

**CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Gassville, Arkansas was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at the Gassville Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Jeff Braim, Presiding Officer. The Mayor led those in attendance in saying the pledge of allegiance to the flag and in offering a word of prayer.

Upon the calling of the roll, those in attendance were Alderman Kayla Holland, Alderman Tim McFarland, Alderman Anita Seaman, Alderman Naomi Lassen, Alderman Rick Peglar, Mayor Jeff Braim, and Recorder-Treasurer Jeff Lewis. Alderman Ralph Bird was absent at roll call but arrived later in the meeting. Department Heads in attendance were Police Chief Tim Mayfield, Water and Street Superintendent Tony Flippin, and Fire Chief Bill Johnson.

Prior to any business being transacted, the Mayor recognized Rick and Jane Mize of Nima's Pizza and asked them to come forward. The Mayor presented a plaque in recognition of their participation in international competitions in Italy and China representing their craft and the City of Gassville. The Mayor also read an official proclamation designating Rick and Jane Mize as "Ambassadors of Gassville" and designated Friday, December 18th as "Nima's Pizza Day". Council members extended their congratulations and support.

The minutes from the November 17, 2015 council meeting were submitted for approval. Alderman Lassen moved to approve the minutes, with a second from Alderman McFarland. There were no additions or corrections asked for. Mayor Braim then called for a vote to approve the minutes. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, and Alderman Peglar voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The financial statement for the month of November, 2015, including corrections made since the statements were initially distributed to council members, was submitted for approval. Alderman Peglar moved to approve the corrected financial statement as submitted. This motion was seconded by Alderman Lassen. There were no questions or comments, and the Mayor called for a vote on the motion to approve. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, and Alderman Peglar 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 November, 2015. There were no questions, and the police report was accepted into the record without objection.

Alderman Bird arrived at the meeting at this time.

Fire Chief Johnson gave the fire department report for the month of November, 2015. The report was accepted into the record without objection. Alderman Peglar did ask Chief Johnson if there had been any action taken or change of circumstances with respect to the repeat "lift assist" call that the Chief reporting on during a prior meeting. Chief Johnson stated that the Department of Human Services and the Area Office on Aging were contacted about the situation, but he does not know the outcome. The repeat calls, however, have ceased.

Chief Johnson also requested council to authorize the transfer of \$2,004.13 from the Fire Department Miscellaneous Income line item #1254 over to Truck Fund line item #1637. Most of this money is from the citizen bequest donation spoken of during prior meetings. Alderman Peglar moved to authorize this transfer as stated. The motion was seconded by Alderman Lassen. Upon the Mayor calling for the vote, Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor gave the building inspection report for the period of November 13, 2015 through December 13, 2015. It was accepted into the record without objection.

Alderman Peglar gave a report on behalf of the Joint Cotter-Gassville Sewer Commission. The commission has not yet met this month, however he reported that Commissioner Joe Stein had left the commission and that Matt Carradine has been appointed to the commission as the replacement. Alderman Peglar reported that the recent significant rainfall was handled successfully by the wastewater treatment facility. The issue of the possibility of the commission purchasing the current City of Gassville backhoe, which the city will be replacing, was discussed. The city currently has a 2005 model 420D caterpillar 4 x 4 backhoe. It is valued at between \$25,000 to \$35,000. Superintendent Flippin hopes to get \$30,000 on sale or trade in. The existing backhoe jointly owned by Gassville and Cotter that is used at the treatment facility and by the line crew is worth approximately \$15,000. Alderman Peglar will discuss with the Joint Commission and the City of Cotter the possibility of selling the jointly-owned backhoe and purchasing the Gassville backhoe as a replacement using the 64% - 36% split on funding.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, proposed **Ordinance No. 2015-06**, which would amend Ordinance No. 106 concerning the discharge of firearms within the city limits, was up for consideration. Alderman Bird moved to place the ordinance on its first reading. This motion was seconded by Alderman Seaman. There was no discussion, and the Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. Alderman Peglar voted against the motion. The Mayor declared the motion carried, as there were five votes in favor and one vote against. Thereupon, Recorder-Treasurer Lewis read aloud the proposed ordinance entitled:

“ORDINANCE NO. 2015-06. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF GASSVILLE ORDINANCE NO. 106 AND PROVIDING NEW PENALTY AMOUNTS FOR PERSONS DEEMED GUILTY OF VIOLATING THE ORDINANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Council next considered proposed **Resolution No. 2015-09** relating to the adopting of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. The mayor stated this plan has already been adopted by the County of Baxter and is being adopted by each municipality as well. Alderman Peglar asked the definition of “mitigation” as it related to this resolution and plan. The Mayor stated that “mitigation” relates to the protection of structures and facilities through items such as generators and safe rooms. Alderman Lassen moved to have the resolution read. This motion was seconded by Alderman Bird. Mayor Braim called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried. Thereupon, Recorder-Treasurer read aloud the proposed resolution entitled:

“RESOLUTION NO. 2015-09. A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GASSVILLE, ARKANSAS PROVIDING A MEANS FOR THE CITY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR POST DISASTER FUNDING.”

Alderman Peglar then moved to adopt the resolution. This motion was seconded by Alderman Seaman. There was no discussion. The Mayor called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried and **Resolution No. 2015-09** to be adopted.

