

**CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2008**

In the absence of Mayor Lloyd Hefley, Acting Mayor, Alderman Russ Stokes, called the monthly meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 P. M. on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Acting Mayor Stokes led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Endrihs called the roll. Present were: Martin, Newman, Paul, Stokes, Petersen, Viers, Thone and Oberding. Also present was Attorney Jon Abele.

AGENDA: Motion was entertained by Acting Mayor Stokes to accept the Agenda, moved by Thone, seconded by Martin and unanimously passed by Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Martin raised question on invoice and money paid out for grant writing class. After discussion, Acting Mayor Stokes requested that this be brought up with the Financial Report.

APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2008 MINUTES: Acting Mayor Stokes entertained a motion that the minutes be accepted as written, moved by Thone, seconded by Newman and unanimously passed by Council. .

MAYOR'S REPORT: It was reported that Mayor Hefley attended the ARML Summer Conference in Hot Springs.. Mayor Hefley also attended the Sharp County Economic Development Committee meeting in Batesville.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Endrihs attended the Spring River Chamber meeting on June 17th with guest speaker Kelly Hunt Lyons (former graduate of Highland High School and Lyons College). She also attended the ARML Summer Conference in Hot Springs.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT REPORT: Romans also attended the ARML Summer Conference in Hot Springs.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Martin raised the question again about the invoice, check written, etc. regarding the Grant Writing Class. Acting Mayor Stokes entertained a motion that this particular invoice on Grants be tabled until the working meeting, moved by Paul, seconded by Newman. Roll call taken. YES votes were Newman, Oberding, Paul, Petersen, Stokes, Thone and Viers; NO vote Martin.

Thone also was concerned about the overspending of funds for the Animal Control Shelter. He further questioned a discrepancy he found in the Fire Department report. Romans indicated he would check this out as it appears to be a bookkeeping error or miscalculation of numbers. (This has since been corrected.)

Newman was concerned about the amount being spent for advertising. She made a motion that the City limit its advertising spending and depend more on public service announcements which are at no cost; seconded by Martin; unanimously passed.

Martin questioned as to whose authority it was that the Mayor and City Clerk issue checks on certain line items that were over the budgeted item. Stokes indicated that adjustments could be made in a particular fund as long as the total did not exceed the budget set for that fund.

As far as the Animal Control Shelter spending and the concern of the Council, Acting Mayor Stokes suggested that we keep a close eye on this. The Animal Control Officer answers to Chief Goodwin, and her requests are to go through him.

Newman moved and Thone seconded that the Financial Report be approved as submitted; unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE: Chief Taylor reported that his Department responded to 13 calls during May with the majority of them helping the Street Department to clean up flood damage in the City. His Firefighters trained for 216 hours on various subjects and the volunteers trained for 2 hours on Fire Suppression and 2 hours on First Aid. The annual Apparatus tests have begun and will conclude in June. He reminded all in attendance that the 30+ annual pancake breakfast would be held on Friday, July 4th at Basehart Fire Station from 6:30 AM until 12 noon. (Report on file)

In answer to Thone's question about the discrepancy in Fire Department funds, Chief Taylor said that he would get together with Romans and iron this out. (Problem corrected).

Regarding the fuel problem, Taylor reported that they are well into budget for the year and are hoping the cost of fuel will decrease. In the meantime, his Department has been cutting back on unnecessary travel.

Chief Taylor was also questioned if he had sufficient defibrillators. He replied that he had 7 mobile units – one for each vehicle to include the rescue unit on water. These have all been purchased with donations as well as fund raisers. One is needed at City Hall and the purchase is being looked into.

POLICE: Chief Goodwin reported that there was a total of 28 Citations by Violation issued for the month of May. He further added that there were 43 primary offense incidents. (Report on file) The Chief went on to say the increase in property theft was partly due to the price of scrap metals going up so high and the changes in the economy. He indicated during the month of May there were 10 thefts of personal property cases, to include copper from air conditioners at unoccupied houses.

STREETS: Acting Mayor Stokes reported due to Cherry's absence. He indicated that the PugMill has been received; and as soon as electricity to it is hooked up, it will be ready to go. Fuel is on budget as of now; however, there is concern for oil for road repairs (asphalt work) to be done this summer. They also are cutting back on unnecessary driving. The Department is trying to keep up with its mowing but has fallen behind due to all the rain.

