

**CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The Honorable Mayor Lloyd Hefley called the regular monthly meeting of the City Council to order at approximately 7:00 P. M. on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

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

ROLL CALL: Clerk Endrihs called roll. Present were: Peter Martin, Lynn Maxedon, Billie Shelton, Ray Torbit, Angie Petersen and Tom Thone. Absent were VernaMae Newman and Russ Stokes. Attorney Jon Abele was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Martin moved that Agenda be accepted; seconded by Thone; unanimously passed.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (limit 3 minutes per speaker): There were none.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2009 MINUTES: Torbit moved that minutes be accepted as printed; seconded by Petersen. Roll call taken: YES votes - Martin, Torbit, Shelton, Petersen, Thone and Maxedon. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S 'STATE OF THE CITY' REPORT: The Mayor reported on the purchase of a new fire engine and the donation of an older one to the Hardy Fire Department. A new Police Chief and Patrol Sergeant were hired and two new police vehicles were purchased. A Pug Mill was purchased for the Street Department. He spoke on the challenges as a result of the tornado, flood and winds hitting our area and the help received from FEMA.

Some goals for the community were :

1. Conduct a Formal Needs Assessment Program.
2. Develop a new community blueprint to articulate the City's vision and the steps necessary to fulfill this vision.
3. Launch an Aggressive Community Input Process.
4. Develop assisted living housing and youth programs.
5. Develop a marketing and promotional plan for the City of Cherokee Village.
- 6 Work on better means of communication.
- 7 Utilize the grant process.

8 Partner with existing businesses and Sharp County Economic Development Committee for development of the community.

9 Consider future commercial development and utilization of Code Enforcement for Community Enhancement.

He then broke down the work done by each department during 2008 and indicated that the City had \$1,257,136 in cash reserves. (Report on file)

Martin then questioned the Mayor on some of his goals. The Mayor indicated that with the help of professionals this would all be laid out, blue prints developed, etc., in accord with other cities of the same size as Cherokee Village. It will take work and will cost money; however, as soon as the Mayor finds out, he will present all the details to Council for their consideration.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Endrihs reported that Romans had attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting at The Kopper Kettle on Tuesday, February 17th.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Since all the Aldermen have a copy of the Financial Report, Romans asked if there were any questions.

Thone questioned Line item 181 regarding purchase of studded snow tires – why from Kent's in Batesville? Chief French explained that they were bought there under State contract.

Thone then questioned Line item 191 – Al Capone's Garage. The Chief went on to explain that they had purchased the rims for the tires from Al Capone's. This afforded an easy swap out when tires had to be changed depending on the weather. The tires were then kept there as he was opened 24 hours per day; had a place to store the tires; dropped everything for Law Enforcement Agencies; and they were ready to go. His garage charged \$5.00 per tire change, which was lowest price offered in the area.

CORRESPONDENCE: None to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS;

FIRE: Chief Taylor reported that his Department had responded to 61 calls during the month of January. The Firefighters trained for a total of 184 hours on various subjects. The Volunteers trained for 2 hours on Apparatus and 2 hours on Protective Equipment. The equipment was mounted on Engine 2. Chief also reported 61 incidents during the month – many due to the ice storm. (Report on file)

Chief Taylor reported that 9 Mile Ridge Fire Department was interested in purchasing one of his 1974 fire trucks complete with original ladders and hose for \$5000. They have taken the truck out and have driven it around. They like it and what it does and are willing to pay the amount requested. Thone moved that this be done, seconded by Martin; unanimously passed.

Chief Taylor reported that one of his Lieutenants was retiring in April and another firefighter was retiring in May. Plans are to hire from his list of individuals who are tested once a year. There is a young man qualified, who is available and at the top of the list. Plans are to let him get oriented to the new job and then send him to the Academy in

August. As for the other loss, Chief Taylor would like to see how things go budget wise before he hires anyone else.

POLICE: Chief French reported on 14 Incident Primary Offenses and 102 Citation totals by Violation. This showed a definite decrease since December.

He also explained that the page on Police Department Budget contained funds this year for what were budgeted for in last year's budget. Bills did not come in until after the first of year so were paid out of current funds. He requested that funds be moved around in different spots as a result; however, the total expenses would remain the same. Martin moved that this be done; seconded by Thone; unanimously passed.

The Chief reported that during the ice storm the Police Department serviced 301 calls, worked 163 overtime hours all of which have been documented and will be presented to FEMA

Mayor Hefley then praised both the Fire and Police Departments for their outstanding work during the ice storm.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Chief French handed out material regarding other animal services, shelters, humane societies, as well as job descriptions. He indicated that there is a need to update our services and decide where we want to go from here. It was agreed to have a special meeting on Wednesday, March 11 to discuss the pros and cons more in depth, as there is a need now for additional help at the Animal Shelter.

