

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 6TH, 2023
6:00 PM
CITY HALL**

Mayor Norris called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with all Council Members present.

Council Member Gardner gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL GUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Norris introduced the new Finance Director Beatriz Sousa. Beatriz introduced herself to the Council. Ms. Sousa was welcomed by all.

Mayor Norris stated Liz Mathis, the previous Finance Director will continue to work with the City during the transition process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Council Member Tierney motioned to adopt the minutes as submitted. Council Member Shinn seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW

Liz Mathis, Finance Director presented the financial report for January. report will be presented at

Council Member Tierney made a motion to accept the financials as presented. Council Member Tierney seconded the motion, the motion passed by all in attendance.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Council Member Gronwald gave a recap from the previous Planning Commission meeting. Gronwald stated the Planning Commission elected new officers, Craig Johnson as the Chairman, Mary Wnek is the Vice Chairman.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Member Tierney motioned to have all ordinances and resolutions read by title only. Council Member Gardner seconded the motion, the motion passed by all attendance.

ORDINANCE 1085 ANNEXATION OF LAND, ASCENT DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of ordinance 1085 to accept lands contiguous to and adjoining the City. Clerk Timmons gave the reading.

Council Member Mosley asked if the property develops in the area will there be any can we say we need access to that road that was closed in Short Marche.

Mayor Norris stated the road was closed by the County Judge and this would not give us any additional legal authority to request that the road be opened. Mosley also asked if there are

currently any residents in the area that would need services.

Scott Grummer, Director of Planning & Permits said there are no residents in that area that would need services.

Eric Holloway, 116 Timber Trail said no impact plans have been made for future development.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Ordinance 1085. Council Member Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

ORDINANCE 1086 AMENDMENT TO LAND USE PLAN

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the third reading ordinance 1086 to amend the current Land Use Plan from ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) to O-S (Open Space), and SUR (Special Use Residential). Clerk Timmons gave the reading.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Ordinance 1086. Council Member Holt seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

ORDINANCE 1087 AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the third reading of Ordinance 1087, an ordinance amending the current zoning map previously designated as COUNTY is hereby changed to O-S (Open Space), FW (Flood Way), and PRD (Planned Residential District. Clerk Timmons gave the reading.

Council Member Tierney motioned to adopt Ordinance 1087. Council Member Holt seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

ORDINANCE 1088 AMENDING COMPETITIVE BIDDING & PURCHASING

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of Ordinance 1088, and ordinance amending the competitive bidding and purchasing procedures. Clerk Timmons gave the reading.

The ordinance will be on third reading at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 2023-05 AMENDING THE 2023 DRUG CONTROL FUND BUDGET

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution to appropriate funds for the purchase of a license plate reader system. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Mayor Norris stated the Police Department has requested an appropriation of \$60,000 to purchase license plate reader system.

Council Member Mazzoni asked if this is a one-time cost or will there be annual operating expenses as well.

Cory Pickard, Chief of Police stated we will purchase the equipment an there will be some minor yearly cost and maintenance cost associated with it that would come out of the regular operating budget.

Council Member Holt asked how the license plate reader system would work.

Chief Pickard passed out a handout explaining the program. Pickard stated the system is currently

being used by other cities. Pickard gave examples of benefit of the program, for example assisting with Amber Alerts or stolen vehicles.

Council Member Mosley stated he doesn't feel comfortable voting on approving the resolution tonight.

Council Member Mosley made a motion to table the resolution for two week to give it more thought. Council Member Shinn seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4. Council Members Gronwald, Mazzoni, Gardner, Williams and Tierney voted no.

There was additional discussion.

Council Member Williams motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-05 as submitted. Council Member Tierney seconded the motion, the motion passed 6-2. Council Member Mosley and Shinn voted no.

RESOLUTION 2023-06 AMENDING THE 2023 GRANT FUND BUDGET

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution amending the 2023 Grant Fund Budget for an all-inclusive playground. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Liz Mathis, stated there was 2023 grant funds available for the All-Inclusive Playground. Mathis stated the amount of the funds were not known at the time we did the budget. Mathis stated the information is now available which is why it is before the Council.

