

November 13, 2023

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Monday November 13, 2023, at City Hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave, City Attorney John Verkamp, and Aldermen: Mike Ray, Rick Edgerton, Gerald Schaefer, Lorie Robertson, Benny Hunter, and Recorder Shelly Hockaday. Dale Teague was absent. Visitors present were Butch Maness and Randy Toon.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P. M. Rick Edgerton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Hardgrave led the prayer.

The Council approved the minutes of the October regular and special meeting. (BH/GS)

Council members reviewed the report from the Police Dept. The Department answered 634 calls in October. LPD issued 6 tickets and 32 warnings. There were 3 arrest made in the month of October.

Council members reviewed the report from the Fire Dept. They responded to 1 vehicle accident, 2 grass fires, 2 structure fires, and 21 EMS calls in October.

Council reviewed proposed ordinance 2023-05 to repeal ordinance 01-04 and amend ordinance 2021-04, raising the sanitation rate from \$12 per month to \$15 per month effective January 1, 2024. A motion was made by Gerald Schaefer to introduce the proposed ordinance by title only. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Rick Edgerton made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings. Benny Hunter seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Lorie Robertson made a motion to adopt the proposed 2023-05 in the amount of \$15.00 per month. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council reviewed proposed ordinance 2023-06 to amend ordinance 96-5, raising certain fees associated with the keeping and management of dogs in the city limits of Lavaca. Rick Edgerton made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance by title only. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Gerald Schaefer made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings. Lorie Robertson seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Rick Edgerton made a motion to adopt proposed ordinance 2023-06. Benny Hunter seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members reviewed proposed ordinance 2023-07 to clarify and establish commercial building permits and inspection fees and requirements. Mike Ray made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance by title only. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Lorie Robertson made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings. Benny Hunter seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Rick Edgerton Made a motion to adopt proposed ordinance 2023-07. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion Passed.

Council members reviewed proposed ordinance 2023-08 to clarify and establish non-commercial building permit and inspection fees and requirements. Lorie Robertson made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance by title only. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Mike Ray

made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Rick Edgerton made a motion to adopt proposed ordinance 2023-08. Benny Hunter seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members reviewed proposed ordinance 2023-09 amending the zoning classification for a tract of property located in the 600 block of Hwy 96 SE, changing the zoning from Commercial 1 and Residential 1 to Residential 2. The owner of the property met all requirements for the zoning change. Mike Ray made a motion to introduce the proposed ordinance by title only. Rick Edgerton seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Benny Hunter made a motion to suspend the rules and forgo the 2nd and 3rd readings. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Rick Edgerton made a motion to adopt proposed ordinance 2023-09. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members discussed the Christmas Parade funds remaining in the Christmas Parade Account. Savings account 9506673 with a balance of \$1,842.53 is remaining from previous years of donations from citizens and businesses in the community to help fund the parade winners and the candy sacks from Santa. The parade was given to the Lavaca Area Chamber of Commerce beginning in 2023. A motion was made by Lorie Robertson to close the Christmas Parade account and transfer the funds to the Lavaca Area Chamber of Commerce via a Cashier's Check. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion Passed.

Council members reviewed the FSPWA 2024 proposed budget. A motion was made by Lorie Robertson to approve the budget. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members were advised that Craig Carter's appointment to the FSPWA Board was expiring and needed to be considered. Lorie Robertson made a motion to reappoint Craig Carter to another term. Benny Hunter seconded the motion. All members voted to approve except Mike Ray, who abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

Council members reviewed the past due Sanitation and property clean up charges for 2023. They are as follows:

Sanitation Charges to be certified on December 1, 2023. Unpaid sanitation charges are attached to Personal Property taxes and collected through the payment of these taxes. We can only certify amounts more than 90 days past due on November 1. All Sanitation charges that are certified will have a \$50 administrative fee added to the certified amount.

2312 Horne Street \$85.14

1016 Bitticks Street \$102.80

Clean up charges to be certified on December 1, 2023

204 N. 4th Street, Lavaca, AR \$175.00

Clean up charges are attached to Real Estate taxes and collected through the payment of these taxes. All Clean up charges that are certified will have a \$100 administrative fee added to the certified amount.

Mike Ray made a motion to certify all above charges to the Sebastian County Clerk. Rick Edgerton seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Council members reviewed the meeting room rates charged at City Hall. A motion was made to increase the rates to a \$50 rental fee and a \$50 refundable deposit effective Jan 1, 2024 by Gerald Schaefer. Mike Ray seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Lorie Robertson made a motion to pay the bills for the month of November. Gerald Schaefer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

With no further business on the agenda, meeting was adjourned. (RE/BH)

Mayor

Attest: Recorder