PLANNING & ZONING: Hrezo reported on the comparisons of construction from this time last year to this year. (Report on file) He further reported that he checked the records thoroughly but could find no reference to "Master Plan" as questioned by Martin at the May meeting. However, there was a street plan indicating land use and zoning, etc. which is also on file in the Sharp County Court House. He went on to explain the duties of the Planning & Zoning Commission and that they were not out drumming up industries to come into the area but were involved in seeing that permits were issued for construction jobs and their locations, to see that they were in proper zone for their purpose. He further added that P&Z is working on Standard Operating Procedures, so that anyone taking over will be guided in the format to follow to get the job done properly. He further added that if anyone is having a problem, he/she can come before the Planning & Zoning Commission, explain the situation and the Commission may be able to deal with problem in a different way. Variances have been granted. Further discussion followed on Bills of Assurance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ANIMAL CONTROL: Shorlynn Morris, our Animal Control Officer, presented her request to the Council to have electric power hooked up to two buildings as well as the freezer. In order to be certified to do euthanasia, both Morris and Goodwin need to have a place to store the bodies while waiting to dispose of them. Paul moved that this be accepted, seconded and unanimously passed.

Morris went on to say that the Shelter has some good volunteers and is receiving much support from the communities in the area. Specific donations have also been given to buy fans, 500 yard run for the dogs, and other needed equipment. Thone questioned that with all the donations, why is the budget so far overdrawn? Morris indicated that they are just now getting on their feet and playing catch up with the boarding fees; but can still see some of the areas that need coverage.

Dog and cat food has been coming in as have donations of leashes, dog and cat collars, blankets, etc. Animals are being adopted: and booths have been set up at various community events with the purpose of showing some animals awaiting adoption

A mower has been donated to do area around main office; Norm & Cher Heimberger have been hired to do the mowing; however, there still is need for a backhoe. Chief Goodwin was doing that as a volunteer; however, he has been relieved of this duty. The Street Department is now to provide this service, if feasible.

Morris also indicated that she would like to get on the internet as there was a definite need for this. She was asked to come to the Council working meeting on Wednesday, July 2nd at 6:30 PM.

There is also a question of the septic system and the need for two more at the Shelter; also to bring up at working meeting.

PERSONNEL: Newman reported that they had met on June 2nd and had to change plans a bit. They went through applications for the Receptionist job, interviewed a few on Wednesday and picked three for the Mayor to interview on Friday. They then talked about the City Handbook, evaluation forms, accident reports, etc., which will be followed up at next meeting on July 2nd, at 10:00 AM.

WEBSITE: Romans was elected chairman and Repar secretary. Discussion followed on the hosting of current website. After much discussion it was suggested that committee members log on to abcweb1.com as a hosting package for \$99.95 a year. It was agreed to have site developed in-house with assistance of committee members and maintained in-house. The group agreed that the site should offer information appropriate to people living in Cherokee Village as well as those visiting or considering moving to the Village. Fitzgerald has agreed to develop a new website design to be presented at next month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Martin moved that the title only be read; seconded by Thone, unanimously passed.
Ordinance No. 2008-A – AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE CITY; DEFINING SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS REQUIRING INSURANCE; AND PROVIDING A PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN AN EXTENSION FOR BUILDING PERMITS. After much discussion, Stokes suggested that this be brought to the working meeting next week. Martin moved that we accept; seconded by Thone. Roll call indicated YES votes from Newman, Martin, Oberding, Paul, Petersen, Thone and Viers. –unanimously passed.

Martin moved that Title only be read; seconded by Newman, unanimously passed.
Ordinance No. 2008-B – AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT UNSIGHTLY OR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS ON REAL PROPERTY AND TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE FOR GIVING NOTICE AND ORDER TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITH UNSIGHTLY OR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS ON THEIR PROPERTY. Newman moved that this be accepted; seconded by Paul. Roll call taken - YES votes – Martin, Newman, Paul, Petersen, Viers, Thone, and Oberding; unanimously passed.

Martin moved that Title only be read, seconded by Petersen, unanimously passed.
.Ordinance No. 2008-C – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL OR RAZING OF BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS, THAT ARE DILAPIDATED, UNSIGHTLY, UNSAFE, UNSANITARY, OBNOXIOUS OR DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE.

Martin moved that we pass; seconded by Petersen. Roll call YES – Oberding, Thone, Viers, Petersen, Paul, Newman and Martin.

(As Acting Mayor, Stokes did not vote.)

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: City related issues (3 minutes per speaker). Chief Goodwin reported that Officer Anthony Wiles has resigned effective June 15th and moved to Jonesboro due to transfer of his wife in her job. The Police Department is in the process of hiring another officer.

ADJOURNMENT: Acting Mayor Stokes entertained a motion for adjournment. Newman moved, seconded by Petersen, unanimously passed.

DATE: _____

Russ Stokes, Mayor Pro-Temp

ATTEST: _____
Phyllis J. Endrihs, Clerk/Treasurer