Council Member Williams motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-06 as submitted. Council Member Tierney seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

RESOLUTION 2023-07 AMENDING THE 2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution amending the General Fund budget related to salaries in the Planning & Permits Department. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Mayor Norris stated there was a salary discrepancy in the budget where an employee was budgeted for \$130.00 less than should be. Mayor Norris stated that we decided to make the adjustment during the transition of the Finance Director position.

Council Member Gronwald motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-07 as submitted. Council Member Gardner seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

RESOLUTION 2023-08 AMENDING THE 2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution amending the General Fund budget related to salaries in the Finance Department. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Mayor Norris stated the previous Finance Director has agreed to help with the transition of the new Finance Director and complete the 2021 ACFR.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-08 as submitted. Council Member Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

RESOLUTION 2023-09 REGARDING AUDIT PROCEDURES

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution requiring annual audit to be performed in accordance with the guidelines and format prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Mayor Norris stated this is an annual resolution required by the State. The resolution authorizes the audit to occur.

Council Member Williams motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-09 as submitted. Council Member Shinn seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

RESOLUTION 2023-10 AMENDING THE 2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

With no objections, Mayor Norris may call for the reading of the resolution to appropriate additional funds for Auditing services. A MOTION IS IN ORDER.

Mayor Norris stated this resolution is being asked for in case we need the assistance of the audit firm to help with the 2022 ACFR report while we go through the transitioning of the Finance Director.

Mosley asked Mathis to explain how the auditors are allowed to assist with the audit preparations.

Mathis stated auditors cannot prepare the financial data that goes into the report but they can assist with preparation of the report.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-10 as submitted. Council Member Gronwald seconded the motion, the motion passed by all.

PARK ON THE RIVER

Mayor Norris stated Council Member Mosley requested to table this discussion since he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Council Member Mosley handed out a financial report of the history of the finances from the Park on the River venue.

Council Member Mosley stated that the Park on the River is currently out of contract with Team Summit, and would like to consider alternative uses for the property.

Timmons, 117 Southshore Drive, Owner of Team Summit gave an overview of the original agreement. Timmons asked for a two year contract.

Mayor Norris, mention that the property is not a money maker.

Courtney Dunn, Community & Economic Development suggested the property be used as a Visitor/Welcome Center, a Museum of Maumelle History that would have Maumelle merchandise. Dunn also suggested adding more park amenities such as picnic tables and park benches. Dunn mention the City may want to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to help run the facility.

Mosley suggested leasing the building as a restaurant. Dunn agreed.

Phillip Raborn, Director of Parks & Recreation said the department is geared to provide services to the citizens and citizens do use the park. Raborn stated the property does flood and suggested not putting anything at the lower level.

Shinn requested a plat of the property be sent out to the Council.

There was additional discussion. The topic will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Council Member Shinn made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Council Member Holt seconded the motion and the motion passed by all in attendance.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Holt stated he was disappointed that the Council did not receive information about the License Reader program sooner.

Mayor Norris reiterated that the policy for the License Reader program was not voted on tonight just the budget appropriation.

Council Member Tierney asked for an update on getting bids for the round-about at Club Manor and South Odom.

Mayor Norris stated he is going to talk to the Engineers to get an undated cost estimated.

Council Member Tierney asked Fire Chief Buford if there a way we could find out if we would have toxic pollutants from the rail carts that run through our City and if we have an evacuation plan.

Chief Buford stated we are in the process to develop one. However, but we do get mutual aid support from surrounding stations like North Little Rock.

Council Member Mosley asked if we could have a traffic committee meeting regarding getting no parking signs on Par Drive.

Mayor Norris suggested Tuesday, March 14th at 6pm to have a traffic committee meeting.

Council Member Gardner asked what the Council's authority would be regarding placing the signs.

The Traffic Committee would consist of Ward 2 and 3. It was decided not to have the meeting due to most of the street being private.

Council Member Shinn asked for an update on the Eminent Domain process. Attorney Thornton stated the documents have been filed.

Council Member Mosley stated there was another dog attack since the dog ban was lifted.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Gardner motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Council Member Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed by all in attendance.

Mayor Norris adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.

MAYOR CALEB NORRIS

TINA TIMMONS CITY CLERK/TREASURER

APPROVED
February 21, 2023