

**CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

The Honorable Mayor Lloyd Hefley called the regular monthly meeting of the City Council to order at approximately 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 20, 2008.

Mayor Hefley led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silent prayer.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Newman questioned as to why the first two items under NEW BUSINESS - the ARML Benefit Health Plan and the 2009 Municipal Officials AD&D Plan - were not in the packet. As this was a mistake, the Mayor requested they be removed from the agenda at this time.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Pat Just, resident of Cherokee Village, spoke against the millage increase. Due to the economic problems throughout the country, she requested that Council members take a hard look at the proposed budget to see where cuts could be made so there would be no need for the millage tax.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008 MINUTES: Thone moved that these minutes be approved; seconded by Martin and unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 24th & NOVEMBER 6TH: Stokes motioned that we approve these minutes; seconded by Thone and unanimously passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None at this time.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Endrihs indicated that she and Terry Romans had attended the Identity Theft Program in Ash Flat November 13th. Thone asked if there was any information to share from this meeting. Clerk Endrihs reported some on the use of credit cards, checks, etc. Mayor Hefley then indicated that copies would be run of information gathered at the Ash Flat meeting and made available at our next City Council.

Clerk Endrihs also reported that Terry Romans, Mayor Hefley and she attended the Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting in Hardy on November 18th. Larry Brown, Sharp County Judge, and Angela Davis from Caring Hands Hospice were both guest speakers.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Romans reported that the FNBC is now giving us a monthly Customer Profile Inquiry Total which gives the bank account balances as well as CD balances (this information will be behind the Bank Balances sheet in the Council packet). Romans reported that the City is in the process of transferring some funds from Stephens Cash Management Trust and funds on deposit at FNBC into CD's at FNBC. After checking with other local banks, FNBC offered 4% interest for a year with no withdrawal penalty if used for operating expenses.. Approximately \$100,000 will remain in each of the major accounts (General, Fire & Street) going into 2009

Romans indicated that he would be working on the inventory and wanted to know what Council considered the cut-off amount. Romans indicated that the Legislative Audit Committee started at \$2000; but cities went from \$500 to \$2500. Martin indicated that we need everything counted at least once as we don't know what we have so how can we know what to purchase. After much discussion, Thone moved that everything over \$500 be counted; Martin seconded; others unanimously agreed and motion was passed.

Request was made to change some of the line items in the Street Department budget – no additional funds – just spreading the funds differently. Martin moved that we pass this request; Thone seconded; passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE: Chief Taylor reported that his Department responded to 23 calls during the month of October. The Firefighters trained for a total of 188 hours on various subjects. The Volunteers trained for 2 hours on Communications and 2 hours on Protective Equipment. The Department conducted Fire Prevention Programs for the Cherokee Elementary School, Highland Head Start Program and Peace Lutheran Pre-School. The Department completed training in ICS 100 and ICS 200. (Report on file)

Oberding questioned the structure fires. Chief Taylor replied that they appeared accidental. One was a gas cook stove and the other two were caused by space heaters getting too close to combustible material. Thone questioned if the people were allowed to live in a home after a fire. Chief Taylor said that they do advise the resident to stay out until everything is checked. Stokes cautioned on burning leaves. Chief Taylor asks people to call in to see if it is safe to start a fire; however, unless the Mayor or the Judge places a Burn Ban on the area, there is not much they can do to stop anyone. Strongly suggest, however, that they definitely do not burn on windy days.

POLICE: Chief French reported that his Department had patrolled 10,490 miles during the month. He indicated that 29 citations were issued for violations and there were 40 Incident Primary Offense Totals. (Report on file)

He praised Kay Carlisle, Judy Bickle, Officer Shane Hightower and Officer Mike Alexander for carrying out the tradition of handing out candy on Halloween evening.

Chief French also reported that per the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission our deer hunt was the most successful in the area. In Sharp County portion of Cherokee Village there were 26 bucks and 74 does killed and in Fulton County area there were 28 bucks and 51 does killed for a total of 179 deer killed during the archery season, which began September 15 and ended October 31st. It will begin again in January 2009. With all this going on in our City, there were only three minor complaints received at City Hall.

Thone questioned the \$1800 worth of ammunition stock piled. Chief French replied that the officers have been using it, are now qualified and the pile is going down. It is accounted for.

Animal Control reported 57 intakes for month of October (54 from Cherokee Village and 3 from Ozark Acres). 50 were adopted, 32 sent to Rescue in other areas, 3 reclaimed and 1 is in foster care. The Animal Shelter receives at least 8 calls a day for service from cities outside our area.

There were 320 regular volunteer hours and 28 drop-in hours. On December 6th, they plan to set up by ALL PETS in Mountain Home so that some of their animals can be adopted out of the area. On December 13th, they are to set up along with Santa, at Tri-County Farm & Ranch in Ash Flat. Altogether through the month 556 volunteer hours were chalked up.

Shorlynn Morris applied for and received \$1000 grant from WalMart for the Animal Shelter, and will be eligible for another in February 2009. The Highland Key Club has adopted the Center as a community project this school year. The students will bathe and walk the animals and help clean the kennels.

Thone indicated that Shorlynn Morris was seeking some part time help to clean the kennels. He wanted to know if it was feasible to have some of the inmates do Community Service. Chief French said that this was being set up with Mr. Gott.

STREETS: David Crayne reported on the Street Department activities and indicated that 850 tons of Cold Mix was made with the Pug Mill. The Pug Mill has now been shut down and winterized. Soft spots were dug and 490 tons of base rock added to 6 streets. Bladed cold mix of 507 tons fixed ditches and shoulders and the balance used on 5 additional streets. Twelve driveway approaches were done, signs replaced, half of Flathead bridge repaired, 41 resident calls were answered, mowing of shoulders was completed, pot holes fixed, limbs were trimmed and chipped, the Rifle Range and Animal Shelter were bush hogged for the Police Department.

The Maintenance Department completed several repairs on street and police vehicles, set up and tested all snow removal equipment and installed high rise cage for limb trimming. Last but not least, they received final permit for dredging project, completed street priority list for 2009 and continued budget review/costs. (Report on file)

Newman questioned if there was a pattern on the loss of street signs. Crayne said that he had not noticed any particular pattern; but they are watching this as best they can. The Police Department is working with them on this. The citizens should report anything they notice going on regarding sign removal. Crayne indicated that many disappeared during this past Halloween. Often times the signs turn up in a ditch or vacant building. The Plan is to work with the County and have a fine attached to this form of vandalism.

Thone questioned if work could be done now on the dredging at the bridge. Crayne replied the water level is low enough now; but with the weather the way it is, there is a possibility of the motor freezing up; so it will probably be next Spring before they can get in and do any of this work.

PLANNING & ZONING: Tom Hrezo reported on the Permit Comparisons. 530 were done in 2007 and 426 in 2008. Roofing permits for 2008 total 95. Permit jobs inspected were 30 and permit jobs completed were 28. (Report on file)

The Code Enforcement Officer received 27 complaints in October of which 17 were old complaints, 39 letters were mailed, 9 citations issued, 31 personal contacts made and 111 complaints were verified. (Report on file)

DeLoach has requested a new computer for his department which would be compatible with Liz's. The older computer would be given to the Code Enforcement Officer. After discussion as to the need, Oberding moved that this be granted, Newman seconded and motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ROADS & STREETS: Stokes said that he had nothing further to report as Crayne had done a good job.

PERSONNEL: Newman indicated that they have been looking into pay incentives as well as evaluations. They meet the first Monday of each month.

WEBSITE: Romans indicated that things are coming along slowly but well.

OLD BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: The Elks Club has requested a Temporary Use Permit to hold a Turkey Shoot on November 22 and December 13 with profit going to Christmas Baskets. After discussion about the fact that this has been going on yearly, a check with the Police Department as to safety, etc., Stokes moved that they be given the permit for November; seconded by Martin; unanimously passed. Stokes then moved that a permit may also be issued for December; Martin seconded; unanimously passed.

Martin indicated that he would like to see a permit requested for any event which is going on in the Village; so that the Police and Fire Departments are aware of them and that there is insurance coverage on each.

No action was taken at this meeting on the Arkansas Municipal League Benefit Health Plan or the 2009 Municipal Officials Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan for Elected Officials and Department Heads as the information was not in the council packet.

Clerk Endrihs read **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11 – A RESOLUTION OF INTENT REGARDING THE SHARP COUNTY NATURAL GAS SYSTEM PROJECT.** The Mayor indicated that cost would be \$26,000,300,000. Thone moved that we accept this motion; Newman seconded; unanimously passed.

Clerk Endrihs then read **RESOLUTION NO. 20008-12 – A RESOLUTION TO SHOW THE CITY’S APPRECIATION TO MARTY BETZ FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE.** Stokes suggested that we add Alderman to Marty’s list of accomplishments. Newman then moved that this motion be passed with the change; seconded by Stokes; unanimously carried.

COMMENTS ON CITY RELATED ITEMS: Martin asked that Fulton County officials be made aware of any decisions made in the Village. The Mayor replied that this has been pointed out to him and will be watched more closely to see that it is done.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made, seconded and passed that meeting be adjourned.

DATE: _____

SIGNED _____
Lloyd Hefley, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Phyllis J. Endrihs, Clerk/Treasurer

