

MINUTES
CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
CHEROKEE VILLAGE CITY HALL
(meetings are video recorded)

Mayor Lloyd Hefley called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on, September 19, 2013. He led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Roll was called by Clerk Lana Hamilton. Present were Chuck McMahon, Verna Mae Newman, Linda O'Neal, Pamela Rowland, Tom Thone, Mayor Hefley and City Attorney Jon Abele; absent were Jerry Adams, Bill Circle, and Les Covington.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Newman moved to approve the agenda, seconded by O'Neal and passed unanimously.

Tom Thone stated he had 3 questions for the Mayor and stated he could ask them now or add them to the agenda; Mayor Hefley stated the questions could be asked without being added to the agenda. Thone asked Mayor Hefley about the hospital telephone survey being performed by St. Bernards; McMahon stated people were positive towards the tax in order to have a hospital and having it put on the ballot. Thone asked about the abandoned office building located at the old hospital complex; Mayor Hefley stated lien holders had 90 days to take the building back. Thone asked about the status of the SID contract and stated SID was waiting on a reply from the City; Mayor Hefley stated he would get with Jimmy Chandler to finalize the contract.

Verna Mae Newman inquired about the Advocates for Active Youth and the skate park not being on the agenda. Pamela Rowland stated the group is in the process of completing their 501(c)3 status, obtaining corporate sponsors, looking at land, preparing a BMX/Skate show for Harvestfest, and Rowland will put this on the October agenda. Mayor Hefley stated council needed to get together in the coming week to discuss the land issue regarding this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: (limit 3 minutes per person)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Thone moved to approve the August 15th, 2013 council minutes, seconded by Rowland and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk Hamilton read a letter of resignation received from Linda O'Neal, resigning from the A&P Commission.

Peter Martin stated since an Alderman had resigned from the A&P Commission, the replacement of the Alderman should have been on the Agenda. Martin stated the

Mayor was to appoint a new person for the position and Council was to approve. Mayor Hefley stated he had asked Jerry Adams to serve on the A&P Commission and Adams had accepted. A roll call vote was taken; there were 5 yeas, passing the appointment unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Lloyd Hefley asked Peter Martin to speak on iPads for council members. Martin stated he had looked into the Microsoft Surface RT tablet, the Sony Android Tablet, and the Apple iPad. Martin stated the Surface RT starts at \$349 and the RT Pro is \$799, the Android is \$324, and the Apple iPads run from \$349 to \$499. Martin stated he also looked at Android laptops which run from \$199 to \$249 and standard laptops run from \$349 to \$529. Martin spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of the different devices and suggested council look at this during 2014 and put it in the budget for 2015. Martin stated going paperless would save wear and tear on the copier, paper, time and money, but also stated the Clerk's office needed to be ready with different file types. Martin stated the laptops could be used as an incentive for new council members and the City could give them the laptops for services rendered. Newman asked if a jump drive could be used to transfer files to her laptop; Martin stated it could. Carmen Evance suggested saving the files as PDF files and e-mailing to council members. Verna Mae Newman suggested the budget committee look at the cost of laptops for council members when they start meeting. Martin stated within 5 years the auditors will probably make going paperless a requirement.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Newman moved to approve the financials for audit, seconded by Thone and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **FIRE:** (report on file) Thone asked Fire Chief, Johnny Pendarvis, about the 5 lift assists S. Walla Walla Drive; Pendarvis stated they were called to assist an elderly man who has fallen on several occasions.

- **POLICE:** (report on file) Newman asked Police Chief, Rickey Crook, about an incident on Micanoty involving growing "pot" in bushes; Crook stated he was unaware of this case and Sgt. Lane may have handled the case, if it had happened. Crook stated there was a major vandalism case early in the week where a home had received roughly \$50,000 in damages; Crook stated this case had been resolved late this afternoon along with two other burglaries. Crook stated the Fire Dept. had also been called to the home as it appeared there had been a propane explosion due to all the broken windows in the home; cleaning ladies reported the vandalized home. Crook also stated he, Pendarvis and the Mayor had met with Representative Scott Baltz earlier in the day and the City would be completing paperwork to receive monies from the State. Crook stated the Police and Fire Departments would be receiving \$2,000 each; Mayor Hefley stated the City would be receiving \$10,000.

