

MINUTES
CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015
CHEROKEE VILLAGE CITY HALL
(meetings are video recorded)

Mayor Russell Stokes, Jr. called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2015. He led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Roll was called by Clerk Lana Hamilton. Present were Jerry Adams, Bill Circle, Chuck Kristopeit, Chuck McMahon, Pamela Rowland, Rob Smith, Mayor Stokes and City Attorney Jon Abele; absent were Les Covington and Steve Thompson.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mayor Stokes stated James Street needed to speak after the Financial Report due to another meeting; additionally Stokes stated under Planning & Zoning, Item #1 needed to be stricken from the Agenda and would possibly be on the September Agenda. Adams moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Rowland and passed unanimously.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Kristopeit moved to approve the, July 16, 2015 council minutes, seconded by Adams and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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

James Mack Street - Update on WRMC - Street stated the construction of the Helipad was delayed due to the possible grant from the Arkansas Dept. of Aeronautics; Street stated the grant was a 90% grant and construction would be delayed 60-90 days. Street stated WRMC is working with the VA to eliminate the cardiac provision from the contract to provide care for Veterans.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Stokes stated he distributed some items for review by council. Mayor Stokes stated radio announcements stated the Senior Centers would remain open until January 1, 2016, until the Legislature is back in session. Stokes stated he received a reply to his letter from the Governor regarding the centers; the reply stated the senior citizens of Arkansas had the right to a quality of life and the decision on Senior Centers was handled by local agencies.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **FIRE:** (report on file)
- **POLICE:** (report on file) Mayor Stokes stated there had been some burglaries along Iroquois; Stokes stated thanks to Officer Bryan Buchanan, and later Ash Flat, the suspects had been apprehended. Stokes stated it was good police work by our force and was handled very professionally.
- **ANIMAL CONTROL:** (report on file)
- **STREET:** (report on file) – Adams asked if there had been any complaints regarding the striping of several roads in the Village; Street Supt., John Kylo, stated he had received some comments and stated 10 miles of roads were striped with a new device. Kylo also stated he saved \$9,500 by using 180 gallons of paint purchased by David Crayne, however the paint stopped up nozzles on the paint rig due to its age. Kylo stated he had since purchased new paint and had no issues with it and new paint would be used for the remainder of striping.
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** (report on file)
- **DISTRICT COURT:** (report on file) Mayor Stokes stated District Court would be in session Friday, August 21st.

PLANNING & ZONING –

- **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** (report on file)
- **PARKS & PLANNING:** (report on file)
- **RESTORATION: (Bob Bickle)**

1. NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER RAZE AND REMOVAL RESOLUTION FOR: Lot 24, Block 18, (5 Katta Trace) Cherokee Village Subdivision, Sharp County, Arkansas----American Land Company - Jonathan Rhodes, owner - **Item stricken from the agenda.**
2. NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER RAZE AND REMOVAL RESOLUTION FOR: Lot 49, Block 2, Cree First Addition (38 Nocatee Drive) Cherokee Village Subdivision, Sharp County, Arkansas----Paul T. Wilson, owner - Phil Caves stated Wilson had been given a 45 day extension to clean up the property and had not done so. Caves stated certified mail was sent on July 9th and had been received and signed for. Smith moved to proceed with the Raze & Removal of the property located at 38 Nocatee Drive, seconded by Kristopeit. A roll call vote was taken; there were 6 yeas, passing the motion for Raze & Removal unanimously.

A & P COMMISSION REPORT: Mayor Stokes stated Chuck McMahan had provided the A&P Report to council. McMahan stated a 3 for 1 matching grant from Community Bank was no longer on the report; Julie Decker stated the A&P was in a lottery for the grant and they did not receive it. McMahan stated the A&P held an election of officers; McMahan stated Jonathan Rhodes was the new Chair of the A&P Commission, Julie Decker was remaining as Treasurer and Chuck Kristopeit was elected the new Secretary.

COMMITTEES:

- **GRANTS:** Mary Whelan stated she had written and submitted the Arkansas Rural Community Grant; Whelan stated this is for the Tohi Nature Trail. Whelan thanked Alderman Adams & John Kylo for their assistance with budget items for the grant and stated several local contractors & the Highland Elks were donating labor and services in excess of \$17,000. Whelan stated Congressman Rick Crawford, State Representative Scott Baltz, and State Senator Linda Collins-Smith had all written letters of support for the grant. Whelan stated she was also working with the White River Planning & Development District on another grant for the Tohi Trail; Whelan thanked several individuals, City employees and the Mayor for their assistance on this grant. Whelan stated this grant will be turned in next Wednesday, August 26. Whelan stated a State Inspector was on-site last week and met with several individuals; Whelan stated he was impressed with the plans for future development. Whelan stated this was part of the grant Glenn Harris started in 2015. Whelan stated she would know in September if the City is awarded the Arkansas Rural Community Grant and the money would be awarded in October. Whelan stated if the grant was awarded, Mayor Stokes, Adams and herself would need to be present at the State Capital to receive it. Whelan stated she would also know in September if the City will move onto the next level of the White River grant and stated a Power Point presentation would be prepared and presented in front of a board in Little Rock representative of why Cherokee Village should be awarded the grant. Whelan stated she would be notified in late November or early December if the grant is awarded and the funds would be available in January 2016. Whelan stated she is still pursuing a grant for an emergency warning siren; Whelan stated the siren would have to be placed on land owned or leased by the City.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1 - City Facebook proposal (Pamela Rowland) - Rowland provided a handout on guidelines for the City's proposed social networking site on Facebook and stated the item would be placed on the September agenda for discussion, after council and the City attorney had time to review it.

