

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS, BENTON COUNTY,
ARKANSAS, HELD MARCH 15, 2016

The Board of Directors of the City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, met in regular session at the City of Siloam Springs Administration Building, on March 15, 2016.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner.

Roll Call: Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman–Present

Phillip Patterson, City Administrator; Jay Williams, City Attorney; Renea Ellis, City Clerk; James Wilmeth, Police Chief; Greg Neely, Fire Chief; Don Clark, Community Services Director; all present.

Opening prayer was led by Scott Jones.

Mayor John Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A copy of the March 1, 2016 minutes of the regular meeting had previously been given to each Director. A Motion was made by Smiley and seconded by Smith to accept the minutes. Mayor called for a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

The first agenda item was the Open Hearing for Citizens Present.
Don Cundiff, 601 W. Tahlequah, stated there was a fire alarm in his neighborhood and was quickly responded to by both the Police and Fire department. He stated there was an off-duty officer that assisted with crowd control. He then stated sidewalks would have helped prevent any injuries in the ditch and mud was the only thing that could have made it better.

The next item on the agenda: Presentations / Workforce Development and Tourism Development Awards / Crews & Associates.

Discussion: Bob Wright, Senior Managing Director of Crews & Associates, presented awards for Tourism and Workforce development. He thanked the Board for their time and offered his congratulations.

The next item on the agenda: Public Hearing / AEDC Economic Development Grant / Gates Corporation / Grant Closeout Report.

Discussion: Cassie Elliott of Visionary Milestones, briefed the grant history. Smiley thanked Elliott for her work and Gates for their efforts.

The next item on the agenda: Memorandum of Agreement / Renewal of Emergency Medical Services for 2016 / City of Gentry.

Discussion: Greg Neely, Fire Chief, briefed the item. Johnson asked if we require the price to increase each year. Neely stated it's negotiated and reciprocity is very valuable and pointed out that Gentry covered for Siloam when Siloam's ladder truck had been out of service. Burns stated he would like to see numbers higher as Gentry annexes and grows. Neely stated numbers would be higher if Gentry were able to secure funding. Burns asked about equipment replacement. Neely briefed. Burns stated he came across strong, but as Siloam Springs grows, he wants to see it covered.

He encourages the City to get numbers up. Beers expressed his appreciation for the hard work and the reciprocity with Gentry. Neely then gave number of calls that Siloam responded to in 2015, and percentage ratio, to West Siloam Springs, Gentry and the County, along with the amount charged to each entity. A Motion to approve the MOA with City of Gentry for EMS Services was made by Smiley and seconded by Beers.

Roll Call:

Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman, Johnson –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Memorandum of Agreement / Renewal of Emergency Medical Services for 2016 / Benton County.

Discussion: Greg Neely, Fire Chief, briefed the item. Smiley expressed her appreciation of the department's hard work. Burns stated we are in the EMS business, and everything increases, and he would like to see the numbers higher. Jones thanked Neely and encouraged him to look at the formula used; County should pay what reflects true cost. Smiley stated level of service was never considered; that it was all dollars and if we want to get aggressive, then we need to come together and decide if we want to be in the County EMS service. Burns stated he has higher expectation of service as a City citizen as opposed to residing in the County. After further discussion, a Motion to approve the EMS agreement with Benton County was made by Smiley and seconded by Burns.

Roll Call:

Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman, Johnson, Smiley –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Maintenance Agreement / Veterans Fallen Soldiers Memorial.

Discussion: Don Clark, Community Services Director, briefed the item; including who would be responsible for what costs. David Humphrey, 15968 Butler Rd, thanked Don Clark and the team for their work. Burns stated it was his general understanding that the flags will be on LED lights and estimated cost is \$30 per year and stated staff will insure a safe area. He stated this will take us in the future because it represents sacrifice. Beers expressed his appreciation for two organizations raising money for the community. He stated LED lighting is negligible and supports looking further. Jones asked what exactly the City was committing to with the agreement and the future uses for the park. Phillip Patterson, City Administrator, said the intent was to incorporate the up lighting into general area lighting at the memorial. He then addressed Jones' question about the park area; stating it is leased premises and that clarification will be assured. Smiley stated she is proud we have groups to honor those who have sacrificed. A Motion to approve the Veterans Fallen Soldiers Memorial Maintenance Agreement was made by Smith and seconded by Johnson.

Roll Call:

Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Ordinance 16-04 / Amend Municipal Code 66-17 / Graffiti.

