

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 21, 2023**

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 21st day of September 2023. The following were present:

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

Mayor Kasey Griffin called the meeting to order.

Mayor Griffin welcomed Mr. Jack Critcher, Legislative Liaison, with the Arkansas Municipal League. Mr. Critcher presented Senator John Payton with the Distinguished Legislator Award. Critcher stated that this award goes out to members who go above and beyond and he cited Senator Payton for his honesty and common sense. Senator Payton thanked Mr. Critcher and the League for his award and said he has been serving in the house for 10 years, and he is very proud of this award. The mayor thanked both for coming and for all that they have done to serve our community.

Council member Tubbs, seconded by Council member Choate, moved to waive the reading, and approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023, council meeting, as presented. Councilmembers Tubbs and Lay abstaining, and all other council members in attendance voting Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

Councilmember Adams made a motion, with a second by Echlin, to approve the Payments Journal dated 8/1-8/30/23. All members in attendance voting Aye, mayor stated motion carried.

Council member Adams, with a second by Echlin, moved to accept the Financial Statements dated 8/30/2023, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by all council members in attendance.

There were no questions regarding the Supervisor reports.

In **Unfinished Business**, was discussion of the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Shane Keasler, with Survival Flight, was in attendance to engage in discussion and answer any questions the council may have. Mr. Keasler stated that the original idea was to have an ambulance staged at the Mt. Aire Fire station to serve the southern end of the county more quickly, and at some point, stage another on the north end. He stated that with the understanding of this not being a good option, they are now looking at the county road shop. Keasler said there is no more than 3 miles from the Mt. Aire Fire station and the county road shop and feels it would be a good option. Mr. Keasler also stated that knowing the majority of 911 calls come from within the Heber Springs city limits, and if needed, to adequately

cover the city if the hospital was busy with transfers, he would “float” in another truck from outside, to keep 911 taking precedence.

Councilmember Ali Sugg arrived at the meeting at 6:45.

After much discussion, city attorney Rebecca Prince stated that she and the mayor propose for contract modifications between the city of Heber Springs and Survival Flight and ask the county to make modifications on the interlocal agreement and return to the city council. The council stated their desire to work with the county, to come to an agreement that would benefit all its citizens both inside and outside the city limits.

The budget amendment was postponed until all amendment proposals can be discussed.

Next, the mayor introduced a *Business License Ordinance*.

After much discussion, this ordinance was tabled until the next council meeting.

**In New Business**, the mayor stated that the CD’s with maturity date of October 12, were coming up for renewal.

Council member Choate made a motion with a second by Tubbs to renew the recurring CDs of October 12 maturity date. With a unanimous vote of Aye from all councilmembers, the mayor stated motion carried.

Attorney Prince left the meeting at 7:45.

The mayor then asked if there was anyone in attendance for Open Mic.

Jeff Jarvis addressed the council regarding his Air Curtain and the needs of the city disposing of leaves and limbs. He stated that he had been communicating with ADEQ, and as soon as the burn ban was lifted, he was ready to light it up and see how much he could do.

Mr. Jarvis also stated he would like to put up a billboard on the East side of town at the Fire station by Hollands Exxon. After discussion, the council stated the need to have a conversation with Chief Herrin and asked that details with pictures be sent to council for a determination.

**In Announcements:**

Foodie Fest will be September 23

Homecoming on Friday September 29

Ozark Trail Festival is October 6-7

ASU has classes beginning soon.

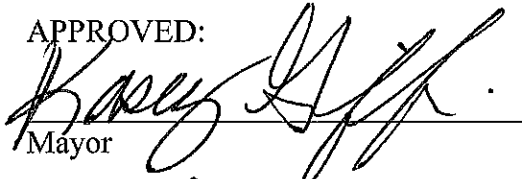
The Haunted House is preparing for its debut.

Christmas Open House will be the first weekend of November.

Councilmember Short made a motion to adjourn with a second by Hodges.

With a unanimous vote of Aye, the mayor stated motion carried.

APPROVED:



Mayor

10-19-23

Date

ATTESTED:



City Clerk