

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 28, 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 28th day of March 2024. The following were present:

Mayor Kasey Griffin, Council members: Layne Tubbs, Ali Sugg, Jim Lay, Andy Echlin, Jim Adams, JP Hodges, and Melissa Choate as well as Attorney Rebecca Prince and city clerk Vicki McPherson.

Councilman Louis Short was absent and there was no member of the press in attendance.

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

Councilmember Jim Adams made a motion to approve the minutes plus excerpts of the February 15, 2024, meeting as presented. Councilman Jim Lay made a second. With councilmembers Choate and Adams abstaining and a unanimous vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilmember Adams made a motion to approve the payments journal dated 2/1/24 - 2/29/24. Councilmember Ali Sugg made a second. All councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman Adams made a motion to approve the Financial Statements dated 2/29/2024 as presented. With a second by Tubbs and all councilmembers in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

There were no questions for Supervisors; however, Parks Director Josh Mayes gave a brief update on the baseball program.

The mayor then gave an update of Bond projects ongoing.

The AR Energy project: is waiting for equipment, then will begin the Community Center rehab.

Splash Pad: After Mayes gave a brief update he stated the first design should be completed Friday, March 29 and it is moving forward.

Huntington Place: is complete.

Weddingford Sidewalks: the bids have been done and the city is awaiting a letter from AR DOT in order to proceed.

Downtown Beautification: still in discussion and planning.

The mayor is waiting to meet with AR DOT to discuss the city taking over Main Street update.

CWB had not responded to the mayors request of an update on the Trails at time of the meeting.

3rd Street drainage is 70% complete.

Fire Dept Bays are 40% complete.

Unfinished Business:

The sanitation Ordinance remains tabled until 2nd quarter.

There was discussion regarding tonnage pricing rates, Adams asked for an analysis done on capturing all costs before moving forward, recycling data (then vs now), new leaf vac, and more. There was discussion regarding the fiber optics coming through. The mayor stated If there are any complaints, contact the utility company, First Electric or Entergy.

New Business:

A motion was made by councilmember Sugg to approve the Heber Springs Water Dept. Audit. A second motion was made by councilmember Choate, and with a unanimous vote of Aye by all council members in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilman L. Tubbs made a motion to approve the Eagle Bank CD rollover for another 3 months. A second by councilmember Choate, and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

The mayor introduced the **DBW (doing business with) Big John**. An Ordinance Titled: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH BIG JOHN MFG CORP, PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Ordinance was read in full for first reading by councilmember Adams.

A motion was made by councilman Adams to suspend the rules and place the readings by Title only. A second by Tubbs, Choate abstaining, and a unanimous vote of Aye by all others in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried, and all other readings were made by Title only by councilmember Adams.

A motion was made to adopt the Ordinance by councilmember Sugg, and with a second by Adams, Choate abstaining, and a unanimous vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried. The Ordinance was given # **2024-10**.

The mayor introduced the **DBW (doing business with) SALT**. An Ordinance Titled: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH SALT ENGINEERS & PLANNING, INC.,**

PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Ordinance was read in full for first reading by councilmember Tubbs.

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

A motion was made to adopt the Ordinance by councilman Sugg, and with a second by Lay, Echlin abstaining and a unanimous vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried. The Ordinance was given **#2024-11**.

The mayor introduced the **DBW (doing business with) GarBro**. An Ordinance Titled: **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH GAR-BRO MANUFACTURING CO., PRESCRIBING THE EXTENT OF SAID AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Ordinance was read in full on first reading by councilmember Adams.

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

A motion was made by councilmember Sugg to adopt the Ordinance. With a second by Tubbs, Adams abstaining, and a vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried and the Ordinance was given **# 2024-12**

The Gar-Bro invoice stated on the agenda was a quote for services, not an invoice. There was no vote.

The Superior Sign Invoice stated on the agenda was a quote for services, not an invoice. There was no vote.

The council stated the desire to get additional quotes before moving forward.

The Waste Connections Agreement was tabled until the council could research further.

The mayor opened discussion regarding the SALT letter of recommendation and Bid award for Weddington sidewalks. After much discussion, councilmember Sugg made a motion to approve the Bid award to BMD Builders, LLC for \$252,775.00. With a second by councilmember Choate and a unanimous vote of Aye by all other councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

After much discussion, The Survival Flight agreement / Ordinance was tabled for further clarification on the advisory committee. Sugg asked for the committee to be defined to be certain of equal representation, then the contract could be signed. Attorney Prince agreed

it was a legitimate concern, the mayor agreed to make the necessary changes, bring back to council for a vote, then return to the county for their approval.

The mayor introduced the **2023 Budget Amendment 2 Resolution**. A Resolution Titled: **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE (12) MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Resolution was read in full by councilman Adams.

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

An Add-on from mayor Griffin, was the discussion of the Public Safety Building. The Police and Fire dept have some updates / remodeling needed at a cost of \$34,215.00. Chief Herrin gave a brief update of what would be done. The current council room would be turned into a joint training room, storage room would be turned into bedrooms for overnight shift, rearrange a few walls to create office space, and open the old chamber room to increase the kitchen area and add a laundry area. Hallway bathrooms just need updating, carpet / flooring updated. Current bays will become Police storage and use, and this will eliminate exhaust fumes due to no trucks coming in and out of the building. The Fire Dept. is doing the work themselves.

Adams then asked for a FABT building update. The mayor stated the flooring was laid, the toilets need to be put back in, a few more days of painting, signage, move phones over, security system; there are some quotes, but no decision has been made on this yet. Chief Hale stated they are still deciding if CID will be going into the current admin offices.

A motion was then made by Adams to allow expenditures of up to \$35,000.00 for the improvements of the current Municipal bldg. to house Public Safety, from the General Fund, by Memorial Day weekend 2024. If all funds have not been exhausted by then, we revisit progress on the funds and reallocation of resources. With a second by Hodges and a unanimous vote of Aye by all councilmembers in attendance, the mayor stated motion carried.

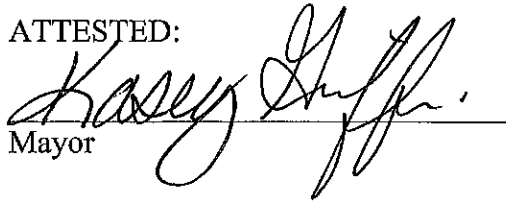
Open Mic: There was no one in attendance to address the council.

Announcements: The mayor announced Easter weekend egg hunt, Eclipse coming up next week, April 8th with events happening all over town.

A Special meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2024 at noon at the community center for a vote on the Survival Flight agreement, with a workshop to follow to discuss Sanitation.

A motion was made to adjourn by councilman Lay, with a second by Sugg. With a unanimous vote of aye, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTESTED:



Mayor



City Clerk

4/18/21 Date