

CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS
 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 FEBRUARY 5, 2001

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Mayor Beau Satori called the February 5th, 2001, meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Carroll County Courthouse.

PRESENT:

Mayor Satori, and Aldermen Stoppel, Sumpter, Simon, Harrison, DeVito, and Dozier.

ALSO PRESENT:

Judy and Robert Echenrode, Guy Czajka, Karen Gross, Barbara Harmony, Robert Miller, Carol Brown, Mike Sutton, Pat Costner, Dr. Jan Quint, Dr. Lyn Maudin, Dr. Ken Covington, Ray Dilfield, Sherry Wilson, Kim Dickens, Don Matt, Rhonda Tauton, and Clerk Lee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Satori led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The motion was made and seconded to approve the December 7th, 2000, Council Meeting minutes. The vote was 6/0/0, to approve.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of December 22nd, 2000, Council Meeting. The vote was 6/0/0.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 22nd, 2001, Council Meeting minutes. The amendments were noted. The vote on the minutes as amended was 6/0/0.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE AND AUTHORITY REPORTS AND VACANCIES:

Mayor Satori nominated Mike Drennon for Position No. 2 of the Parks Commission, which expires May 31, 2003.

The Mayor said that Ken Fugate was willing to serve for another term on the Cemetery Commission in Position 3. His term will expire on February 15th, 2001.

The motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Raymond Dilfield to Position 4, on the Historic district Commission. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

The motion was made and seconded to approve Karen Brawley to the Parks Commission, Position 5. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

Since Mr. Fugate is a current member of the Cemetery Commission, Position 3, the motion was made and seconded to approve him for another term. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

None.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT:

Ms. Dickens reported on the Chamber of Commerce's Survival Party, held a couple of Saturdays ago. Through a voting process, four of our City employees were chosen. Diane Murphy was awarded Municipal Employee of the Year.

David Stoppel received Paramedic of the Year. Jimmy Kelley received Firefighter of the Year. Paul Base received Police Officer of the Year.

Ms. Dickens received an attorney's opinion on the hospital regarding the idea of having the legislature create a Western District tax. It is unconstitutional, and cannot be done.

She asked when the Council would like to hold the next Council Meeting since Monday, February 19th, 2001, is a holiday. The Council agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday, February 20th, 2001, at 7 p.m.

Ms. Dickens reported that the Planer Hill Sidewalk project is going forward. An ordinance will be presented at the next City Council Meeting, regarding the maintenance of the sidewalk. The City will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Planer Hill Sidewalk. The sidewalk ordinance will have to be amended to comply with State Regulations in order to receive the grant.

The construction documents are being signed for the new Police Facility and excavation will be started within the next four weeks.

The plans for Lake Leatherwood Dam are compiled and are being examined by Arkansas Soil and Water. As soon as they are approved it will go out for bid.

The sewer repair should begin on February 6th, 2001. There will be more signage to help keep people from the closed areas. The City is waiting for final approval from the ADEQ on the treatment plant improvements and as soon as that comes in, it will go out for bid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion of Resolution No. 481, Water District Fluoridation:

Several of the Alderpersons reported that they had gotten negative responses to Carroll Boone's proposal to fluoridate the water that would be coming into Eureka Springs. Berryville, Green Forest, and Harrison have all agreed to fluoridation. Several people addressed the Council opposing fluoridation. Guy Czajka, Karen Gross, Barbara Hamory, Robert Miller, Carol Brown, Mike Sutton, Pat Costner, and Dr. Jan Quint spoke against it. Many had done considerable research and gave handouts to the Council.

Dr. Lyn Maudin, State Dental Director, refuted the claims that fluoride cannot be filtered from the water and it is dangerous, etc. He said it can be filtered from the water with a filter that costs about \$60, and that is such a minute amount to be put in the water that it is not dangerous. He said that fluoride can actually reverse tiny new cavities. He said this is the most thoroughly researched public health measure in the 20th Century. He said that his job and the job of the Council is to

protect the citizens, and that includes protecting their teeth. Medicaid spends large amounts of money to correct the problems caused by lack of fluoridation. The doctor said that for every argument of research against fluoride in the water, he has documented evidence for it.

Mr. And Mrs. Echenrode and Dr. Ken Covington spoke in favor of fluoridation.

Alderman DeVito suggested that the City could get a good cross section of opinion by asking people to respond on the back of the water bills. He was not in favor of going to the expense of an election.

The motion was made and seconded to table Resolution No. 481 until the poll was taken of the community through the water bill. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

Alderman DeVito said he hoped that the news media would present a fair and balanced report on the subject of fluoridation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of request for funds from the library:

Jean Elderwind, Librarian of the Carnegie Library of Eureka Springs, and Administrator of the Carroll and Madison Library System, said that it had come to light that the agreement they thought they had in the budget meetings in December was contrary to the Arkansas State Constitution. Berryville gives their Library an annual stipend. After checking with the Attorney General's Office, the Library drew up a contract for the Council's consideration, so that the transaction would be done legally.

Mayor Satori mentioned that an ordinance could possibly be needed, and there was some discussion of ways an annual stipend could be done.

Several members of the Council mentioned looking at the budget in July to see if the money could be found.

Lynn Larsen spoke for the Library Board, and told the Council that the Library is desperately short funded. She said that the people in Arkansas have no idea what it takes to fund a good library. She said the library receives 1/3 of one mil in annual taxes.

The motion was made and seconded to look over the budget for the funds and bring it up at the May 20th, 2001 meeting. The vote was 4/2/0, with Aldermen Simon and Sumpter voting no.

Discussion regarding Ordinance No. 1861, amending one way street, Armstrong Street, (first Reading):

The motion was made and seconded to place Ordinance No. 1861 on its first reading in its entirety. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

Ms. Dickens read the ordinance in its entirety.

The motion was made and seconded to approve. All were in favor, 6/0/0.

The question was raised as to why Armstrong should come downhill instead of going up.

Ann Armstrong said she sees people take chances in crossing in front of downhill traffic to go up Armstrong.

The discussion ranged from the danger of coming down a grade that steep, to opening Peerless Street and to use one street to feed up from South Main St. and the other to feed down onto South Main Street, to alleviate the traffic at the top of Planer Hill.

Mayor Satori said that during busy and heavy traffic times there should be a traffic controller at the top of Planer Hill.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Alderman Simon gave the Mayor recommendations for commission positions.

Alderman Stoppel reported that the Fire Department received a \$5,000 grant to buy equipment for the Buck Mountain Fire Station. The grant was from the Rural Fire Protection Program in Roland, Arkansas.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Satori said many requests have come in to have the Hospital Commission meet here at City Hall and broadcast the meetings, or at least record them and re-broadcast them so the citizens can be kept aware of what is being done. The question came up about who would be available to work the cameras. Don Matt said that Rhonda has been hired to work 20 hours a week and money has been budgeted for 20 hours per week.

The motion was made and seconded to have the Hospital Commission meet here, so that they can be televised.

The vote was 6/0/0.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All were in favor, 6/0/0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

This is the signature sheet for the minutes of February 5, 2001.

APPROVED:

Mayor Beau Satori

ATTEST:

Mary Ann Lee, City Clerk-Treasurer