HASKELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Haskell City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Haskell City Hall on Monday August 14, 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 Brad Cotten.

ROLL CALL: Council Members present were, Brian Johnson, Dallas Wright, Adam Ricketts, Greg Rogers and Brad Cotten.

Members not present: Jeff Harrison, Rodney Lyman and Jacob Warner

Mayor Crookham declared a quorum present. (5/8)

Others in attendance: Mayor Clyde Crookham Jr., Clerk/Recorder/Treasurer Jennifer Hill, City Attorney Ashley Clancy, Interim Police Chief Richard Harkness, and Fire Chief Brian Cotton.

Public in attendance: Katy Hill, Jerry and Emaline Stroud, Mike Marlar, Bobby Westbrook, Mike Krebs, Bob and Marg Ward and Jason Hill.

Brad Cotten made the motion to accept the June 12, 2023 city council meeting minutes. Greg Rogers seconded motion. The Motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

1. **WATER/SEWER/STREETS**
   - The report was given by Mayor Clyde Crookham, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.
   - Mike Marlar with Halff Engineering addressed the Council regarding the Sewer plant long range plan. His company with do a study that will take up to 5 months to complete, to evaluate the needs and costs of the sewer plant. The study will cost a maximum of $55,000.00. The study will begin soon.
   - Bobby Westbrook with Saline Regional Water Association addressed the Council regarding the updates to acquiring a new water source from the Ouachita River. A permit was granted for the use of 15 million gallons per day to be safely removed from the Ouachita River.

2. **FIRE & RESCUE**
   - The report was given by Fire Chief Brian Cotten, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.
3. **POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT**
   - The report was given by Interim Police Chief Richard Harkness, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.
   - Mayor Crookham explained that Chief Brad Hicks had to step down due to health reasons and Officer Harkness was appointed as Interim Chief until a new Chief can be named.
4. **PLANNING COMMISSION**
   - Jerry Stroud informed the council of the proceedings of the August 3, 2023 Planning commission meeting along with the minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Monthly Income and Expense Statements for**
   - The monthly income and expense statements for July 2023 were presented to the Council for approval.
   - Greg Rogers made a motion to approve the July 2023 Income and Expense statements with Brad Cotten seconding the motion.
   - After a brief discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (5/5).
2. **Water/Sewer Rate discussion**
   - A water/sewer rate increase spreadsheet was presented to the council for discussion.
   - Brad Cotten made a motion to follow Proposal #1 (2%) for residential water customers, Proposal #2 (4%) for commercial water customers and Proposal #1 (2%) for all sewer customers. Brian Johnson seconded the motion.
   - After a brief discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously by yea vote (5/5).
   - An Ordinance reflecting the increases will be presented at the September 2023 meeting for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No Announcements

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mike Krebs inquired about a new Code Enforcement Officer and Mayor Crookham explained that the process to hire a new CE Officer has begun.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **There being no further comments or questions, Brian Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Greg Rogers seconded motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously by yea vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Hill, Clerk/Recorder/Treasurer

Clyde Crookham Jr., Mayor

CITY OF HASKELL
City Clerk
SALINE CO., ARKANSAS

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

CITY OF HASKELL SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS