

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FORREST CITY CITY COUNCIL
FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS
June 4, 2019**

The City Council of Forrest City, Arkansas met in regular session on June 4, 2019. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Fields offered prayer after which the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Poteat. The following answered roll call: Mayor Williams, Clerk Cochran, Attorney Wright and City Council members: Metcalf, Williams, Fields, Reeves, Evansingston, Oswalt, and Poteat. Alderman Capps was absent.

Alderman Reeves made the motion to approve the May 21, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: All Ayes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Repealing Ordinance #1928; Providing for /the Emergency Clause Alderman Evansingston

Mayor Williams read the information that was put in the council members packages from the Arkansas Municipal League concerning this issue. Per the attached communication from Municipal League Attorney John Wilkerson, the ordinance is not valid due to the fact it was passed with a 4-3 vote, which is not the majority of the council; it requires a 5-vote passage. Thus, for the ordinance to become law, the council would be required to vote again.

The documents from Attorney Wilkerson also stated, "I want to also emphasize through all the confusion, the Municipal League states that Alderman Evansingston has been elected by his constituency, therefore an ordinance is necessary if he is to continue holding both positions."

Mayor Williams recognized Attorney Wright.

Alderman Evansingston stated he wants to withdraw the ordinance to appeal the dead ordinance #1928.

Attorney Wright stated he was under the impression when a councilman recuses himself, the vote was 4 to 3, he thought it passed; later Alderman Oswalt questioned the vote. Attorney Wright then stated, he made the wrong call and he apologized.

Alderman Evansingston stated the 4 to 3-vote wasn't the only thing wrong with passing of the ordinance. Parliamentary procedures were not followed. The documentation that was sent by the Municipal League lawyer also said that it was not proper procedure; let's keep that in mind so these things do not happen again.

Alderman Reeves asked if there will be a new ordinance. Attorney Wright said yes, and he suggested to redo the ordinance with a roll call vote. The Municipal League said they preferred a roll call vote in everything, especially in the emergency clause and when it is unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

The Ordinance Approving Contract with Edward Gregory for It Services

Mayor Williams stated there is a note in the council's package for the need of IT services. The reason is the city needs someone local to work on equipment. Basically 70-percent of the city's hardware is coming to the end of life. The city needs an overhaul on its IT infrastructure.

Attorney Wright read for first reading **An ordinance Approving Contract with Edward Gregory For the Purpose of Information and Technology Services** sponsored by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: Alderman Poteat, Reeves, Evansingston, Williams, Oswalt, Fields and Metcalf All Ayes.

Alderman Poteat made a motion to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. The motion was second by Alderman Reeves. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Metcalf, Fields and Oswalt. All Ayes.

Attorney Wright read the ordinance by title for the second reading. Alderman Reeves made a motion to suspend the rules and read the ordinance for the third reading by title only. The motion

June 4, 2019 Minutes cont.

was second by Alderman Poteat. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Metcalf, Fields and Oswalt. All Ayes.

Alderman Evansingston stated the current IT company is Sophicity, they handle the library, police department, district court and the clerk's office, will the perspective contractor provide services for the entire city or the departments that are not covered under Sophicity.

Mayor Williams stated the contract with Sophicity currently covers part of the city's departments. By bringing onsite support with Mr. Gregory, he is going to start IT support for all departments working to bring computer infrastructure up to date.

Alderman Evansingston stated in this age of cyber terrorism, is the perspective contractor prepared for any issues that may involve ransomware.

Mayor Williams stated yes, in other words our firewalls are not up to date. Sophicity is not servicing the department properly, there is issues with the information security. Mr. Gregory can make sure that the city has the appropriate software in place.

Attorney Wright read the ordinance for the third reading in its entirety. Alderman Reeves made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was second by Alderman Fields.

Alderman Oswalt asked who is KT, he noticed invoicing for that company. Mayor Williams stated Kevin Pendleton a consultant to evaluate all the city's IT needs.

Alderman Oswalt asked what services does Sophicity provide to the city?

Mayor Williams stated currently Sophicity provide services to district court, police department, city hall and a separate contract with the library. They are called IT in a Box package. They provide web-site support, one of the larger supports is the Legislate Audit and several different things in the agreement. The IT support that they do provide is over the telephone; if they have to come on site there is an additional charge such as millage and hotel. If a department needs a computer and Sophicity orders it, they do not make sure that the computer has the right software and proper firewalls. Mr. Gregory will be the one to make sure that we are consistent when ordering software and to make sure the firewalls are up to date.