ANIMAL CONTROL: (report on file) Newman stated Animal Control was doing well remaining under quota on dogs and cats; Newman stated there had been many improvements at Animal Control. Thone stated Angie Myal should be commended for

doing a good job. O'Neal stated Myal should be commended in writing; Mayor Hefley stated he would write a letter to Myal from himself and council.

- **STREET:** (report on file) – Newman asked the Mayor where he stood in regards to replacing the Street Dept. Superintendent; Mayor Hefley stated he was looking at the Street Department's finances and he had asked Carmen Evance to provide him with some information before he proceeded. Newman asked if the Mayor had concerns about their finances; Mayor Hefley stated we may not be able to afford a replacement at this time. McMahon stated Scott Baltz may be able to assist the City in obtaining \$250,000 and needed help in identifying streets that need the most work. Rowland stated there had been a large golf tournament in town and Evance had helped get the mowing done on Cherokee Road. Evance stated the Street Dept. was given short notice and stated there needed to be a system in place to advise the Street Dept. of upcoming events. Judy Bickle stated she received e-mails from the golf course and stated she would forward them to Evance in the future. Thone stated Evance should contact David Webb and ask him to advise of golf outings as well. Evance stated the new web calendar included community activities, such as Harvestfest, in addition to City meetings. Evance also stated she would be adding a submittal link to the Website so residents can e-mail their road concerns/issues to the Street Dept. O'Neal asked about the monies due to the Street Dept. from the Nature Trail; O'Neal asked if the Street Dept. would be reimbursed the \$18,000 due them. Mayor Hefley stated the Street Dept. would be reimbursed for their work on the trail.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** (report on file)

- **DISTRICT COURT:** (report on file)

PLANNING & ZONING

- **PERMIT COMPARISONS:** (report on file)

- **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** (report on file)

- **RESTORATION:** Bob Bickle stated he had spoken with Lindley Surveying 10 days ago due to numerous phone calls because the flood plain survey was not complete. Bickle stated it has been nearly a year since this project started and it should have been completed in mid-August. Bickle stated he would be contacting Lindley Surveying again regarding this matter. Bickle stated he would provide Council with a written report following his meeting on Friday with Lindley Surveying. Thone asked Bickle if he agreed paying Lindley in advance was a mistake; Bickle agreed it was. Newman asked for an update on restoration; Bickle stated the property owners of the burned out townhomes would be issued another letter. The owners were legally notified more than 120 days ago regarding raze & removal. Bickle stated he has 1 contractor, Danny Taylor, who will be performing clean up work at the owners' expense. Bickle stated they would bring in fill and seed the area after the clean up is done; the slabs and retaining walls will remain. Bickle stated there is a burn out on Deer Run and he has talked to the owner and mailed a letter. Bickle stated the owner has contacted a contractor and clean up should start next week. Bickle stated he would be needing help from the City

and the Street Dept. to assist with future clean ups on a couple of properties. Bickle stated he would need an excavator and the cost would come from the PZ Restoration Budget; Bickle stated he would discuss this issue with the Mayor.

A & P COMMISSION REPORT: Chuck McMahon spoke on behalf of the Commission. Chuck stated the A&P Commission has set the 4th Monday of every month at 3 p.m. as their standing meeting date. McMahon stated Clary had provided a packet of information to council members and he would summarize. McMahon stated the Cherokee Village A&P had met with the Hardy A&P as well as Maryl Koeth and Bob Purvis on August 22nd. Bob Purvis is the Executive Director of the Pine Bluff A&P Commission and the Executive Director of the Pine Bluff Convention Center; Maryl Koeth is the Director of the Van Buren A&P Commission. McMahon stated the A&P Commission had joined the Arkansas Hospitality Association and the Arkansas Convention & Visitor's Bureau. McMahon stated the A&P Commission had taken in \$1,445 in revenue last month. McMahon stated the A&P Commission was talking with both Hardy and Mammoth Springs and would be meeting October 17th to discuss not only Cherokee Village but the whole regional area. McMahon stated A&P would have an advertisement for Cherokee Village in the 2014 Arkansas Tour Guide and Jonathan Rhodes was working on the ad. McMahon informed everyone of Doug Driesel's TV program, The Spring River Scene, which promotes the Spring River area and is being aired in the Jonesboro, Springfield, and Little Rock areas. Newman inquired about advertising in the "Happenings" section of the newspaper. McMahon stated he would like to get the "best bang for the buck" with advertising and stated A&P was paying \$500 for the advertisement in the Arkansas Tour Guide and they were obtaining sponsors to pay for the remainder of the \$6,000 advertisement.

