

Cherry Valley City Council Meeting
Cherry Valley City Hall
166 Highway 1B
Cherry Valley, AR 72324
November 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm

Roll Call

Mayor Earnest Meredith	Present
Council Member Thomas Wilson	Present
Council Member James DeWitt	Present
Council Member Ricky Lace	Present
Council Member Dennis Stephens	Present

Others Present:

Recorder Treasurer Stacey Bennett
Police Chief Jamie Walls
Fire Chief Shane Bell

Visitors: Stephen Calicott (ARDOT), William White

The meeting was opened with prayer by Council Member James DeWitt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

Council Member DeWitt made a motion to approve October 15, 2024, city council minutes as presented; Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Financials

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the October 2024 financials; Council Member Lace seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Drainage

The council spoke with Mr. Callicott about the drainage issue with the city. If the culvert is on commercial property, they are responsible, if the culvert is on a private drive and on highway department easement the highway department will replace. A list will be sent to ARDOT of areas with drainage issues. Upon receipt of the list ARDOT will communicate with the city on fixing the issue.

Street

Jamie met with Entergy's representative on the placement and installation of streetlights for Thunderbird Lane. It was agreed to install three lights on Thunderbird Lane, including the entrance. When the subdivision was developed the school had all electricity placed under ground. After the city submitted the streetlight installation, the superintendent of Cross County schools called a meeting with Jamie. The superintendent requested that we do not have any overhead lines for the streetlights and decorative lighting. Jamie informed the superintendent that the city cannot pay for the underground installation or the decorative lighting; however, if the school wants to pay for it they could. The superintendent said the school would pay for the underground installation for the streetlights. We are waiting to hear if the school will be paying for the decorative lighting just for the superintendent's house or all streetlights on Thunderbird Lane.

Fire Department

The Rescue is back at the station and there is no charge for the estimate on cost. Shane would prefer a tanker/pumper to help lower the ISO rating even more. The tankers do not count towards the ISO since they do not have a pump. They are great assets for water supply for the department. Shane is looking into a grant to upgrade the brush truck.

The loan with Fidelity bank currently has Rescue up for collateral. Due to the Rescue being out of service Shane requested Engine 1 (2007 Pierce) for collateral.

Council Member DeWitt made a motion to replace the Rescue with Engine 1 for collateral on the loan at Fidelity Bank; Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Chief Bell requested to part out the Rescue and the money be applied to the loan at Fidelity Bank. Chief Bell will be able to keep some items the city can use.

Council Member DeWitt made a motion to allow Chief Shane Bell to part out Rescue and apply the funds to the loan; Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Dollar General Market Request

Mayor Meredith contacted customer service with Dollar General to request a Market for the city. The general dollar stated they are working on getting a market and would reach out with anything new. Mayor Merdedith asked what incentives the council would like to offer? Council Member Stephens asked what the needs were for them to switch to a market. We need to know the needs before we can proceed. Council member Stephens requested the mayor send a letter and pictures of the building needing repairs and the grass issue of the current dollar general monthly. The rest of the council agreed to this request.

Handbook & Job Descriptions

The city's handbook needs to be updated. Council members requested Mayor Meredith to complete job descriptions for each position. The council requested the mayor talk to each department head about what the job duties were and what is required. Personnel evaluations are due in February and job descriptions are necessary to evaluate the employees. Recorder Treasurer Stacey Bennett requested for all personnel handbook changes be back to her along with job descriptions by December 2, she will make all recommended changes and submit them back to the council by December 6 for review. The council will discuss the changes at the December meeting and approve them in January. The council had no objections to this recommendation.

2025 Fiscal Year Budget

Per statute 14-58-201 - Every city and town must have an annual operating budget approved by its governing body (A.C.A. §§ 14-58-201 through 203). Before December 1 of each year, mayors of all cities and incorporated town with a mayor-council form of government must submit to the governing body of those cities a proposed budget. This will enable the council to study the document, make any proposed changes and get the budget adopted before February 1.

Mayor Meredith did not have a prepared budget at the regular meeting and requested to have a special meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 6 pm to present the 2025 proposed budget.

Food Truck Lot

The council requested for a sign to be placed on the lot for anyone wanting to rent a spot. The sign should read - Cherry Valley Food Truck Lot and call city hall for more information.

Council Member Lace made a motion to allow Jamie Walls to spend up to \$500.00 on the sign. Council Member Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Trash Pickup

Recorder Treasurer Stacey Bennett presented a list of complaints she has received from the citizens regarding pickup. She presented a letter from a citizen to the council. The council requested to contact others sanitation business and see what our options were.

1967 Dump Truck

The city needed a motor worked on in the dump truck and Aura "Griff" Clements said he would complete the work, in exchange for the 1967 dump truck.

Council Member Lace made a motion to exchange the work for the 1967 Dump Truck; Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Asset List Removal

Recorder Treasurer Stacey Bennett requested to remove items from the court's asset list; due to not working.

Computer Tower 969059ULXOCGHB 0708	2008	\$1,051.46
Dell Computer Tower 17B6WR1	2011	\$1,022.03
Dell Computer Tower, Speakers & Monitor serial # GF07HB2	2016	\$1,384.08

Council Member DeWitt made a motion to remove the items from the court's assets as presented; council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Asset List Increase

The asset list amount for anything to be added is \$1,000.00. Recorder Treasurer Stacey Bennett requested this increase to \$5,000.00.

Council member DeWitt made a motion to increase the asset list amount from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Council Member Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Employee Bonus

The council discussed providing a net bonus for the employees as presented:

Jamie Walls - \$2,800.00 (General)
Stacey Bennett - \$2,800.00 (Water)
Shaen Bell - \$1,400.00 (Fire)
Terrie Hess - \$1,400.00 (General)
Sid Pendley - \$500.00 (General)
Ricky Pierce - \$500.00 (Street)

Council member DeWitt made a motion to approve a net bonus for the amounts presented and to be dispersed on the next payroll date, Council Member Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Town Meeting

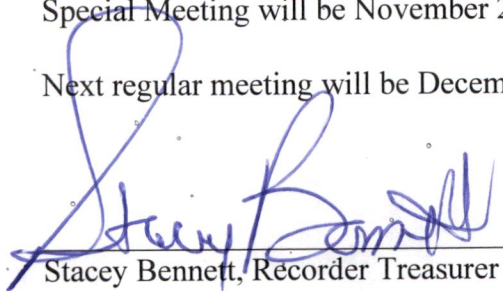
Council Member Stephens wants to set a date in January for a town meeting. This meeting will not be a regular city council meeting, but a meeting to discuss and explain issues citizens have. Council Member Stephens requested a notice to be placed on the city's Facebook page.

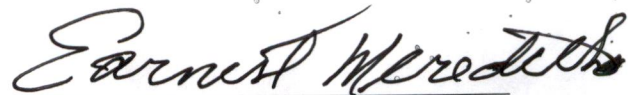
Adjournment

Council Member Lace made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm, Council Member Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Special Meeting will be November 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Next regular meeting will be December 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.


Stacey Bennett, Recorder Treasurer


Earnest Meredith, Appointed Mayor

Minutes approved on this 10 day of December, 2024.

