

City Council Meeting

March 11, 2021

Present: Mayor Tabitha Hester, City Clerk Peggy Neal, Council Members: David Rice, Susan Potts, Michael Baumgartner, James Schmitz. Absent: Jeff Hayes & Sharon Sharpe and City Attorney John Verkamp.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

David Rice made motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2021 and phone conversation minutes for February 22, 2021. Michael Baumgartner second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Chandra Torkleson and husband were present requesting variance of Ord.88-3. They live at 226 Church St. and would like to move in a double wide trailer to replace their house that burned. David Rice made motion to approve the variance of Ord. 88-3. James Schmitz second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Department Reports:

Daniel Little reported that normal maintenance was completed on equipment. In the Sewer Dept. they pulled floats and cleaned all lift stations. Took monthly samples and DMR report. One sewer tap this month. The master meter for Branch sewer was dug up and met with Engineers. One sewer blockage on No. Logan St. In the Street Dept. we completed one road patch and cleaned leaves and debris from culverts. Parks: we finished trimming crape myrtles. Only one water tap this month and we installed new meters. There was one water leak at the old water plant.

Heather Tygart Report: (copy attached)

Chief Atchley presented his monthly report to the council. He reported two police officers have resigned. Applications are being taken. Also, the Trailblazer vehicle will be retired next week. The CID truck is being equipped for patrol usage.

COVID-19 Report: 128 total cases reported. (Only 7 since the last meeting)

(2) active cases and 20 quarantine addresses in the entire county.

Mayor Hester and City Clerk Peggy Neal transferred \$500,000.00 from W/S Revenue account to a CD at Simmons Bank.

OK

SD

Peggy Neal

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District Court Update: A. January-March 11th, 2021 fines collected were 42% than the same period in 2020. B. \$39,313.00 collected

C. Historical review of collections:

1. Aug. 2020 - \$2,490.00
2. Sept. 2020 - \$10,748.00
3. Oct. 2020 - \$5,522.00
4. Nov. 2020 - \$3,565.00
5. Dec. 2020 - \$9,233.00
6. Jan. 2021 - \$18,617.00

Several payments were found in the District Court Clerk's email that had never been posted.

Franklin/Sebastian Water Audit was reviewed and discussed by the council. David Rice made motion to accept the audit. James Schmitz second the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The water authority is in need of new members on the Board. David Rice made a motion to contact Sherman Hiatt to represent Charleston. James Schmitz second the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Sherman was contacted and accepted the volunteer position for the Franklin/Sebastian Water Authority Board Member for the next two years.

City Wide Clean Up April 16th and 17th, 2021. The United Way Day of Caring has been postponed until Fall.

- A. The city clean up needs to solicit volunteers to assist with pickups for those who are unable.
- B. There will be restricted access to dumpsters on the 16th for volunteer groups only.
- C. City dumpsters will be open on April 3rd and 17th free of charge.
- D. Will require extra dumpsters.
- E. Requirement of water customer.

Susie Potts made motion to have the City Wide Clean Up on the dates specified and approves the additional cost of the dumpsters for this cleanup. David Rice second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Water Adjustments: The council discussed many customers increased water usage due to frozen pipes breaking during the weather-related isolated event. After lengthy discussion, Susie Potts made motion for the Water Leak Threshold to be the regular monthly bill, and everything over 5000 gallons average use, the customer will pay the actual Water Dept. rate. The regular monthly bill will be paid at the usual deadline and all extra can be paid by June 10, 2021. David Rice second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

All invoices for the previous month for the City General &W/S O & M and W/S Revenue accounts were presented to the council for review and discussion. After review, all paid invoices were approved by Susie Potts and second by David Rice. Motion carried 4-0.

Upon review of the Water adjustments for the previous month, David Rice made motion to accept the adjustments and Michael Baumgartner second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Susie Potts made motion to Adjourn. David Rice second the motion. Motion carried 4-0.