entries in the parade this year. Glisten in Greenbrier has had over \$13,000 in gross sales so far – over 1500 total transactions in the first week. The mural at Dollar Tree will begin construction this week.

Ordinance #14-21 to Rezone 10 Poppy St. from R-1 to R-4 – Tim Tyler

Tim Tyler, presenting for MTK Property, presented the ordinance for a rezone of 10 Poppy St. The property is near several other duplexes, and is the only property in the area that is not currently zoned R-4. The rezoning would bring it into congruence with the surrounding properties. After the reading of the heading, Mark Hardin made a motion to suspend the rules. Richard Snuggs seconded and all voted in favor. A motion to approve Ordinance #14-21 was made by Mark Hardin, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed unanimously. A motion to approve the

emergency clause was made by Mark Hardin, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed 6-0.

Resolution #07-21 – Returning 22 Kaney Ridge to Jerry & Christy Clifton from the Fire Department – Tim Tyler

In the early 90s, the fire department was given an acre of ground to build a south fire station. The station later bought another station to the south of town that was more centrally located. Mr. Clifton requested that since the property on Kaney ridge is not being used anymore, that the land be sold back to them, but since it was donated in the first place the city has decided to give it back at no cost. A motion to approve Resolution #07-21 was made by Matt Reynolds, seconded by Ty Kelso, and passed unanimously.

Bids on East Main St. Sidewalks

There were three bids submitted for the sidewalk project on East Main. Hessling Construction Inc. submitted a bid of \$125,353.55, Township Builders Inc. submitted a bid of \$175,573.00, and Wooster Construction Co. submitted a bid of \$129,738.00. Because the project will partially be funded using federal funds, it is necessary to accept the lowest bid. Mark Hardin made a motion to accept the bid from Hessling Construction Inc. Richard Snuggs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Destruction of City Records

Mayor Hartwick informed the council that there are city court records that are old and in need of destruction. Richard Snuggs made a motion to destroy the older records. Matt Reynolds seconded and all voted in favor.

Trees on Roberts St.

Mayor Hartwick told the council that pine trees on Roberts Street are causing destruction to the city roads. Residents living on the street are also unhappy with the destruction to their roads and properties and have requested them to be removed. There are 18 of the pine trees in total. Every resident on the street has given permission to remove the pine trees. Arkansas Tree and Stump does tree removal for the city of Conway, are licensed and insured. They want \$13,500 to get rid of all 18 trees. The roads will then have to be repacked and resurfaced. Larry Johnson made a motion to remove the trees using Arkansas Tree and Stump. Matt Reynolds seconded and all voted in favor.

Purchase of Equipment

There has been a request from the streets department to purchase a street sweeper for the City. It has a cab and a blade on the front that could be used as a snow plow. The water department has also requested a skid steer with a bucket to aid in their work. The street department could also make use of the skid steer. One piece of equipment is \$64,000 and the other is \$67,000. A motion to approve the purchase of both pieces of equipment was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed 6-0.

Christmas Bonuses for Employees

The Mayor requested that the annual Christmas Bonuses be approved again in 2021. The bonuses usually run around \$9,000 in total and are given based on years of service. Employees with 25+ years of service receive \$500, and other full time employees receive \$300. Part time employees receive \$100. A motion to approve the Christmas bonuses was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed unanimously.

Discussion about APERS

The current retirement program that the City uses is lackluster compared to other municipalities. We have lost police officers to other departments due to retirement benefits. Currently, the city pays \$70,000 just in management fees to the retirement program that does not go to employees. It is also voluntary contribution only. The mayor is requesting that the city switch to the APERS system, which is more of a true pension system than what the City is currently using. It would become mandatory for employees to give to retirement. APERS requires a 5% input from employees, and a 15.3% from the city, and vests at 5 years of service. Full retirement is at 28 years of service. Once you join APERS as a municipality, you cannot withdraw from it. Most municipal and county governments in the state use APERS including Quitman, Vilonia, and Mayflower. The parallel program for law enforcement is LOPFI. The joining period is either January 1 or July 1 each year. Mark Hardin made a motion to enroll the City of Greenbrier in APERS and LOPFI in January or the first available date of enrollment. Matt Reynolds seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of 2022 Budget

The 2022 budget was given to council members in advance of the December council meeting so that they could review it. The Mayor let the council know in the discussion of the budget that next summer will entail many street improvement projects. Leslie Littell, the City bookkeeper, said that the 2022 year was budgeted very conservatively, as was the 2021 year due to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. A motion to approve the 2022 budget was made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed 6-0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Snuggs, seconded by Matt Reynolds, and passed 6-0.

Sammy Hartwick, Mayor

Hunter Thrasher, Recorder/Treasurer