NEW BUSINESS:

1 - Sick Leave Bank Policy - Mayor Stokes stated the policy would provide an outlet for someone who has exhausted their personal sick leave and a place for others to donate to the bank. Stokes stated if an employee needed to use the bank, the employee would be required to pay back a minimum of 2 days. Adams moved to approve the adoption of the policy, seconded by Kristopeit. A roll call vote was taken; there were 6 yeas, passing the motion to adopt the Sick Leave Bank Policy unanimously.

2 - Committee Appointments - Mayor Stokes stated there had been two resignations on the Safety Committee, Mr. Merritt and Mr. Ogden; Stokes stated he was appointing Jim Golden and Peter Oberding to this committee; Stokes stated his third appointment was Bob Curtis to the Streets committee.

3 - Audit Report - Mayor Stokes stated the City had received a positive and favorable report from the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee. Stokes stated it was an audit

requirement for the report to be on the agenda. Rowland moved to accept the joint audit report, seconded by McMahon and passed unanimously.

4 – Backhoe Purchase - Kylo provided a handout to council regarding solicitation of bids for a new backhoe and requested council's approval to use FEMA monies to make the purchase. Kylo stated the Government Discount Purchase Plan will expire in September and will not be renewed. Kylo requested approval of using \$30,000 in the FEMA Fund to secure the purchase; Kylo stated he expected to receive additional FEMA funds in September to be used for the balance of the backhoe payment. McMahon moved to approve the \$30,000 in FEMA funds to purchase a 2015 Case Backhoe, seconded by Smith. A roll call vote was taken; there were 6 yeas, passing the motion unanimously.

5 – Road Repair on Hictochee - Kylo stated the Street Dept. has been doing sub-base repairs on Hictochee Drive off Iroquois; Kylo stated school busses and staff use this road as a shortcut to Rebel Drive and the schools. Kylo stated the road is in need of repair for safety reasons because it is heavily traveled. Kylo stated he did not have the money in the budget for this repair and requested council's permission to use 10% of the Street Dept's Reserve Funds for the hot mix. Kylo stated 2,800 feet of road was ready for paving and there is a total of 4,800 feet of roadway from Iroquois to Rebel Drive; Kylo stated the cost would be approximately \$37,000 for the hot mix. Kylo stated he could place the item on the Arkansas Cities grant list for 2016; Mayor Stokes stated the practice is to award grants to cities who have not received them previously and Cherokee would be pushed back since the City had already received this grant in 2014. Adams inquired if the discounted rate from the asphalt company was still available; Kylo stated it was and the work could be done when the asphalt company does Fairgrounds Road in Ash Flat. McMahon asked if Administration had the funds in the General Fund Reserve account; Clerk Hamilton stated the money was there because the Fire Dept. has not had to use as much as appropriated to them this year. Hamilton stated she was leery about using the funds because the S.I.D. fees that are being tracked are lower than in previous years and the quarterly payments to the Fire Dept. for 2016 might require more money from the General Fund. Kylo stated Hictochee was a high traffic road and the Street Dept. has spent \$18,000 on base rock, \$20,000 in fuel and man-hours, and about 28 tons of stockpiled river rock and the road is now similar to a County road. Kylo stated if the asphalt was not applied, they may lose the work to date in bad weather. Kylo stated the total cost for asphalt would be between \$42,000 and \$45,000. Mayor Stokes asked for a motion to approve the use of 25% of Street Fund Reserves which is approximately \$20,000 and the balance, not to exceed \$45,000, to come from the General Fund Reserves. McMahon moved to authorize the use of 25% of the Street Fund Reserves and the balance, not to exceed \$45,000, from the General Fund Reserves, seconded by Circle. A roll call vote was taken, there were 5 yeas and 1 nay, passing the motion to approve the use of Street and General Fund Reserves.

6 – Special Use Permit for Harvestfest, October 3rd, 2015 - Rowland stated the hours are from 1 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Town Center and the theme for this year is a twist on the board game Candyland; Rowland stated volunteers are welcomed and invited everyone to attend - Smith moved to approve the Special Use Permit for Harvestfest, seconded by Kristopeit and passed unanimously.

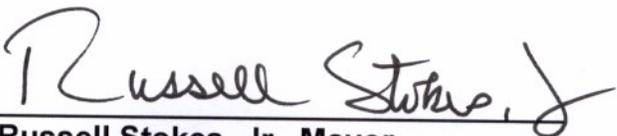
COMMENTS OF CITY RELATED ITEMS: (limit 3 minutes per person) George Harris stated, in general, police forces are treated poorly. Harris thanked the police for a job well done on the recent break-ins.

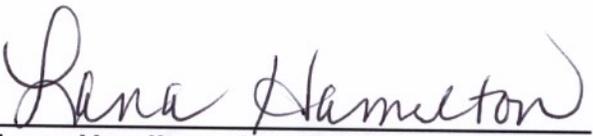
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Rowland and passed unanimously.

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

DATE: 9-18-15

APPROVED: 
Russell Stokes, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST: 
Lana Hamilton, City Clerk/Treasurer