

HASKELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the Haskell City Council was held at the Haskell City Hall immediately following the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Awards ceremony.

ROLL CALL: Aldermen present were Terry Babbs, Brad Graham, Rose Marie Wilkinson, Dwayne Hippensteel, Gary Vice, Hal Baker, and Allen Nash. Alderman Ronnie Ballard was absent. Also present was Mayor Jeff Arey, Recorder Janie Lyman, Water/Sewer Supt. Bobby Westbrook, Auditor Scott Lovell, Roy Carman, Vernon Williams, Mike Bolin, and Jennifer Santee.

Mayor Arey declared a quorum present and called for the reading of the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting. Brad Graham made the motion, seconded by Allen Nash, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

WATER/SEWER Supt. Bobby Westbrook gave the water report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

STREETS Mayor Arey gave the street report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

ANIMAL CONTROL The report was given by Mayor Arey, and a copy is filed with these minutes.

FIRE & RESCUE In the absence of Chief Brian Cotten, the report was given by Mayor Arey. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

POLICE In the absence of Chief Mike Holt, the report was given by Mayor Arey; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

COURT Mayor Arey gave the court report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

PLANNING COMMISSION Mayor Arey asked if there were any comments or questions; there were none.

CODE ENFORCEMENT Mayor Arey gave the report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of Haskell Water and Sewer Department 2011 audit report by Yoakum, Lovell & Co

Mr. Scott Lovell, with Yoakum, Lovell & Co. Accounting Firm in Benton, was present to review the recent audit of the City of Haskell Water and Sewer Department for the year ended 2011.

Mr. Lovell reviewed the report, noting that revenues increased by \$68,148.00, and that expenses increased by \$121,933.00. The revenue did not keep up with the expenses, resulting in operating income for 2011 of \$132,642.00. This is \$53,785.00 less than the prior year. Capital Assets increased, as did Long Term Debt, which is the new water treatment plant. Asking if there were any questions or comments, Rose Marie Wilkinson asked Mr. Lovell's opinion regarding the annual 2% rate increase. Mr. Lovell responded that due to the figures presented, he felt it was in the best interest of the City of Haskell to continue with this rate increase. After a lengthy discussion, Rose Marie Wilkinson made the motion, seconded by Hal Baker, to increase the rates by 2% effective July 1, 2012 in accordance with Ordinance 01-2004. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously. A Resolution will be presented at the June meeting.

Request from Bobby Westbrook to increase budgeted amount for “Fire Hydrant Improvements” from \$5,000.00 to \$12,000.00 in order to purchase and install two new hydrants.

Bobby Westbrook advised the City Council that the City needs to replace one hydrant located at the intersection of Camille St. and North Parker, and another at the intersection of Grand Ave and Hayes. Mr. Westbrook had presented quotes from Richard Crawford Construction Company for purchase and installation of the two hydrants. After a brief discussion, Hal Baker made the motion to increase the “Fire Hydrant Improvements” budgeted amount of \$5,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to cover the \$11,300.00 for the two hydrants. The motion was seconded by Dwayne Hippensteel. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote. A Resolution will be presented at the June meeting.

Ordinance 03-2012 An Ordinance Providing for the Establishment of a Flood Damage Prevention Program for the City of Haskell, and for other purposes

Terry Babbs made the motion, seconded by Dwayne Hippensteel, for the Recorder to proceed with the first reading of Ordinance 03-2012, reading the heading only. The motion passed unanimously. The Recorder read the heading only of Ordinance 03-2012. Terry Babbs made the motion, seconded by Dwayne Hippensteel, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third reading. A Roll Call vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously. Rose Marie Wilkinson made the motion, seconded by Terry Babbs, to approve Ordinance 03-2012. A Roll Call vote was taken; the motion passed unanimously.

Event Coordinator Jennifer Santee from Arkansas Health Center regarding July 4th Celebration to be held on Friday, June 29th

Jennifer came before the City Council requesting the City's continued assistance in sponsoring this community celebration. She presented re-occurring costs for portable toilets, fun dunk, water slide, and Jeff Ivy Band totaling \$3015.60. She asked for the City's assistance by donating this amount. The Arkansas Health Center pays for the fireworks. Hal Baker made the motion, seconded by Gary Vice, for the City to donate this \$3015.60. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

OLD BUSINESS: Park Improvements Bid Approval

Resolution 07-2012 A Resolution Listing Bids Received, Determining the Lowest and Best Bid and Recommendation of Award of Contracts.

Mayor Arey reminded the Council of the fully funded 50/50 matching grant the City received in the amount of \$30,927.00 from the Arkansas Parks & Tourism to continue the sidewalks around the ball fields and construct a walking trail to the Ballpark. We had planned to use City employees and City equipment as "In Kind" services for part match on the project. At the grant workshop held in April, it was suggested by Arkansas Parks Director John Beneke and Engineer Mike Bolin that the City should consider bidding the entire project. It had been their experience from past bids, to see costs come in equal to or lower than what most cities could provide the labor for. A bid opening was held on May 2, 2012. The bids included costs for both installation and materials. Mayor Arey presented a copy of the Bid Tabulation and created a Job Cost Summary. He recommends that the Haskell City Council accept the lowest bid for both Schedule I and II, and provide the additional \$8,855.00 in addition to its already obligated amount of \$30,927.00, for a total cost of \$39,782.00. After brief discussion, Gary Vice made the motion, seconded by Brad Graham to accept this recommendation and approve Resolution 07-2012. A Roll Call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Sidewalk Plan

Mayor Arey reminded the Council of the Public Hearing that was held on April 9, 2012 regarding a draft of the above. The idea for the Master Side Walk Plan is connecting neighborhoods with neighborhoods, the school, parks, and commercial areas.

Safe routes to School Project Engineer Vernon Williams presented the revised map draft to include the following changes:

1. Sidewalk on Westside of Hwy 229 down pass the mini-mall and the school, continuing pass the Grove
2. Sidewalk from the city limits up Grand Avenue to the School
3. Continue from Mitchell Drive down to Vulcan Road

This map plan can be viewed at www.garnatengineering.com, click on links, click on City of Haskell downloads. You may also visit the City of Haskell website, click on information, then click on news, which will take you to GarNat website.

A resolution will be presented at the June 11th Council meeting adopting this Sidewalk MasterPlan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Arey stated that the City of Haskell had received notification from the Municipal Health Benefit Fund that rates for Haskell will not change.

Mayor Arey related that the May 12th Haskell-Clean-Up Day was a huge success; volunteers collected over 20 tons of unwanted junk and debris, plus 642 tires.

Mayor Arey reminded the Council that the Municipal League 78th Convention will be held in Hot Springs June 20-22. If you plan to attend, we will need to know by June 1st.

Anyone who would like to tour the new treatment plant and you don't know where it is, meet at the Haskell City Hall at 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 11th (prior to the regular Council meeting). If you would like to meet at the treatment plant, it is located at the end of Creek Road. This plan map may also be viewed at the Haskell City Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janie Lyman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Janie Lyman, Recorder