The Mayor went on to explain that this plan was prepared by the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District at a cost of \$40,000, with \$30,000 being paid for through a grant. This leaves \$10,000, and the County Judge has billed each municipality \$833.33 for their share. The Mayor stated the some of the other municipalities were not wanting to pay that amount, and one of them has called for a meeting of the intergovernmental-cooperation committee to discuss the matter. Council members felt the \$833.33 was fair to Gassville and advised the Mayor to pay it.

In other business, the Mayor asked council to made additional appropriations to cover an increase in health insurance costs and for travel expense. He stated there was an increase in health insurance premiums for city employees amounting to \$714.00 per month, broken down as follows:

General Fund: 7 employees	\$311.50
Street Fund: 2 employees	\$ 89.00
Water Dept: 3 employees	\$135.50
CSLC: 2 employees	\$ 89.00
WWTF: 2 employees	\$ 89.00
TOTAL:	\$714.00

Alderman Lassen moved to authorize additional appropriations from these funds into the 2015 budget in the amount of \$714.00 as indicated above for the purpose stated. This motion was seconded by Alderman Peglar. After discussion, Mayor Braim called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor then stated that he was asking for an additional appropriation from the General Fund into the 2015 budget in the amount of \$1,330.66 into expense line item #1341 (travel expense). This was for the cost of the Mayor, Recorder-Treasurer, and three Aldermen attending the Arkansas Municipal League conference earlier this month. Alderman Bird voted to make this appropriation into the 2015 budget as requested. This motion was seconded by Alderman Peglar. Mayor Braim called for the vote, and Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The issue of the proposed city master water plan was next on the agenda for discussion. Ellington Engineering hopes to finish the draft of the city master water plan soon. The City of Cotter is also undertaking preparation of its own city master water plan, and has asked Gassville for a "letter of request" if Gassville has any problems or issues with Cotter's projected water system boundaries. The Mayor reported that Cotter is unwilling to sell a particular section of water line that Gassville is interested in owning.

The possibility of purchasing property where a second well for the city water system could be installed as part of the master water plan was discussed. The Mayor and Superintendent Flippin had looked at some property on Buford Rd, but found it to be unsuitable as it was lacking "three phase power" in that area. They then looked at the old Henry Houser property on Houser Ave. That property was foreclosed on by First Security Bank and is now available for \$8,821.10. The Mayor and others went through the old house on the property and found no evidence of asbestos present. "Three phase power" is available at that location also. A bank representative stated there would be additional closing costs through the bank of approximately \$500 to \$600, and additional attorney fees of approximately \$450. Should council decide to make this purchase, funds for the purchase could come from the Water Capital Improvement Fund savings account. The Mayor and Superintendent Flippin both spoke in favor of purchasing this property for the purpose stated. Mr. Mike Roller owns the adjoining property. There was considerable discussion concerning this proposal, after which Alderman Peglar moved to authorize the Mayor to offer to purchase the property from First Security Bank for the price indicated as well as authorizing the additional estimated closing costs and attorney fees, all of which would be taken from the Water Capital Improvement Fund. This motion was seconded by Alderman Bird. Mayor Braim called for the vote. Alderman Holland, Alderman McFarland, Alderman Seaman, Alderman Lassen, Alderman Peglar, and Alderman Bird voted for the motion. There were no nays, and the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Mayor updated council on various matters, to-wit:

1. He reported that the driver-side window to the Mayor's vehicle, a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria, had come out of its track, likely caused by the recent damage from the accident in the city hall parking lot that was reported last month. Council is considering authorizing the purchase of a replacement vehicle. The 2016 Chevrolet Impala that the Mayor had brought up at a budget meeting is no longer available. The Mayor has obtained a new price quote under state contract bid for a 2016 Chevrolet Traverse. He will be checking with local dealerships to see if they can match this price. The insurance claim on the 1997 Ford is still pending. The Mayor wants to go ahead and sell that vehicle once the insurance settlement

is finalized, with the insurance money and the money from the sale being applied toward a new vehicle. Council will further consider this at the next budget meeting.

2. The Mayor provided council with a copy of a County Court order wherein the County Judge has removed the tornado siren in Gassville that was owned by the county from county inventory. The county will no longer maintain it. It states in the order that the City of Gassville agreed to assume responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of this siren, however the Mayor informed council that no such agreement was ever made. The Mayor has spoken with Justice of the Peace Kevin Litty on the Quorum Court about this matter and has also written a letter to County Judge Pendergrass disputing that any such agreement exists.
3. The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show has awarded Gassville a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the new Lancaster Park, with stipulation that at least 50% of this money must be used for horticulture/landscaping.
4. Representatives from two firms will be attending the next budget meeting to make proposals for replacing the city's copy machine.
5. The Mayor has met with representatives of USDA, NWAEDD, and Consolidated Land Services with respect to the proposed sewer system expansion project. They have been given a February 18, 2016 deadline to resolve any issues in the application paperwork.
6. A letter from Suddenlink was read that outlined several upcoming price increases for their services.
7. Brian Haas, CPA, will likely attend the next council meeting to present his final draft of the 2014 water and wastewater audit, which is said to be approximately 95% complete now.
8. The Mayor provided council with the latest draft of the 2016 budget, which council will consider further at another budget meeting.
9. The Mayor will be out of office on Monday, December 21st because of a family health-related issue.

There was no further business to come before the Gassville City Council at this time, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM upon motion of Alderman Bird, seconded by Alderman Holland, with all members voting in favor.

Submitted by: Jeffrey Lewis
Jeffrey Lewis,
Recorder-Treasurer

Approved by: Jeff Braim
Jeff Braim,
Mayor