COMMITTEES:

- **PERSONNEL:** Newman stated personnel did not meet in September due to the Labor Day holiday.

- **SAFETY:** Pamela Rowland was unable to attend the meeting; minutes were not taken in her absence.

- **WEBSITE & GRANT:**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1 – Temporary Special Use Permit for the Lions Club – Newman moved to approve the Temporary Special Use Permit for the Lions Club, seconded by Rowland and passed unanimously.

2 – Temporary Special Use Permit for the Harvestfest – Newman moved to approve the Temporary Special Use Permit for the Harvestfest, seconded by O'Neal and passed unanimously.

3 – Temporary Special Use Permit for the Haunted House – Newman moved to approve the Temporary Special Use Permit for the Haunted House, seconded by Rowland and passed unanimously. Rowland stated this permit should also include Harvestfest's hayride as well.

4 – Sharp County Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Program presented by James Tanner, Grant Coordinator – James Tanner addressed council and the audience, and spoke on behalf of the Sharp County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program; Tanner gave statistical information on smoking. Tanner passed a petition around and asked for signatures. Tanner offered to give the 1-800-QUIT number card out after the meeting for anyone interested. Tanner stated he would like to see smoke free parks in Sharp County and stated he would meet with SID regarding the parks in Cherokee Village. Linda O'Neal moved to make the new Nature Trail a smoke free environment, seconded by Newman and passed unanimously.

5 – Mayor to select budget committee and set a date for budget meeting – Mayor Hefley scheduled a budget meeting for the 2nd Thursday in October, October 10th, at 1 p.m. McMahon stated he would be unable to meet until later in October. Mayor Hefley asked Tom Thone to sit on the committee; position accepted by Thone. Mayor Hefley stated he would speak to absent council members later. Mayor Hefley asked City Attorney, Jon Abele, about excessive absenteeism of council members; Abele stated as elected officials there is not much that can be done.

6 – Hospital Wing to discuss life-saving critical care in the air program – Molly Baltimore with Hospital Wing of Jonesboro spoke about the history of the company. Baltimore explained the benefits of air lift services when dealing with life threatening situations and of having memberships with both Hospital Wing and Air Evac Lifeteam. Baltimore spoke on response times and flight times and explained the seriousness of the injuries can determine the location the injured is airlifted to. Baltimore stated the membership cost for Hospital Wing is \$40 for the entire household for one year. Baltimore stated there was currently an ad in the paper to apply for a membership or applications are available on-line. Newman stated the ad in the paper said membership was \$30; Baltimore said that was correct for the current ad. Rowland invited Hospital Wing to come and set up a booth for a membership drive at Harvestfest; Baltimore stated she would attend or send someone to attend the event. Thone asked if Medicare paid for this service; Baltimore stated Medicare would pay a portion of the service.

COMMENTS OF CITY RELATED ITEMS: (limit 3 minutes per person) Peter Martin spoke about the hospital and asked everyone to look at history and remember what happens when non-governmental organizations come in and raise funds. Thone stated White River Medical will no longer be accepting the Humana Insurance Advantage Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rowland announced Harvestfest would be held on October 12th from 1:30 till 10 p.m. at Town Center and invited everyone to come out and support the event.

ADJOURNMENT: Newman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by O'Neal and passed unanimously.

NOTE: Minutes are prepared by Kathi Blackwell, Assistant to Clerk/Treasurer Lana Hamilton (with Hamilton's approval)

DATE: 10/18/13

APPROVED: Lloyd Hefley
Lloyd Hefley, Mayor

ATTEST: Lana Hamilton
Lana Hamilton, City Clerk/Treasurer