

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 20, 2019

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on behalf of Bethel Heights property owners and concerned citizens

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Property Owners Set to Discuss City of Bethel Heights' Ongoing Waster Treatment Violations at City Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 21**

**Bethel Heights, AR (Monday, May 20, 2019)** – The City of Bethel Heights will hold its regular scheduled City Council meeting as published on its calendar at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 21, 2019. A group of property owners and other concerned citizens will be present at the meeting to discuss ongoing multiple violations of the City's wastewater permit. Those violations include, among other concerns, continued surface pooling and ponding on its sites, as well as repeated discharge of poorly treated and/or untreated wastewater onto neighboring property that ultimately flows into Puppy Creek and Spring Creek before reaching the Illinois River.

On May 6, 2019, the City of Bethel Heights received a letter issued by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requiring the City to develop a new Corrective Action Plan. This is the third such plan the State agency has required of the City relating to its wastewater disposal system. In the letter, ADEQ is also requiring Bethel Heights to complete a new geotechnical investigation of its wastewater disposal sites, develop a complete set of 'as built' drawings of the wastewater system and disposal sites including any deviations from the plans originally submitted to the State, and deliver an interim operating plan to include prevent any discharge from reaching waters throughout the State of Arkansas.

Property owners and nearby residents have become very concerned after one of the adjoining property owners reported that three cows had died around a pond which the City was using without permission as a dump for water from its site. In January 2019, concerns of nearby residents and property owners were heightened even more after sampling wastewater runoff from the City's Lincoln Street wastewater disposal site. That sampling program **revealed fecal coliform counts to be over eighty (80) times the level allowed by the City's wastewater permit, and hundreds of times over that which the City of Bethel Heights routinely reports to ADEQ.** When independently confirmed, these tests demonstrate a significant danger to public health.

**All community stakeholders, media and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend the Bethel Heights City Council meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Bethel Heights City Hall, located at 530 Sunrise Drive in Bethel Heights, Arkansas.**

**Media inquiries related to this content may be directed to Jennifer Langford by calling 931.510.7703 or via email to [Kattlyst@outlook.com](mailto:Kattlyst@outlook.com) to schedule interviews with authorities and affected property owners.**

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