

MINUTES
CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., THURSDAY, December 2, 2021
CHEROKEE VILLAGE CITY HALL
(Meetings are video recorded)

Mayor Stokes called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on, December 2, 2021. Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Roll was called by City Clerk, Penny Trumpy. Present: Pam Roland (Virtual), Chuck Kristopeit, Carr Hill, Andrew Hefley, Eddie Ishmael, Steve Thompson, Rob Smith (virtual), Peter Martin. City Attorney, Jon Abele Absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mayor asked for approval of the agenda all in favor say "aye" all opposed same sign. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Karen Page Resident asked Council to consider trails in 2022 Budget. Set money aside land for and to purchase land to build trails. Mayor stated he is checking into American Rescue Plan Fund (improving health in your community – a grant.) When time comes a proposal will be brought to council.

New Business:

1. 2022 Proposed Budget

Mayor explained the procedure for the budget work done by the Department Supervisors. Budget reflects reduction in personnel due to retirements, not filling vacancies, and lay-offs. Other potential budget concerns include possible fuel cost increase, and age of current equipment. Funds in our reserve account are set aside for purchase of new 6 PD vehicles in 2022 and new fire truck in 2023. City may need to move up the truck purchase to 2022 due to requirements of America Cares Act.

Mr. Martin posed questions about American Cares Act monies, Welcome Center in the budget, commercial permit surcharge, and Street Department 401a is retirement plan for department employees.

Mrs. Rowland suggested a 501c3 be established for operating the Animal Control Facility in order to reduce cost and provide additional monies in order to retain personnel. Extensive discussion ensued with several council members participating. Mayor stated, no one has submitted a proposal for assuming responsibility for Animal Control and there are several unanswered questions related to that issue.

Mr. Martin, Mr. Kristopeit, and Mrs. Rowland supported retaining firefighters. Capt. Dienst of the FD explained it would take 3 fire fighters to reopen a station. Mr. Kristopeit questioned the response time of the ambulance service as it appeared the FD was always the first to arrive on the scene. Capt. Dienst explained there are several variables that factor in response times.

Mr. Thompson Commented we need to bill residents where the FD must provide a lift assist. More discussion followed.

Mr. Hefley proposed we revisit the 501c3 question re: Animal Control operations at a later date. Mayor confirmed it will be on the agenda for the regular council meeting on 12/16.

Mr. Hill inquired could a 501c3 transition smoothly but question could not be answered as no proposal has been submitted.

Mr. Ishmael inquired if the city did repairs at Baseheart Fire Station and was informed the majority of repair work has been done by the fire fighters or volunteer fireman's group.

Mr. Martin suggested approving a 90 day operating budget. Mr. Thompson replied we need a budget in place by January 1, Mr. Martin commented that state statute requires a budget by February 1.

Mr. Martin moved to table the proposed budget for father discussion and motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the proposed budget and if changes are needed we can do so in the future. Motion seconded by Mr. Thompson. Mayor distributed copies of Resolution NO 2021-19 and read the resolution for adopting the budget. Roll call vote was Rowland-Nay, Kristopeit-Nay, Hill-Yay, Hefley-Yay, Ishmael-Yay, Thomson-Yay, Smith-Yay, and Martin-Abstained. Thus, motion was approved and 2022 budget adopted.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., seconded by Mr. Kristopeit and passed unanimously.

DATE: 12/20/21

APPROVED: Russell Stokes, Jr.
Russell Stokes, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST: Penny Trumpy
Penny Trumpy, City Clerk