

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
January 3, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on January 3, 2019. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Williams offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Evansingston. The following answered roll call: Mayor Williams, Clerk Cochran, and City Council members: Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Metcalf, Fields, and Oswalt. Attorney Wright and Alderman Capps were absent.

Organization of City Council

Mayor Williams stated the first order of business for 2019 is the organization of the city council. He stated, currently, the council meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00p.m. He asked if there were any suggestions or changes for the meeting. Alderman Oswalt made a motion to keep the city council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Alderman Poteat made a motion that Alderman Oswalt would become mayor pro tem for 2019. Alderman Metcalf recommended that the position that Alderman Fields holds as mayor pro tem would stay the same for 2019.

Alderman Reeves second Alderman Poteat's motion and Alderman Williams second Alderman Metcalf's recommendation.

Roll Call for Alderman Oswalt for mayor pro tem: Alderman Reeves, Poteat, and Oswalt All Ayes. Alderman Metcalf, Evansingston, Williams, and Fields All Nays.

Roll Call for Alderman Fields for mayor pro tem: Alderman Oswalt stated the vote for himself was 4-against and 3-for; this vote could go on all night. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Evansingston, Williams, Fields and Oswalt All Ayes. Alderman Reeves and Poteat All Nays.

Alderman Oswalt stated the budget committee consist of Alderman Evansingston replacing Ms. Echols, Metcalf, Poteat, and Alderman Reeves. The personnel committee consist of Alderman Williams, Capps, Fields and Oswalt; Alderman Oswalt asked if there was any objection of keeping the two committees the same. Alderman Reeves stated he would like to see the committees changed. Alderman Metcalf stated he would like to be the budget chair person.

Alderman Oswalt made a motion that the budget committee consist of Alderman Metcalf, Evansingston, Poteat, and Reeves. The motion was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Poteat, Metcalf, Fields, and Oswalt. All Ayes. Alderman Reeves said Nay.

Alderman Oswalt made a motion that the personnel committee consist of Alderman Capps, Fields, Williams, and Oswalt. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the December 18, 2018 regular meeting and December 27, 2018 special called meeting. Alderman Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Williams asked to make an amendment to agenda for discussion; a human resource/grant writer position with the salary of \$35,000 and a transition process budget in the amount of \$50,000.

Alderman Metcalf made the motion to amend the agenda. The motion was second by Alderman Fields. Roll Call: All Ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

Human Resource/Grant Writer Position

Mayor Williams requested that the 2019 budget be amended to add the human resource/grant writer position to the budget; that position is much needed. Alderman Oswalt asked Clerk Cochran if that position, which was budgeted in years past, had not been filled. Clerk Cochran stated that position was removed from the budget. Alderman Oswalt made a motion to amend the 2019 budget to add the human resource/grant writer position for the salary of \$35,000. Alderman Metcalf stated that seems to be a large salary for maybe a part-time job when the grants are not guaranteed.

Mayor Williams stated it is a full-time position; it is two positions in one, human resource and grant writer. This person will be the point person for human resources and the dedicated grant writer.

Alderman Evansingston commented there is always a need for someone in human resources; it will take a lot of pressure off your chiefs and directors.

Alderman Poteat also agreed with Mayor Williams and Alderman Evansingston. She stated, for that amount of money, it is not much for someone in that position and the city would definitively benefit from this. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Fields, and Oswalt All Ayes. Alderman Metcalf said Nay.

Transition Budget

Mayor Williams stated he is asking for up to \$50,000 for his transitional budget. The transition budget project includes: part-time staff personnel to assist with the transition process, outside consultants to help with the evaluations, and equipment and technology for improvements. Mayor Williams stated he will provide the council with documentation on how the funds are spent. Alderman Williams made a motion to allow the transition process to move forward. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves.

Alderman Fields asked how many people is included in the transition personnel. Mayor Williams stated two on staff right now with additional personal considered later. Alderman Oswalt asked Mayor Williams if he has a computer in his office. Mayor Williams stated no. Alderman Oswalt then asked if a computer would be purchase with part of these funds. Mayor Williams said, "yes." Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Fields, and Oswalt All Ayes. Alderman Metcalf said Nay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Williams stated he met with ETC yesterday to get updates on city projects. The city hall has an expected completion date of April 1, 2019. Right now, the project is on time even with the expected rain days. ETC is in the process of providing the city with all change orders and updates by the next council meeting.

Mayor Williams stated as far as the aquatic project, the estimated completion date is right around June 2019. The engineers are getting together all signed contracts and any change orders that may have been previously approved to bring before the council. If there is any additional information on any other projects that ETC has going, the council will be updated at the next meeting.

Mayor Williams thanked the council; as we go through the transition process and work together as a city council and city to do what is best for the city and move the city forward.

For additional context, reference the January 3, 2018 tape.

Alderman Williams made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Fields.

Cedric Williams, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer