HASKELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Haskell City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Haskell City Hall on Monday January 9, 2023.

Mayor Clyde Crookham Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Clyde Crookham Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance; prayer was given by Jeff Harrison

County Judge Matt Brumley swore in all Council members except for Dallas Wright who was sworn in on January 4, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present were, Brian Johnson, Dallas Wright, Jeff Harrison, Rodney Lyman, Adam Ricketts, Jacob Warner, Greg Rogers and Brad Cotten.

Mayor Crookham declared a quorum present. (8/8)

Others in attendance: Mayor Clyde Crookham, Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill, Police Chief Brad Hicks, Assistant Chief Bill Hutto, Public Works Director Nancy Duren and Fire Chief Brian Cotton.

Public in attendance: County Judge Matt Brumley, Jeremy and Jessica Burget with HYC, Kolby Montgomery, Dylan Beaty, Jackson Keener, Ashley Clancy, Glenn Ricketts, Jason Hill, Stephanie Dobbins and Darren Jones with HYC, Katy Hill, Emaline and Jerry Stroud, Tyler Smith, Warren Kuhn, Amanda Ricketts, Ashley Galloway with HYC, Bob Ward, Mike Krebs, Jim Wells, Michael and Lisa Cotten, Andrea Warner, Debbie Brown, Quinn Best, Sam Belk and Sarah Horbacewicz with Channel 11 News, Desmond Nugent with Channel 7 news, and Officers Joshua DiCicco, Elvis Caple, Blake Gilliam, Shaun Whitaker, Wes Burnett and Jimmy Foreman.

Jeff Harrison would like the minutes he prepared for the Announcement section of the November 14, 2022 to be in place of the transcription by C/R/T Jennifer Hill. Brad Cotten made the motion to accept the November 14, 2022 council meeting minutes with the amendment. Jeff Harrison seconded motion. The Motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

Jacob Warner made a motion to accept the December 12, 2022 council meeting minutes. Brad Cotten seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. **WATER/SEWER**
   - The report was given by Public Works Director Nancy Duren, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

2. **STREETS**
   - The report was given by Mayor Clyde Crookham with nothing new to report.
3. **FIRE & RESCUE**
   - The report was given by Fire Chief Brian Cotten, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.
4. **POLICE**
   - The report was given by Police Chief Brad Hicks, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

5. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**
   - The report was given by Police Chief Brad Hicks, a copy of which is filed with these minutes

6. **PLANNING**
   - The minutes for the January 3, 2023 Planning commission meeting were presented to the Council for approval.
   - Brad Cotten made a motion to approve the January 3, 2023 Planning meeting minutes. Rodney Lyman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote.
7. **PARKS**
   - The minutes for the December 19, 2022 parks meeting were presented to the council. Brad Cotten made the motion to approve the December 2022 meeting minutes. Rodney Lyman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote.
   - Warren Kuhn presented the council with the opportunity to purchase one of Haskell's first fire trucks for $4,000.00 to be housed at the museum and asked the City Council for the purchase. Greg Rogers made a motion to table this decision

****** The City Council members, the Mayor and Ashley Clancy went into an executive session for the discussion of hiring Ms. Clancy as the City Attorney at 7:19 pm and returned at 7:54 pm. *******

- **When Executive ended Jeff Harrison made a motion to appoint Ashley Clancy as the City Attorney for Haskell. Brad Cotten seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (8/8).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 01-2023, a Resolution setting the organization for the City Council for the year 2023.**
   - C/R/T Jennifer Hill read the heading of Resolution 01-2023
   - Adam Ricketts made a motion to approve/pass Resolution 01-2023. Rodney Lyman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (8/8).
2. **Income and Expense Statements for December 2022**
   - Brad Cotten asked when the budget appropriations for 2022 would be completed. C/R/T Jennifer Hill informed the council that once the 2023 budget was passed then the appropriations for the 2022 would begin and be presented at the February meeting.
   - A motion to approve the December 2022 Income and Expense statements was made by Jacob Warner and seconded by Adam Ricketts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (7/7 with I abstain).
3. **The proposed 2023 Budget**
   - A budget for the year 2023 was presented to the council for approval. See Resolution 02-2023.
4. **Resolution 02-2023, A Resolution adopting the 2023 budget.**
   - A motion was made by Jacob Warner to accept the 2023 Budget and pass Resolution 02-2023 and seconded by Adam Ricketts. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (8/8).
5. **Ordinance 01-2023, An Ordinance appointing Brian Cotten as Assistant Mayor**
   - A motion was made by Greg Rogers to have the first reading heading only and was seconded by Jacob Warner. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (7/7 with 1 abstain).
   - C/R/T Jennifer Hill read the heading of Ordinance 01-2023.

   AN ORDINANCE TO APPOINT BRIAN COTTEN AS ASSISTANT MAYOR TO FULFILL MAYORAL DUTIES IN THE ABSENCE OF ELECTED MAYOR CLYDE CROOKHAM.
   - A motion was made by Greg Rogers to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings and was seconded by Dallas Wright. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (7/7 with 1 abstain).
   - A motion was made by Jeff Harrison to accept/pass Ordinance 01-2023 and was seconded by Greg Rogers. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (7/7 with 1 abstain).
   - A motion was made by Greg Rogers to pass the Emergency Clause of Ordinance 01-2023 and was seconded by Rodney Lyman. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (7/7 with 1 abstain).

** **Council Member Jacob Warner inquired about having a Special Council Meeting for the appropriations of the 2022 Budget. C/R/T Jennifer Hill informed the council that the appropriations would begin and the Mayor will call a special meeting in the next couple of weeks for this issue. Also at which time, the purchase of the fire truck for the museum will be discussed further.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- C/R/T Jennifer Hill presented the council with updated contact information for both the Council and Planning Commission, along with the tentative meeting dates for the year 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. **Officer Joshua DiCicco addressed the Council regarding the following concerns:**
   - Officer DiCicco claims to have been paid illegally in regards to working some shifts without pay due to the pay matrix of the city.
     Officer DiCicco informed the council that there have not been enough monies allocated for education for the officers and education/training is very important.
   - Officer DiCicco also feels that there is a safety issue with there only being 1 patrol officer per shift with no back up at night other than assisting agencies.
   - Officer DiCicco expressed his concern with the issue of faulty equipment and vehicles.
   - Mayor Crookham informed Officer DiCicco that these issues would be evaluated further.

2. **Officer Jimmy Foreman addressed the Council regarding the following concerns:**
   - Officer Foreman expressed his concerns regarding the condition of the current patrol vehicles, stating that "The Mayor told us we could just hot seat cars" meaning the officers would share cars. He states that Officer Caples patrol vehicle has a head light out and can't currently write citizens citations for said offense due to his own patrol car being impaired.
   - Officer Foreman is also concerned regarding the pay scale of the officers stating that they need higher pay.
   - Officer Foreman expressed his concern with the mayor "cutting the department" stating that "The Mayor stated that Arkansas State Police said the department does not need a Chief/Asst Chief/Lieutenant" thus cutting the department personnel.
   - Mayor Crookham informed Officer Foreman that these issues would be evaluated further.
   - Officer Foreman asked the Mayor and Council if there would be any discussion or changes made regarding these concerns tonight and was informed they would not be addressed tonight.
   - ***Officer Foreman then gave his resignation and walked out.***

***** The following officers in attendance also gave their resignation and walked out:***
Elvis Caple, Blake Gilliam, Shaun Whitaker, Wes Burnett and Joshua DiCicco.

- Mayor Crookham instructed Chief Brad Hicks and Assistant Chief Bill Hutto to go and secure the city equipment from the officers.
- Mayor Crookham then assured the Council and public that Saline County Sheriff's Office and the State Police would be patrolling the City until the staffing issue was corrected.

3. **Ms. Debbie Brown asked about the status of the meter we were having tested for her. PWD Nancy Duran informed her that the meter was sent to the manufactor in California for testing and that as soon as they got those results, we would be in contact with her.**

4. **Warren Kuhn inquired if the City would be hiring new Police Officers and was informed that decision would be made soon.**

5. **Tyler Smith with the Haskell Youth Club addressed the council regarding the baseball program that uses the fields at the City ballpark. He was assured by Mayor Crookham that the contract for the program is being evaluated.**

There being no further comments or questions, Brad Cotten made the motion to adjourn. Dallas Wright seconded motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously by yea vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Hill, Clerk/Recorder/Treasurer

Clyde Crookham Jr., Mayor

*** Minutes recorded and transcribed by C/R/T Jennifer Hill****

CITY OF HASKELL City Clerk SALINE CO., ARKANSAS

CITY OF HASKELL SALINE COUNTY ARKANSAS