

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 25, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Heber Springs met in regular session at The Community Center in Heber Springs, Arkansas, at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th day of January 2024. The following were present:

Mayor Kasey Griffin, Council members: Louis Short, Layne Tubbs, Ali Sugg, Jim Lay, and Andy Echlin. Absentees were JP Hodges, James Adams, Melissa Choate, Attorney Rebecca Prince and city clerk Vicki McPherson.  
No member of the press was in attendance.

Mayor Kasey Griffin called the meeting to order and asked to let the record show, there was a quorum.

Councilmember Tubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2023 meeting as presented. Echlin made a second. With Sugg abstaining, there was no quorum and the vote had to be tabled.

Councilmember Sugg made a motion to approve the payments journal dated 12/1/23 - 12/31/23. Councilman Echlin made a second. All councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman Short made a motion to approve the Financial Statements dated 12/31/2023 as presented. With a second by Sugg and all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye the mayor stated motion carried.

There were no questions for Supervisors.

**Unfinished Business:**

The mayor introduced the City of Heber Springs Parks Ordinance. The Ordinance was titled:

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF PUBLIC PARKS IN THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF ITS PROVISIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

A motion was made by councilman Jim Lay to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on reading by title only. Councilmember Sugg made a second, and with all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the motion carried. All three readings were by Title only and read by the mayor.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance was made by councilmember Sugg, with a second by Tubbs. With all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

A motion to adopt the *Emergency clause* was made by councilman Short, and with a second by Echlin and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was passed and given # **2024-01**

There was discussion regarding the Dump truck Invoice which has still not been received. Habbley gave an update that a turbo was still needed and a tentative total of \$10,326.48.

The sanitation Ordinance remains tabled until 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

### **New Business:**

The mayor presented her *State of the City Address*.

The mayor introduced the Procedure of Council Meetings Resolution which is Titled:  
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF  
MEETINGS OF THE HEBER SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL.

The resolution was read in full by Councilmember Layne Tubbs.

A motion was then made by councilman Short to adopt the Resolution and with a second by councilman Echlin and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried and the Resolution was given # **2024-01**.

Councilman Short made a motion to approve the contract renewal with the Humane Society for 2024. With a second by councilmember Sugg and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman Tubbs made a motion to approve the contract renewal with Sugarloaf Heritage Council for 2024. With a second by councilman Echlin and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman Short made a motion to approve the contract renewal with the Cleburne County Aging Program for 2024, with an increase of \$2000.00. A second was made by councilman Echlin, and with a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman Tubbs made a motion to approve the contract renewal with the Division of Disabled Veterans for 2024, and with a second by councilmember Sugg and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

The mayor introduced the DBW (doing business with) Spouses, The mayor and Stephen Griffin, full time employee of the Police Department. An Ordinance Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY THE SPOUSE OF THE MAYOR, PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Ordinance was read in full for first reading by councilmember A. Sugg.  
A motion was made by councilman Short to suspend the rules and place the readings by Title only. A second by Echlin and a unanimous vote of Aye, motion carried, and all other readings were made by Title only by councilmember Sugg.

A motion was made to adopt the Ordinance by councilman Echlin, and with a second by Short and a unanimous vote of Aye, by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried. The Ordinance was given #2024-02.

The mayor introduced the DBW (doing business with) Spouses, Stephen Choate, part time employee of the HS Fire Department, is married to councilmember Melissa Choate.  
An Ordinance Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY THE SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilmember A. Sugg.  
A motion was made to suspend the rules and place the readings by Title only by councilman Short. With a second by Tubbs and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried, and all other readings were done by Title only by councilmember A. Sugg.

A motion was made by councilmember Echlin to adopt the Ordinance, and with a second by Tubbs and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given #2024-03.

Councilmember Jim Adams arrived at 6:24pm

The mayor introduced the DBW (doing business with) Spouses, Brian Haile, Chief of Police and Tammy Haile, part time employee of HS Community Center.  
An Ordinance Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY THE SPOUSE OF A DEPARTMENT HEAD, PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilmember A. Sugg.  
A motion was made to suspend the rules and place the readings by Title only by councilman Short, and with a second by Echlin and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried. All other readings were made by Title only by councilmember A. Sugg.

A motion was made by councilman Short with a second by Adams to adopt the Ordinance. With a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given #2024-04.

The mayor introduced the DBW (doing business with) Layne Tubbs councilmember and Visual Identity and Tubby T's.

