

**HASKELL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10,2014**

The regular meeting of the Haskell City Council was held at the Haskell City Hall at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 10, 2014 following a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Arey led the Pledge of Allegiance; prayer was given by Roy Carman.

ROLL CALL: Aldermen present were Ronnie Ballard, Terry Babbs, Rose Marie Wilkinson, Raymond Lobbs, Ed Simmons, Allen Nash, and Hal Baker. Alderman Gary Vice was absent. Others present were Mayor Jeff Arey, Police Chief Mike Holt, Recorder Janie Lyman, Fire Chief Brian Cotten, and Robert Burson. Also in attendance was Mayor's Youth Council members Alexis Schmidt and Austin Gregory, Dallas Wright, Jayme Watson, and Roy Carman.

Mayor Arey declared a quorum present and called for the reading of the minutes of the January 13th meeting. Motion was made by Terry Babbs, seconded by Allen Nash, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Water/Sewer Robert Burson gave the report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Streets the Street Department, aided by the Arkansas Department of Corrections Work Release, cleaned ditches for the greater part of the month. The winter weather has caused several pot holes, which will be repaired when the weather permits.

Fire & Rescue Chief Brian Cotten gave the report; a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Police Chief Mike Holt 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.

Planning the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather

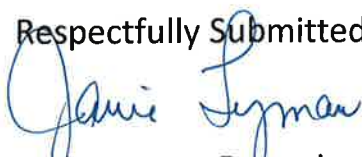
Code Enforcement Mayor Arey addressed the Council regarding the City's ongoing efforts to enforce our cleaning code at 2816 Hwy 229. The owner, George Brooks, was fined by the District Court for his failure to clean this property; his Attorney has filed an appeal in Circuit Court. Mayor Arey has discussed this situation with our City attorney, asking if the City should file a civil suit in Circuit Court. Our attorney felt this was a good idea. A date has not been set for Mr. Brooks' appeal, and it is likely that our suit would be heard before the same judge as Mr. Brooks' appeal. Hal Baker made the motion, seconded by Raymond Lobbs, for Mayor Arey to contact our attorney to file this law suit. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

PARKS Mayor Arey addressed the Council concerning the improvements at the Ball park for new restrooms and a playground. Mayor Arey provided photos of the proposed playground area and equipment. The City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$74,970.00, and the Council approved \$25,000.00 in the 2014 budget for this project. This amount was budgeted using figures for purchasing pea gravel or wood chips for the base of the playground. In talking with other cities, Mayor Arey learned that either one must have a concrete border around it to try to secure the gravel/chips inside the play area; it must be re-spread frequently, and has only a 3 year lifespan. An alternative method is a rubber surface poured in place on a concrete pad. It is slip resistant, drains quickly, does not need a border, easy to maintain, and has a life span of 20-25 years. However, the cost could be as much as \$10,000.00 over the budgeted amount of \$25,000.00. The actual cost will not be known until bids have been taken. After lengthy discussion, Terry Babbs made the motion, seconded by Ed Simmons, to commit up to and no more than \$35,000.00 for the Parks & Recreation Project that has been presented before the Council. The motion passed unanimously by yea vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Labor for Your Neighbor meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at the Haskell City Hall.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Janie Lyman, Recorder