

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,  
HELD JUNE 6, 2023

The City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, met in regular session at the City of Siloam Springs Administration Building on June 6, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nation.

Roll Call: Carroll, Hunt, Allen, Blair, Rissler, Wiles, Smiley – Present.

City Representatives Present: Christina Petriches, Acting City Administrator; Renea Ellis, City Clerk; Jay Williams, City Attorney; Chief Jeremy Criner, Fire Department; Chief Allan Gilbert, Police Department; Kevin Moore, City Engineer; Don Clark, Community Development Director; and Ben Rhoads, Sr. City Planner.

Director Blair led the opening prayer.

The mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The mayor announced that Jonathan Barnett would like to address the Board and turned the meeting over to him. Barnett gave the names of the screening committee members; gave an update on the work being done by them, including the interviewing process; stated the city should be pleased with the quality of the candidates; and thanked Director Rissler for her help in coordinating with the Board.

The mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience regarding an item not on the City's agenda. Jamie O'Kelly of Shady Grove Road, read a prepared statement about her concerns as well as others regarding the *Pride* event this weekend, and pointed out the law against children being at this type of event. Kelsey Howard, 312 S. College, thanked the Board for the work they do; stated she was unsettled about Director Allen's comments in his Director's Report and reference to gender; that Siloam should welcome all people regardless of their religion or gender; that this should be a welcoming space; and remarked about *Unite Siloam* being a bipartisan effort and we should all be civically engaged. Matthew Dromi, 2206 N. Carl, addressed O'Kelly's comments, stating the concerns were logical fallacies associated with the positions held by those who would agree with her; the most important thing is what is required for kids to attend; that parents should be responsible for where their children are allowed to be and that pride events are not compulsory. Rebecca Wyatt, 1109 E. Jewell, said she was not comfortable taking her grandchildren downtown during pride events; Christians don't want to see same sex couples kissing in public or things that are inappropriate; that things are getting ridiculous; kids don't know if they are a girl or boy; and thanks for a space where she's allowed to say this which is based on Biblical scripture. Arthur Hulbert, 20705 Hwy. 16, we need to love everyone but not support everything; and that he's not in support of the recall effort; and that we have a great town and he's happy to be a part of it. Kent Wyatt, 1109 E. Jewell, doesn't support the recall and thinks we have a great Board; is concerned about the direction the city is going,

especially with the LGT [sic] issues in particular; that if you take sex out of the equation, you don't have anything left; that children exposed to things at a young age that they can't comprehend, comes down to the people responsible for protecting them aren't doing it; if the LGBT community wants respect, they need to quit embracing every insanity that comes before them; and that the generations coming up will pay.

The mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience regarding an item on the Consent Agenda. No one came forward.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes / May 16, 2023
- B. Dedication of Utility Easements / 307 and 403 Meadow Brook Circle
- C. Dedication of Utility Easements / 19000 Block of Star Road
- D. Dedication of Utility Easements/ 23792 Sycamore Heights Road
- E. Mutual Aid Agreement / Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma (MESO)
- F. Budget Amendment / Community Development Department / Parks & Rec. Division / FAC - Cashiers

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Smiley and seconded by Carroll. Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Architectural Services Contract / Fire Department / Fire Station #1 / Matthias J. Pearson Architect PLLC / \$165,000. Chief Criner briefed the item. A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Wiles to table the item until June 20, with Criner to provide additional information in a workshop. Motion passed 4/3 with Smiley, Hunt and Carroll voting no.
- H. Memorandum of Understanding / Manna Center. Christina Petriches briefed the item. A motion was made to table the item until June 20, by Smiley and seconded by Rissler, with Criner providing additional information in a workshop. Motion passed unanimously.
- I. Ordinance 23-10/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading / Amending Section 102-21 of the City Municipal Code / Rezoning from A-1 to P-D / 2000 Block of East Tahlequah Street. Ben Rhoads briefed the item. Questions regarding wetlands came up and were addressed by staff; as well as questions about setbacks. A motion was made by Smiley and seconded by Allen to place Ordinance 23-10 on its third reading, suspending the rules and reading by title only.

An ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Amending Section 102-21 of the Siloam Springs Municipal Code (city zoning map); Rezoning (from A-1 to P-D) property located at the 2000 Block of East Tahlequah Street; was read on its third reading.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-10 was made by Smiley and seconded by Rissler. Motion passed unanimously.

- J.** Ordinance 23-11 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Annexation of 10 acres / 2603 S. Lincoln Street. Ben Rhoads briefed the item. Blair brought up concerns regarding drainage that had been brought to her from the neighboring property owners. Diane Whorton, 20360 Lawlis, said he and her husband pastor the church across the highway and the flooding problem had gotten worse. A motion was made by Rissler and seconded by Hunt to place Ordinance 23-11 on its second reading, suspending the rules and reading by title only. Motion passed unanimously.

An Ordinance Accepting the Annexation of Certain Territory Having the Address of 2603 South Lincoln Street to the City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas and Assigning the same to a Ward; was read on its second reading.

- K.** Ordinance 23-13 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Personnel Authority. Wiles made a motion to table the item to the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion by the Board included the reason this came up; the fact that AML advised against the Board being involved in personnel matters; that it was a backstop for employee protection; and the city's grievance policy. The motion was seconded by Rissler. Motion passed 4/3 with Smiley, Hunt and Carroll voting no.

- L.** Ordinance 23-14 / 1<sup>st</sup> Reading / Annexation of 40.40 acres M/L / 3100 Block of North Mt. Olive Street and the 700 Block of West Pittsfield Street. Ben Rhoads briefed the item. A motion to place Ordinance 23-14 on its first reading, suspending the rules and reading by title only, was made by Wiles and seconded by Smiley. Motion passed unanimously.

An ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Accepting the Annexation of Certain Territory Described as the 3100 Block of North Mount Olive Street and the 700 Block of West Pittsfield Street to the City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas and assigning same to a Ward; was read on its first reading.

- M.** Ordinance 23-15 / 1<sup>st</sup> Reading / Vacation of Utility Easements / 224 & 302 South College Street. Maegan Thomas Briefed the item. A motion to place Ordinance 23-15 on its first reading, suspending the rules and reading title only, was made by Allen and seconded by Smiley. Motion passed unanimously.

An ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Vacating and Abandoning Portions of two Utility Easement Right-of-ways at 224 & 302 South College Street; was read on its first reading.

- N.** Resolution 28-23 / Significant Development Permit / 1800 to 1900 Block of Azlin Place (Rose Meade Townhomes) Ben Rhoads briefed items N and O simultaneously. Ron Homeyer, 701 S. Mt. Olive, Civil Engineering, on behalf of the applicant, stated certain conditions required by staff are not in city code. Don Clark explained the conditions and reasoning behind them. A motion to table the item to the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Rissler and seconded by Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

- O.** Resolution 29-23 / Significant Development Permit / 1901 Azlin Place (Rose Meade Townhomes). Ben Rhoads briefed the item simultaneously with Item N. A motion to table the item to the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Rissler and seconded by Allen. Motion passed unanimously.
- P.** Resolution 30-23 / Significant Development Permit / 1993 Highway 412 East (Plasma Donation Center). Ben Rhoads briefed the item. A motion to approve the item was made by Allen and seconded by Smiley. Motion passed unanimously.
- Q.** Resolution 31-23 / Significant Development Permit / 1611 Cheri Whitlock Drive (New Life Church). Maegan Thomas briefed the item. Ron Homeyer, 701 S. Mt. Olive, Civil Engineering, on behalf of the applicant, stated the city was asking the church to fix all drainage issues and explained his drainage plans. A motion to approve the item, with staff's recommended conditions, was made by Hunt and seconded by Allen. Motion passed unanimously.
- R.** Resolution 32-23 / Significant Development Permit / 2301 East Main Street (Club Carwash). Maegan Thomas briefed the item. A motion to approve the item was made by Smiley and seconded by Allen. Motion passed unanimously.
- S.** Resolution 33-23 / Preliminary Plat Development Permit / Oak Brook Addition / 3095 North Mount Olive Street. Maegan Thomas briefed the item and Kevin Moore expanded with information on traffic increase. Following lengthy discussion between the Board, applicants and staff, including wetlands issues; drainage concerns; flooding; the type of houses being built; and the potential for the applicants to start over if the drainage report changed; a motion to table the item to the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Smiley and seconded by Rissler. Motion passed 6/1 with Hunt voting no.
- T.** Taxi Program Extension Discussion. Don Clark gave a background of the taxi program; the costs to the city to run the program; and potential additional expenses if the program was extended outside the city limits to the city's planning area. The consensus of the Board was for staff to move forward with the extension of the program.
- U.** April Financials. Petriches pointed out that the April financials had been provided and any questions should be addressed to her.
- V.** Administrator's Report. Clark, at Petriches' request, gave an update to the Board on the Sager Creek project. Petriches then reviewed the report attached hereto.

