

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CITY OF SILOAM SPRINGS, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,
HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

The City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, met in regular session at the City of Siloam Springs Administration Building on September 20, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Judy Nation at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Smiley, Rissler, Sappington, Burns, Allen, Carroll – Present. Hunt – Absent.

City Representatives Present: Phillip Patterson, City Administrator; Renea Ellis, City Clerk; Chief Jeremy Criner, Fire Department; Chief Allan Gilbert, Police Department; Justin Bland, City Engineer; and Jay Williams, City Attorney.

Opening prayer. Director Carroll led the opening prayer.

The mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience regarding an item on the Consent agenda. Jerry Cavness, 2307 W. Granite, came forward on behalf of the American Legion Post 29; he expressed the legion's gratitude for the working relationship with the city; thanked the city for the recent work done on the floors in the legion's meeting area inside the Community Building; pointed out the flags on Hwy. 412 had been replaced and thanked the police department for their assistance; and pointed out the Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction would be this Saturday from 7:00 to 11:00 am at the Community Building. James McGwirk, 412 W. University, said he was stunned the city would consider selling the property in Oklahoma and suggested seeking legal advice to determine whether the sale would result in legal violations.

The mayor announced that Item E would be removed from the agenda and possibly reset to the October 4th meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Workshop Minutes / September 6, 2022
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes / September 6, 2022
- C. Dedication of Utility Easements / 100 Block of South Oak Hill St
- D. Granting Slope and Grading Easement / 1550 Cheri Whitlock Dr.

A motion was made by Smiley and seconded by Sappington to approve the Consent Agenda. Nation asked for a roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Item E: Curt Smith, Siloam Springs County Club Golf Course. It was previously announced this item was removed from the agenda.

Item F: Discussion of the fireworks ordinance. Chief Criner reviewed with the Board options for change to the municipal code. Discussion from the Board included the possibility of changing the days and times allowed for shooting fireworks within the city limits; the fact that this was a non-

enforceable situation; the Fire Chief's opinion on the ordinance to which he replied the ordinance was in line with other cities and that there were no significant increases to call since the ordinance was adopted; the Police Chief reported the number of calls had decreased since the ordinance was adopted; and the fact that the public needs to be able to participate in the celebration of freedom; and that nuisance calls prevent the ability to respond to serious crisis calls.

Item G: Offer from the Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Department (OSEED) to purchase Siloam Springs Water Resource Company Property in Oklahoma. Patterson reviewed the offer from the OSEED and different options for selling different parcels. Sappington stated that a large portion of land had already been lost; that the property needed to be taken care of regardless of it being a burden or not; and she was against the sale. Allen asked for clarification; stated the city didn't need the money; asked for a history of lawsuits involving the SSWRC; stated he believed it was already protected; and wasn't in favor of selling at this time. Burns pointed out the importance of a conservation easement and the benefits of the same; and the tax base opportunities the WOKA Park would create to off-set tax increases; and stated that option 1 was a great option but he would be in favor of option 1 or 2. Williams stated he would research the suits in Oklahoma, but the Langley case was the only where last was lost. Rissler asked about the city of another entity putting a conservation easement on the property and managing it, and that she would be in favor of option 3. Smiley said the quality of water needed to be preserved; the WOKA Park will create a need for more management; and she would be in favor of option 2. Carroll said the property would need to be managed if kept by the city and sold if we can't; that if sold it would need to be taken care of properly; and he was in favor of option 2.

Item M: Administrator's Report: Patterson reviewed the Administrator's report attached hereto and announced Holland Hayden's resignation.

Directors reports: Allen recognized Jerry Cavness for coming tonight and the work the Legion does with local charities; thanked Leif Kindberg for the presentation and said he learned a lot. Smiley said the shelter was full and if you are needing a pet, to go adopt. Burns pointed out the Chautauqua Amphitheater was used for the Heritage Festival; what a great amenity it was; and encouraged the public to go and read up on the history of the same.

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

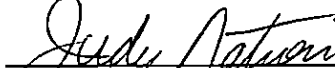
Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

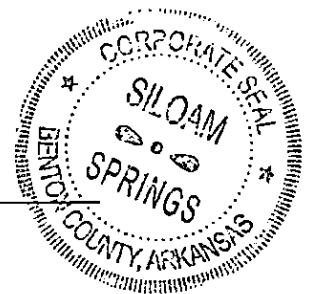


Renea Ellis, City Clerk, CAMC/CMC

APPROVED:



Judy Nation, Mayor





1. Expenditures:

- \$31,600.00 – Airport – 8,000 gallons of Jet A Fuel

Per Resolution 61-21

- \$98,727.00 – Electric – 20 25kva, 21 37.5kva, and 5 50kva 120/240 2Bushing Pole Top Transformers/Inventory

2. Utility Commission – Advertisements for applications will be published in the Herald Leader on Sept 21st and again on Oct 12th. Information will also be posted on the city's webpage and social media. Applications can be completed and submitted online or can be picked up in the office of the city clerk. Applications will be accepted through October 31st.
3. Fall Clean Up – is scheduled for next week September 26th – 29th
4. Keep Siloam Springs Beautiful - City staff is organizing a clean-up day for Saturday, October 22, 2022. Staff, local businesses, and the public will be working together to clean up community areas such as parks, and roadways. The main clean-up event will start at 8:00 AM and conclude with a gathering at 1:00 PM at Memorial Park. The City is partnering with Keep Arkansas Beautiful for this event.
5. Broadband RFI – Staff has been working with CCG Consulting to develop an RFI to determine if there is any interest from internet service providers to partner with the City to develop city wide fiber optic internet. The RFI will be published in both local papers, on the City's website as well as the State's bid site, and will also be sent directly to a number of ISPs. Staff will also be contracting with CCG to assist with reviewing responses and conducting interviews.
6. Hispanic Heritage Festival – one of the Board's 2021-2022 goals was to develop new cultural events that strengthen our quality of life and cultural diversity. This weekend the City hosted it first Hispanic Heritage Festival. The event was a success with food trucks, 44 vendors and kid activities, and live music throughout the day. I want to thank the staff who volunteered to work the festival, and specifically I want to thank Holland Hayden who planned and executed the event. The festival would not have been a success without her efforts.