Discussion: James Wilmeth, Police Chief, briefed the item. Tyler Carrol, 415 N. Broadway, stated this is a good opportunity for public/private partnership and puts property owners at odds with the City. He stated he would like to see this amended. Gary Dieker, 1308 Deerfield Meadow, asked about an area and if it was graffiti or public art. He was told art. Wilmeth explained the time factor was to abate the problem as quickly as possible and send a "no-tolerance" message by the community. After lengthy discussion and the voicing of concerns by the Board, Patterson proposed withdrawing the item and re-writing the ordinance. Smiley stated she wants to make sure the item

came back in a timely manner due to the severity of this issue. Beers agreed with Smiley. Ordinance 16-04 / Amend Municipal Code 66-17 / Graffiti was pulled from the agenda to a later date.

The next item on the agenda: Resolution 08-16 / Local Government Endorsement of State of Arkansas Tax Back Program / Simmons Feed Ingredients, Inc.

Discussion: Jay Williams, City Attorney, briefed the item. Beers asked if State loses tax revenue. Williams answered that is correct. Coleman asked if it has been done with other companies in town. Williams answered not to his knowledge. Patterson pointed out the tax back incentive with a new hotel in 2015. Jeff Webster, President at Simmons Feed Ingredients, stated taxes generated would be minimal and that there would be 78 newly created jobs. A Motion to approve Resolution 08-16 was made by Coleman and seconded by Smiley.

Discussion: Burns stated it's a great problem to have and that we are very fortunate.

Roll Call:

Jones, Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Resolution 09-16 / Naming of Southside Park / Eliana Chacon Memorial Park.

Discussion: Troy Kirkendall, Parks and Recreation Manager, briefed the item. David Allen, 1600 Villa View Drive, asked how long the City had owned the property and wondered why this decision was made to name this park without family donating the land or considering other past tragedies. Don Clark, Community Services Director, stated City purchased the land in late 2013. Smiley stated she feels this is very appropriate. Burns stated he would like to see plaque explaining the name and hoped the park would represent life instead of the tragedy that occurred there. Beers, Burns and Smiley stated they would like staff to look at the process of naming in the future. A Motion to approve Resolution 09-16 was made by Smiley and seconded by Jones.

Roll Call:

Coleman, Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda: Staff Reports / Community Development / Tree City USA.

Discussion: Don Clark, Community Services Director, briefed the requirements. He pointed out that the City currently meets several requirements. Beers expressed his appreciation of all the work that Staff had done. Coleman stated he would rather see money directed toward our springs. Burns agreed with Coleman. Coleman suggested we put it on "parking lot" and talk about it at an appropriate time.

The next item on the agenda: Staff Reports / Community Development / Volunteer City.

Discussion: Don Clark briefed the item. Smiley stated she is glad we are seeking this as we are a great volunteer City.

Director Johnson stepped out at 9:04 pm; returned at 9:07 pm.

Administrator's Report: Phillip Patterson, City Administrator, reported an expenditure for Fireworks Display for 4th of July Event in the amount of \$12,000 per year for a three-year period, totaling \$36,000 for 2016-2018. He then pointed out the new podium, and the timing controls.

Open Hearing of Directors: Mayor stated the turnout for the ribbon cutting at the new Library was amazing and then thanked the IT department for their efforts. Beers stated we have a working City and proceeded to go over all the things the City has addressed and how great a City this is. Burns

stated there is a 5k and pancake breakfast at Fire Station 1 this Saturday. He then thanked Gates for expanding and being a big part of our economic development. He said it was a good discussion tonight and thanked his fellow Board members. Smith expressed thanks to all citizens that voted. She then extended her excitement for the new Library opening. She stated the Main Event will be scheduled for April 8th at 28 Springs, and then encouraged everyone to donate. Jones expressed his excitement for the new Library ribbon cutting as well. He then stated he is looking forward to the City engaging in a number of improvements over the next few years, in particular the redevelopment of the uphill and downhill portions of the old hospital site and pointed out that sales tax numbers are up. Smiley thanked citizens for supporting the sales tax. She stated the library is one of her proudest moments. She congratulated the Electric Department as they were honored by the American Public Power Association for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2015. She reminded everyone with pets that the annual chip, dip, and shots was this Saturday at the Ravenwood Pet Clinic. Coleman expressed his amazement at the new library. He also congratulated the Electric Department. He stated One-Stop Shop is fantastic.

A Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss City Administrator's Employment was made by Johnson and seconded by Smiley.

Roll Call:

Johnson, Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

Meeting reconvened at 9:39pm. A Motion to increase the base salary of City Administrator by 4% was made by Jones and seconded by Smiley.

Roll Call:

Smiley, Burns, Beers, Smith, Jones, Coleman, Johnson –Aye.

7 Ayes. No Nays. Motion passed.

Coleman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Smiley. The Mayor called for a voice vote. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Renea Ellis, City Clerk



John Mark Turner, Mayor

