

September 11, 2023

The City Council of the City of Lavaca met for a regular monthly meeting Monday, September 11, 2023, at City Hall in Lavaca. Board members present were Mayor Hugh Hardgrave; Aldermen Benny Hunter, Lorie Robertson, Mike Ray, Gerald Schaeffer, and Rick Edgerton (arrived at 6:20 p.m.); and City Attorney John Verkamp. Alderman Dale Teague and Recorder Shelly Hockaday were absent. Visitors present were Randy Toon, Jeremy Smith, Butch Maness and Brittany Caples.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance opened the meeting.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as presented. (BH/GS)

Randy Toon presented the Police Report for the month of August. Seventeen warnings, twelve citations, and 6 arrests were reported.

The Fire Department responded to 1 gas leak, 2 grass fires and 17 EMS calls in August.

The City of Lavaca was approved for a Hazard Mitigation Grant to perform a drainage analysis in Holt Addition. Total cost of the study is \$26,500. The grant award will cover \$19,875 of the cost. Gerald Schaeffer's motion to continue with the grant application and enter into a contract with Hawkins Weir Engineers was seconded by Mike Ray, all present voting yes.

An ordinance to rezone a parcel of property located in the 100 Block of West Houston Street was introduced. (LR/BH) The ordinance will rezone the property from Residential 1 (single family homes) to Residential 2 (allows duplex). Lorie Robertson's motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings was seconded by Mike Ray, all members present voting yes. Lorie Robertson's motion to adopt the ordinance was seconded by Gerald Schaeffer, all members present voting yes. Ordinance 2023-02 was approved and adopted.

The City of Lavaca is making an application to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to replace the Trail of Tears marker with a marker sponsored by the Historic Preservation Program. The City will donate ½ the cost of the marker and a \$200 maintenance fee to the Historic Preservation Program and they will provide the marker. Approximate cost to the city is \$1500. Lorie Robertson's motion to proceed with the application process was seconded by Gerald Schaeffer, all members present voted yes.

The Council approved the appointment of Lorie Robertson to the Planning Commission and reappointed the remaining members whose terms have expired. (MR/BH)(LR Abstained)

The Council tabled the review of General Fund fees and charges.(BH/GS)

A salary schedule developed by the city council was presented for official consideration. The salary schedule will set starting pay for various city positions, adopts a schedule for raises over a 25 year period, provides for a review of the schedule every three years, adjusts current employees rate of pay to match years with the city, provides for stipend pay for public works and police department personnel, among other things. The salary schedule will take effect January 1, 2024. Mike Ray's motion to adopt the salary schedule as presented was seconded by Lorie Robertson, with all members present voting yes. A copy of the salary schedule will be attached to the minutes.

The Mayor presented a proposal from Cove Creek Construction to make various small repairs to certain streets in Lavaca. Eight separate repairs will be made at a cost of \$19,983. Benny Hunter's motion to approve the repairs was seconded by Lorie Robertson, all members present voted yes.

The Council approved the following signers on the Sewer Capital Improvement Project Savings Account at First National Bank: Susan Weaver, Shelly Hockaday, Hugh Hardgrave, Gerald Schaeffer, Mike Ray, Lorie Robertson, Benny Hunter, Dale Teague, Rick Edgerton. (LR/MR)

The Council accepted James Webb's resignation from the Franklin Sebastian Public Water Authority and declared a vacancy to be filled at the next regular meeting of the city council. (MR/GS)

The Council approved the bills for the month of September. (RE/GS)

There being no further business before the council the meeting was adjourned. (BH/RE)

Mayor: Hugh Hardgrave