

HASKELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2014

The regular meeting of the Haskell City Council was held at the Haskell City Hall at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 16, 2014.

Mayor Arey led the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer was given by Rose Marie Wilkinson.

ROLL CALL: Aldermen present were Ronnie Ballard, Rose Marie Wilkinson, Raymond Lobbs, Ed Simmons, and Hal Baker. Terry Babbs, Gary Vice, and Allen Nash was absent. Others present were Mayor Jeff Arey, Recorder Janie Lyman, Water/Sewer Auditor Scott Lovell, Brad Cotten, Lt. Mike Hardester, John Nelson, Roy Carman, and Dallas Wright.

Mayor Arey declared a quorum present and called for the reading of the minutes of the April 14th meeting (there was no May meeting). Ronnie Ballard, seconded by Hal Baker, made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously by yea vote.

The Council approved the Mayor's request for Mr. Scott Lovell to present the 2013 audit findings prior to the Departmental Reports.

NEW BUSINESS Review of Water/Sewer Audit

Mr. Scott Lovell, with Yoakum, Lovell & Co., presented the review of the audit of the City of Haskell Water and Sewer Department for the year ended 2013. Mr. Lovell reviewed the report in detail.

In summation, Mr. Lovell noted that over the last two years the City had an operating loss of \$197,000.00. This was due to the large water cost incurred for several months of 2012 and four months in 2013. The new water/sewer rates did not go into effect until May 1, 2013.

After Council discussion, Rose Marie Wilkinson made the motion to accept the audit report as presented; the motion was seconded by Hal Baker. The motion was approved unanimously by yea vote.

Following the presentation and acceptance of the annual audit, it is the practice of the Council to determine if it is in the best interest of the City to increase the current rates by 2% as provided in Ordinance 01-2013. After lengthy discussion, Hal Baker made the motion, seconded by Raymond Lobbs, to amend Ordinance 01-2013 to increase fees from two percent (2%) to four percent (4%) annually. The motion was approved by yeas vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Water/Sewer Mayor Arey gave the April & May reports, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Streets Mayor Arey reported that the City has been mowing and spraying ditches. The sub-base repairs have been completed on Sahlee Street in Silver Springs. We have a similar situation on the cul-de-sac on Springbranch, and need drainage improvements on West Elm.

FIRE & RESCUE Brad Cotten reported there were 22 runs, 28 man hours of training, and fire hydrant inspections during the month of May. There were no equipment repairs.

POLICE Lt. Mike Hardester gave the report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT A copy of the April and May reports were provided to the Council, and is filed with these minutes. Ronnie Ballard asked as to the status of the George Brooks (2816 Hwy 229) cleanup. Mayor Arey stated that the Prosecuting Attorney's office contacted him and advised that there were felony charges filed against Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks pled guilty to those charges and was offered probation. A condition of his probation was that he must adhere to all City Ordinances, including the lot cleanliness Ordinance. If he doesn't, his probation could be revoked and he would go to jail.

OLD BUSINESS Discussion of Park Bid Opening

The Grants, plus local matching funds, total \$93,000.00. The lowest bid for the restrooms was \$80,240.00, and the lowest bid for the playground was \$49,946.00. We are looking for ways to redesign the project that would lower the cost, and totally re-bid. The second option would be to choose to do the restrooms or the playground. The third option is to come up with the extra funds (\$37,000.00) to do both. The Mayor will have an update at the July meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS Resolution 04-2014 a Resolution Requesting that
Saline County 911 Adopt a Revised Emergency Rescue Dispatch Protocol.**

Information about this Resolution was given by Mayor Arey and
Fireman Brad Cotten.

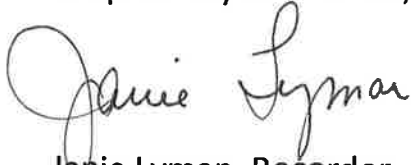
After discussion, Hal Baker made the motion, seconded by Ronnie Ballard, to
table this until the July meeting. Motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS There will be a fireworks display at the Arkansas Health
Center on July 1st.

PUBLIC COMMENTS Mr. John Nelson, editor of *Tailgate News* of Gurdon,
Arkansas, came before the Council introducing ways his publication could benefit
the City of Haskell with news items and advertising needs.

Adjournment was approved unanimously by yea vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Janie Lyman, Recorder