

Russell City Council Meeting

October 10th, 2024

Members present:

Tracy Klotz, Mayor
Barbara Parks, Treasurer/Recorder
Brenda Poole, Secretary
Darrell Kading

Renee Garr
Darrell Lutner
Robin Meachum

Robert Seigriest, Fire Chief
Public Visitors: Betty Case

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer.

New Council Member

It is recommended that Robin Meachum fills the empty city council seat that was vacated by Robert Webber. A motion was made to approve by Garr, seconded by Lutner. Approved by a 4-0 vote.

Fire Dept Update, Rober Seigriest

The new engine that was purchased July 2023 was supposed to be turn-key but needed significant repairs totaling approximately \$17,000. Legal action may be needed to get reimbursement for these repairs. Arkansas Municipal League will be contacted.

Robert gave an update on the meetings and calls for September. Approximately 8,100 gallons of water was used flushing and testing hydrants.

Necessary improvements and repairs need to be made to pass ISO inspections, totaling \$8,000. All tired need to be replaced on engines as well.

- A motion to approve all necessary repairs and updates was made by Poole, seconded by Garr, and approved with a 4-0 vote.

Water Dept Operations Update

The float was repaired. There is some concern with the lack of communication from Tommy. An issue with the sewer at the Brandon Case' residence was reported by Tommy to be an issue with the residential line but after six months of problems the issue was finally discovered to be an issue at the main line. A report about what the issue was or how it was fixed was never presented to the Mayor or the Water Billing Manager.

Water Dept Finance Update, Barbara Parks

Parks gave a reporting of the Water Department's accounts, both deposits and expenditures with bank statements for the council members and Mayor Klotz to review.

Treasurer Update, Barbara Parks

Parks presented the council with the monthly bank statements and a verbal report of expenditures and revenue.

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Public Comment

Betty Case, Brandon Case' mother, reported that Tommy said to send the town the bill for fixing it. She first reported the issue in April or May 2024. He told her that there was a partial blockage where the line tied into the main sewer line.

Old Business

Sewer Grant Update

The mayor met with PMI, WRRD, and Humbard. With federally funded grants, all materials have to be USA made. The pumps are backlogged by 6 months. Construction will likely begin in Jan or Feb 2025.

Road Maintenance: Holes at the railroad tracks have been fixed. Street signs will be in this month.

Audit: The official findings were reviewed. Good financial compliance. The only official problem reported was that the last audit was not recorded as discussed in council meeting minutes.

Trunk or Treat: Cancelled for 2024 due to possible rain. We will man a booth at the Bald Knob event and the fire department will have a truck there passing out candy as well.

Clean-Up: There will be no residential pick for this cleanup. Items must be taken to Searcy. Notices were posted to the Facebook page and town web site as well as the Russell Post Office.

Council Discussion: Kading asked when was the last time the council and city employees had a raise or bonus. Garr said bonuses can be done by the annual budget needs to be amended. Mayor Klotz said he would work on some numbers and call a special meeting for approval of bonus pay.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned, motion by Kading, seconded by Lutner, approved with a 4-0 vote.

[Approved and Signed Dec 9, 2024]

Tracy Klotz, Mayor

Date

[Approved and Signed Dec 9, 2024]

Barbara Parks, Recorder/Treasurer

Date