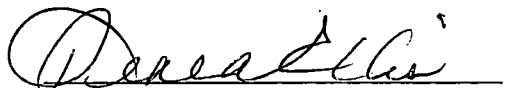
Directors Report: Smiley thanked staff for the workshop; pointed out "Shakespeare in the Park" would be this Friday and Saturday; thanked all those involved with the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday event, and said she looked forward to the next. Allen thanked staff for the workshop; commended the Electric Department for its level of service and reliability; thanked the street department for their

expertise with the work on the Villa View project; thanked Nation for letting him fill in for her at the last meeting; asked staff to check on the development on Dawn Hill Road; and reminded the public of a meeting held by ArDoT regarding I39 and I49 creating an interstate at the Simmons Great Hall, one at 11a for officials and 4p for general public. Hunt also praised the Electric Department; echoed comments on the street department; and on the success of the first 4<sup>th</sup> Friday and thought Siloam's event was better than others in the area and thanked those who put it on. Blair said our electric department was the best; asked about the Brentwood project; Petriches pointed out the entire project was currently out for bid. Blair also asked about adding lanes to the Allen Elementary dropout area. Rissler thanked the selection committee for the hours they've put in; said that is a well-rounded group; and they all, including the Board, had a heart for the community. Nation said what a great job had been done on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday; that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans and American Legion had put on a fantastic program, very moving and paid great tribute to our veterans to allow us the rights we have in this country. Rissler said everyone should attend the flag burning ceremony on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Levi Douthit Post 1674, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Carroll echoed sentiment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday and said how good it was to see the community there; that the taxi program was needed in our community; and more was needed for our seniors to assist them in the transition and maintain independence.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Carroll and seconded by Allen. Nation called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

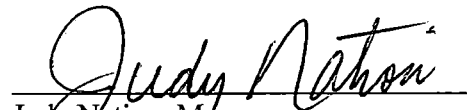
Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Renea Ellis, City Clerk, CAMC/CMC



APPROVED:

  
Judy Nation, Mayor





Expenditures:

In excess of \$30,000

- \$41,687 – Welcome sign replacement – City to be reimbursed

Per Resolution 61-21

- None

1. With regard to sanitation issues, information was requested at the last meeting. April was used as an average monthly revenue for services provided. Below is the information from sanitation and utility billing.
  - a. Residential and commercial blue roll carts were picked up each week with the exception of new routes. Customers who called were provided a credit for their service. April revenue related to roll carts was \$116,892.
  - b. Industrial roll offs, which are mostly temporary dumpsters for job sites, had a number of late removals. There were no added charges due to the late removal of the dumpster. April revenue was \$61,429.
  - c. Industrial dumpsters had issues when both dumpster trucks were in the shop. Credits to customers that called in were based on the number of weeks of service missed. For example, if staff picked up 2 of 4 scheduled times in a month, a 50% credit was provided. April revenue was \$67,476.
  - d. Total revenue for the month was \$245,717.
2. Downtown streets will be cleaned, restriped, and sealed in June. All downtown streets will be closed beginning Saturday June 10 at 10 p.m. through June 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. Congratulations on the success of the first "4<sup>th</sup> Friday," hosted by Discover Siloam, a collaborative effort by the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street and City of Siloam Springs.
4. Next week, we have the first of two Police and Fire camps for ages 5-17.
5. The rodeo is also occurring next week - the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>.
6. Finally, Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day. There will be a flag burning ceremony Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at the VFW from 4pm to 5:30pm.