An Ordinance Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH COUNCIL MEMBER LAYNE TUBBS DOING BUSINESS AS VISUAL IDENTITY AND TUBBY T'S EMBROIDERY AND SCREEN PRINTING, PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilmember A. Sugg.

A motion was made by councilman Short to suspend the rules and place the readings by Title only, with a second by Echlin, Tubbs abstaining, and a unanimous vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried. All other readings were done by Title only by councilmember Sugg.

A motion was made by councilman Echlin to adopt the Ordinance, with a second by councilman Adams. With Tubbs abstaining, and all other councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given #2024-05.

The mayor introduced the DBW (doing business with) Ali Sugg councilmember and Red River Radio, Inc.

The Ordinance was Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH RED RIVER RADIO, INC., PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilman J. Adams.

A motion was made by councilman Short to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on reading by Title only with a second by J. Adams. With Sugg abstaining, and all other councilmembers voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried. All other readings were done by councilman J. Adams.

A motion was made by Councilman Tubbs to adopt the Ordinance. With Sugg abstaining and all other councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given #2024-06.

The mayor introduced the Ordinance of Establishing Salary for the City Attorney and City Clerk. The Ordinance was Titled:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilman J. Adams.

A motion was made by councilman Short to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on reading by Title only. With a second by Adams and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance the mayor stated motion carried. All other readings were done by Title only and read by councilman J. Adams.

A motion was made by councilman Layne Tubbs to adopt the Ordinance with a second by councilmember A. Sugg. With all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given #2024-07.

A motion was made by councilmember A. Sugg to approve the renewal of CD's maturing 1/25/24 for 3 more months. With a second by councilman Tubbs and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

After much discussion regarding the Buyback Agreement for the 2 new Garbage trucks; A motion was made by councilman J. Adams to approve the Buyback agreement with a \$60,000.00 max on lease payments per year. With a second by councilman Short and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

A motion was made to waive the bidding process for the purchase of a new Police Dept. vehicle by councilman Adams. With a second by Tubbs and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

A motion was then made to approve the Invoice for the new Police dept. vehicle for \$40,234.00 by councilman Short. With a second by councilman Tubbs and all other councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

After discussion regarding the 3-year lease on the MAC Dump Truck; a motion was made by councilman J. Adams to approve the 3-year lease of a 2025 Mac MD6 with a 10' dump body, for \$2100.00 per month for 36 months. With a second by councilman Echlin and all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

There was much discussion regarding the Eclipse OT Hours, and it was deemed for Informational purposes only. There was no vote. The Budget could / would be adjusted after the event by resolution.

The mayor introduced the Resolution of the Public Works Burn Site / Vegetation Disposal. The Resolution was Titled:

**A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE A SITE FOR VEGETATION DISPOSAL AND BURNING BY THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.**

The Resolution was read in full by councilmember Jim Adams.

A motion was made by councilman Short to adopt the Resolution. With a second by councilmember Sugg and all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried and the Resolution was given #2024-02.

The mayor stated the need to revisit the approval of the minutes plus excerpts dated, December 21, 2023 as presented. With councilman Adams present there were enough councilmembers to vote.

A motion was made by councilman L. Short to approve the minutes plus excerpts of the December 21, 2023 council meeting as presented. With a second by councilman Tubbs and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

**In Open Mic:**

Paula Sporn addressed the council regarding the intersection of Case Street and Pine. She stated that during bad weather the intersection was an issue and asked if the city could put sand there or do something about it. Public Works director Habbley stated there was a natural spring that ran through there and they had tried a few different things.

Councilman J.P. Hodges arrived at 7:10pm

**In Announcements:**

The mayor reminded the council and commissions that the SFI Forms were due January 31<sup>st</sup>.

During the election you can Early vote February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>. March 5<sup>th</sup> being election day.

There will be a workshop for the council on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the HS Community Center to discuss the Survival Flight contract.

The mayor mentioned events for the Eclipse being planned for Sandy Beach and Spring Park. Viewing sites will be JFK Park, Sandy Beach, ASU Latimer Center.

It was also mentioned that Sugarloaf Mtn. will be closed April 8<sup>th</sup>, the day of the Eclipse. The mayor asked if any Nonprofits would like to take over Springfest as a fundraiser.

A motion to adjourn was made by councilman Hodges with a second by councilmember Sugg. With a unanimous Aye, the mayor stated motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTESTED:

City Clerk

2/13/24 Date