Alderman Oswalt stated Sophicity backs-up the city information off site. He asked Mr. Gregory what capability he had to provide the city with that particular issue.

Mr. Gregory stated if something happens with the data, he would be called on site, he would get on the phone with Sophicity to get the information restored.

Alderman Evansingston asked when the contract with Sophicity ends, will Mr. Gregory take on more hours or will the city find another IT person. Mayor Williams stated the city is on a month to month contract with Sophicity since 2015, as it was mentioned earlier, the city is only receiving 25-percent of paid services from Sophicity; Mr. Gregory will be that person to learn what Sophicity is doing and bring the city all under one umbrella.

Alderman Evansingston asked if the council can receive the information on Sophicity contract.

Mayor William stated he would provide the council with the information at the next meeting.

After discussion, Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Oswalt, Williams, Evansingston, Reeves and Poteat. All Ayes.

Alderman Reeves made a motion to adopt the emergency clause. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Fields, Reeves, Poteat and Oswalt. All Ayes.

Permission to Bid for Audio Visual Equipment for the Civic Center

Mayor Williams asked permission to bid for civic center equipment, it has been mentioned in prior meeting to upgrade the audio and visual equipment at the civic center.

The motion was made by Alderman Oswalt. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Evansingston, Reeves, Poteat, Metcalf, Fields and Oswalt. All Ayes.

Planning Board Appointments

Mayor Williams stated the board is currently made up of five members, three commissioners are willing to stay on the board: Rob Lemke, Glenda Wade and Benjamin Wynne. Two new members are needed. He stated he contacted Connie Rice a local realtor and Lee Henderson a local contractor they both have accepted. Alderman Poteat made a motion to appoint Connie Rice to the planning commission board. The motion was second by Alderman Oswalt. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Fields, Evansingston, Reeves, Oswalt and Poteat. All Ayes.

June 4, 2019 Minutes cont.

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to appoint Lee Henderson to the planning commission board. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Oswalt, Williams, Evansingston, Reeves and Poteat.

GENERAL FUND BILLS

Alderman Reeves made a motion to approve and pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$23,645.03. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Williams, Metcalf, Evansingston, Fields, Reeves, Poteat and Oswalt. All Ayes.

STREET FUND BILLS

Alderman Oswalt made a motion to approve and pay the Street Fund bills in the amount of \$7,594.94. The motion was second by Alderman Evansingston. Roll Call: Alderman Metcalf, Fields, Oswalt, Williams, Evansingston, Reeves and Poteat. All Ayes.

SOLID WASTE FUND BILLS

Alderman Fields made a motion to approve and pay the Solid Waste Fund bills in the amount of \$6,960.33. The motion was second by Alderman Evansingston. Roll Call: Alderman Oswalt, Fields, Metcalf, Williams, Evansingston, Reeves and Poteat. All Ayes.

FORREST CITY WATER UTILITY

Alderman Poteat made a motion to approve and pay the Forrest City Water Utility bills in the amount of \$6,790.46. The motion was second by Alderman Williams. Roll Call: Alderman Oswalt, Poteat, Reeves, Evansingston, Fields, Williams and Metcalf. All Ayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Updates

Mayor Williams offered the council's condolence to Captain Love and Lt. Harris both of the fire department. Both funeralized their fathers in the past couple of weeks; our thoughts and prayers will be with them and the entire fire department.

Picnic in the park, Mayor Williams gave special thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and the community involvement committee, it was a great event that was held at the park this past Saturday. It was a great collaboration among the city officials and city departments; this is something the city would like to continue.

Mayor Williams gave an update on fire station #2 roof. He received a message today from the contractor, if weather permits, the roof will be completed by the end of next week.

Mayor Williams gave a special thanks to the Arkansas Department of Corrections for helping cleanup our city. The public works department did a good job on cleaning up Stuart Springs Park.

Mayor Williams encouraged the council to take applications for city youth work initiative between the ages of 16 and 21. A proposal has been submitted to the East Arkansas Regional Work initiative. There is a strong indication that it will be approved, when approved, we want to have applications in hand.

This will be something big in our area with collaborations with Representative Murdock. It is an opportunity for businesses that are in the entire region to hire youth and an opportunity for the youth to have summer employment.

For additional context, reference the June 4, 2019 tape.

Alderman Fields made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. The motion was second by Alderman Metcalf.

Cedric Williams, Mayor

Derene Cochran, City Clerk-Treasurer