The Chief reported that out of the 68 animals on hand in January, 59 were from Cherokee Village and 15 from Ozark Acres. As of this date there are 59 dogs with 15 going out tomorrow. That morning there were 5 cats left at the shelter bringing them up to full capacity of 29 cats.

Income for January was \$1,056. Maxedon and Thone questioned the drainage problem. DeLoach was called up to answer this. DeLoach indicated that he was aware of one of the problems, and he would get with the contractor to fix these problems.

STREETS: Crayne reported that his department dug soft spots and added base rock on three drives, bladed cold mix and fixed ditches, installed/replaced street & traffic signs and 6 poles, completed 14 resident calls, fixed pot holes and trimmed limbs and shoulders,

The Maintenance Department completed several repairs and oil/filter changes on Streets and Police vehicles, completed tool inventory and did many repairs during the ice storm. (Report on file.)

The Street Department prepared for the ice forecast by salting bridges and main road hills, pushed snow, salted and began tree cutting and opening roads in conjunction with the Fire Department..

Crayne reported that as a result of working with the Fire Department, every road in the area could be accessed by the fifth day.

The Corps of Engineers has been in, driving around the area and doing an estimate of the damage done. He indicated that the Corp is estimating a cleanup time of 4 months due to the 36,000 cubic yards of debris and the 3000 dangerous trees.

In Cherokee Village alone, there are 15,000 acres that stretch for almost 10 miles. FEMA will pay 75% on quarterly basis, and the State will pay 12 1.2% only after the project is completed.

Crayne asked everyone to be patient as everyone can't be first. They have the city divided into sections and will complete one section at a time.

After much discussion on the work involved, hiring of temporary employees, purchasing other equipment, etc., Maxedon moved that a Chipper and Debris Loader be purchased; seconded by Martin and unanimously approved.

It was okay with Crayne to hire at the most 16 temporary employees, no benefits and perhaps 4-6 months of work. Thone moved that we do this; seconded by Martin and unanimously approved.

Crayne also commented that he would be available at city Hall every Friday morning to answer questions, and updates would be given each week on the radio and in the newspaper.

Crayne also indicated that the removal of the gravel by the bridge would take place when the weather warms up, and his regular crew will do this work. Since the 1st scoop has not been done, there is no problem with our permit.

The Mayor said that the Department Heads are meeting each morning at 10:00 AM at City Hall in order to stay on top of things.

PLANNING & ZONING: Jerry Adams reported that there were 16 construction permits issued for total cost of \$37,050, and 1 Tear Off Roofing Permit for \$6,000 total. 47 jobs were inspected and 43 were completed. (Report on File)

CODE ENFORCEMENT FOR DECEMBER: Adams reported that 23 complaints were taken in January and there were 8 old complaints; 30 letters were mailed; 6 citations were issued; and there were 29 personal contacts and 79 verifications (verified complaints while driving and discovering violations) for a total of 31 complaints for January. (Report on file).

Adams was asked a question on the razing of the foundations. He said there was a delay as the Street Department was contemplating doing it in order to save money; however the ice storm hit and plans were derailed. Plan now is to move on with the bids that have been received.

Martin questioned the problem of the burn out houses. DeLoach indicated that priority will be started on this. A demolition permit has been issued for a house on Hiawatha. There are more in the area but they have to be checked inside and out before they can be condemned and only with owner's permission.

Martin also questioned a fence put up on SID property. DeLoach replied that this was temporary and was put up to keep people from driving over the newly seeded area. The fence will be gone by summer.

Adams reported that the PZ Committee found no change in the boundaries for the 2010 census as compared with the 2002 census.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VILLAGE PRIDE; PERSONNEL; ROADS & STREETS; WEBSITE: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ORDINANCE NO 2009-1 – AN ORDINANCE

REGULATING CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: Since this was second reading, Martin moved that title only be read; seconded by Thone and unanimously passed. Clerk Endrihs then read the title.

Martin questioned jobs being done by Romans. Romans indicated he would make up a list of all his duties and bring to Council. Meanwhile he has started doing what he is supposed to be doing and slowly dropping some of the other jobs. The budget has been very time consuming.

COMMENTS ON CITY RELATED ITEMS: (limit 3 minutes per speaker):

A local citizen requested that white stripes be put on Cherokee Road as one cannot see the road at night. Crayne said he is well aware of this problem and would like to do something as he too drives that way home. To put the stripes on top of road now and then overlay the road would be very costly. The Mayor and Crayne said they would look into alternate measures prior to getting the road overlaid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There will be a Special Meeting, Wednesday, March 11, in Cherokee Village City Hall at 6:30 PM – subject: Animal Control.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8.45 PM.

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

Lloyd Hefley, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Phyllis J. Endrihs, Clerk/Treasurer