

# City Council Minutes

## Tuesday, May 28, 2024

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### Call to Order

Mayor Akers called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 PM. Deputy City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll.

### Attendees

Council members Clarissa Pace, Michael James, Al Peer, Mark Tiner, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Council member Cedric Leonard was absent.

### Approval of Minutes

Clarissa Pace moved to approve the March minutes, Al Peer seconded, a yay/nay vote was called for, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### Unfinished Business

No unfinished business this month

### New Business

#### a. Special Presentation

Diana Shelton with the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission introduced Tiffany Pettis the executive assistant at the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, who presented a letter to the council from Peggy Doss in recognition of Gerald Canada and his contributions to the State of Arkansas. Tiffany Pettis, executive director of the Arkansas Minority Health Commission read a poem honoring Gerald Canada and everything he has accomplished. Gerald Canada's niece spoke on how well loved her uncle is and also spoke of his accomplishments. Mayor Akers presented Gerald Canada with a Distinguished Citizen proclamation.

#### b. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Bid for Electrical Work on Well #5 and Well #9

Michael James introduced the resolution and made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Only one bid was received for this project, from Forrest Electric Services in the amount of \$58,396.33. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution; Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

#### c. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Bid for Repair Work on Well #9

Michael James introduced the resolution and made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner stated that during the Finance Meeting, they had compared the two bids and that they ultimately decided that the bid by Ideal Pump and Service in the amount of \$63,737.60/\$74,937.60 was the better choice, considering their bid was a bit higher. Ideal Pump and Service provided more service in their bid and they had previously worked on other wells. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution; Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

#### d. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of New Aerator Motor and Brackets for East Sewer Plant

Al Peer introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers stated that the aerator that needs to be replaced is over 20 years old and it would be more feasible for



the City to replace the aerator instead of fixing it, as it would cost \$17,000.00 to \$18,000.00 to repair it and only \$28,000.00 to replace it. The bid requirement was waived for this project. Mark Tiner asked if there were available funds to cover the cost of the replacement. Finance Manager Ashley Rodermund stated that there were funds available in the account to cover the cost of the replacement and it would be a cash carryover. The aerator will be purchased from Ouachita Electric Service of West Monroe in the amount of \$27,068.30. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution; Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution Amending Sewer Fund Budget and One Cent Sales Tax Fund Budget for 2024**

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The projects completed at the East Sewer Plant and the East Plant Sludge Removal Project, were eligible for 75% ARPA reimbursement. The overall amount to be reimbursed is \$746,951.00. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution; Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Bid for 2023 Enterprise Funds Audit**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Two bids were received, one from Searcy & Associates, LLC to not exceed \$14,000.00 and one from Maxwell CPA to not exceed \$16,000.00. During the Finance Meeting, it was discussed that Searcy & Associates, LLC would be the better choice because the City has used Maxwell CPA before and had problems with them not completing the work on time. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution in favor of Searcy & Associates, LLC to not exceed \$14,000.00; Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**g. Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Two Dodge Durango Vehicles by Monticello Police Department and the Trade-in of Four Vehicles for Credit Toward the Purchase Price**

Clarissa Pace introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The Monticello Police Department will be trading four vehicles to Ryburn Motor Company to purchase two 2024 Dodge Durango vehicles at state bid price in the amount of \$38,840.00. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the resolution; Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**h. Resolution Authorizing Bureau of Justice Assistance: Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program for the Monticello Police Department**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The Monticello Police Department is asking for permission to apply for a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program in the amount of \$25,600.00 to be used to go towards the purchase of license plate readers from Flock Safety. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution; Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**i. Resolution Accepting Bid for the Sale of the Fire Department's 1999 E-One Pumper Truck**

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The Monticello Fire Department advertised for bids for the sale of their 1999 E-One Pumper Truck and received three bids. The highest bid received was from Glendale Fire Department in the amount of \$55,125.00. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the resolution; Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**j. Resolution Authorizing Cashing of CD for the Purchase of Equipment for the Monticello Fire Department**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. During April's meeting, the council gave permission for the Monticello Fire Department to cash a CD to purchase equipment for their new pumper truck. The total amount of the CD was \$22,000.00. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the resolution; Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**k. Resolution Expressing the Willingness to Utilize Federal-Aid Transportation Alternative Program or Recreational Trails Program Funds**

Mark Tiner introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. This grant would go towards helping to create a loop of sidewalk around the Monticello Sports Complex & Miracle League Park and is only giving permission to apply for the grant. Michael James moved to accept the resolution; Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**l. Resolution Declaring 550 South Bell Street a Nuisance**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. City Property Inspector Brain Rodgers stated that he has not heard from the property owner. The owner lives in Texas and letters have been sent and they have been received, but they have not responded. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution; Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**m. Resolution to Impose a Lien on 444 E Godbold Street**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mark Tiner asked if the City spent \$3737.52 on this property. Yes, it was to clean the property up by mowing and hauling the yard waste away. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution; Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**n. Resolution to Impose a Lien on 554 South Gabbert**

Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers stated that he could not find the owner on this property, but he heard he was incarcerated. Mike Wigley asked if the \$236.06 lien was from mowing the property. Yes. Mike Wigley stated that it looked like the it would be a continuous process with the City mowing the property to keep it in compliance and it would most likely come before the council again. Mark Tiner moved to accept the resolution; Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passes unanimously.

**o. Ordinance Amending Ordinance 761 Regarding the A&P Commission**

Mayor Jason Akers stated that the chairs of the commissions have asked for an ordinance for their commission, requiring their commissioners to attend their respective commissions meetings at least 75% of the time, so that the commissions can get the work done that they have set out to do. Mark Tiner moved to introduce the ordinance and have it read out loud in its entirety, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read the ordinance in its entirety. Michael James moved to accept the ordinance as it was read; Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Mike Wigley asked what would happen to any commissioners that did not attend the required 75% of the meetings that a commission held. The Chairman would make a recommendation to the Mayor to have the commissioner removed. Mark Tiner moved to waive

the second reading; Craig McRae seconded. Mark Tiner moved to waive the third reading; Clarissa Pace seconded. Deputy City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called roll; all 7 Council members voted yes. Mike Wigley moved to enact the emergency clause; Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the ordinance adopted unanimously.

Michael James made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the change of an ordinance on the agenda and to add an additional item to the agenda. The changed ordinance on the agenda is to reflect that it is to amend Ordinance 406 and is regarding the Planning Commission. The added Resolution is to Amend the City of Monticello 1998 One Cent Sales Tax Fund Budget for 2024 for the Purchase and Installation of Heating and Air Unit for Senior Citizens Center, Mark Tiner seconded the amendment. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the agenda was amended to reflect the change of the ordinance and to add the additional resolution.

**p. Ordinance Amending Ordinance 406 Regarding the Planning Commission**

Michael James moved to introduce the ordinance and have it read out loud, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read the ordinance in its entirety. Michael James moved to waive the second reading; Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Mark Tiner moved to waive the third reading; Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Michael James moved to adopt the ordinance; Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Mike Wigley moved to enact the emergency clause; Clarissa Pace seconded. Deputy City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll, all 7 Council members voted yes. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

**q. Ordinance Amending Ordinances 807 and 816 Regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission**

Michael James moved to introduce the ordinance and have it read out loud, Mark Tiner seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read the ordinance in its entirety. Mark Tiner moved to waive the second reading; Caludia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Craig McRae moved to waive the third reading; Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Mark Tiner moved to adopt the ordinance; Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it. Mike Wigley moved to enact the emergency clause; Mark Tiner seconded. Deputy City Clerk Kirstin Garrison called the roll, all 7 Council members voted yes. The ordinance was adopted unanimously.

**r. Resolution Amending the City of Monticello 1998 One Cent Sales Tax Fund Budget for 2024 for the Purchase and Installation of a Heating and Air Unit for the Senior Citizen's Center**

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by titles only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Three bids were received for this project; Dean Brother's Heating, Air & Electrical in the amount of \$11,194.50; J&L Heating and Air, \$12,503.06; and Wayne's Heating and Air, \$16,000.00. Clarissa Pace asked what the warranty would be like on these units as it was not listed on the bid. There is no warranty on the work and the installed unit, no matter which contractor was chosen, would only carry a manufacturer's warranty. Mike Wigley moved to accept the resolution and that the council choose Dean Brother's Heating, Air & Electricals' bid in the amount of \$11,194.50; Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

## Public Comments

Brian Smith, owner of the Prescription Pad Pharmacy and Fired Up Pizza spoke to the council, stating that he believes that Monticello is headed in the right direction. Upon opening Fired Up Pizza he had attempted to obtain a permit to sell alcohol and ran into a problem with finding a distributor due to the township being a dry township and after being issued a permit by the state, he has had to jump through hurdles to try to sell alcohol. He stated that with our township being dry, it is keeping businesses and

restaurants from coming to Monticello and that just because we are a dry township, it does not keep Monticello dry and people drink all of the time. He stated that if we are headed towards being the Hope of Southeast Arkansas, we need to modernize Monticello.

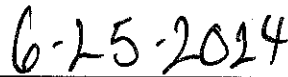
### Mayor Comments

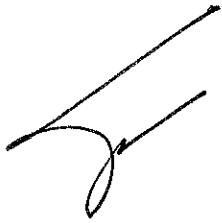
Mayor Akers is happy to announce that the city has completed its largest drainage project in the history of Monticello and that we are doing what we can to protect the citizens of Monticello when it comes to drainage and keeping our residents safe, as well as are roads. The week before Charlie Hammock worked hard with the engineering company to complete the West Plant Aeration Project. The plumbing repairs at City Hall we completed, with Charlie Hammock's crew working to complete that project as well. Many different departments have worked to clean up Lake Monticello to make sure that it is clean to open back up to the public, which will be opened on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Adjournment

Al Peer moved to adjourn the meeting, Craig McRae seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Date of Approval

 6/25/2024

