

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 9, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President Travis Hooker.

Roll Call: Present – Council Members Hayden, Hooker, Menke, Roesler, and Weisenbeck. Also Present: Administrator Rasmussen, Public Works Director Gilles, Police Chief Ridgeway, and Ambulance Co-Director Bignell. Absent: Mayor Milliren, Council Member Weishapple, City Clerk Morgan, Fire Chief King, and City Engineer Kiviniemi. Due and proper notice of meeting was confirmed.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Council Member Hayden and seconded by Council Member Roesler to adopt the agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment: None

Scheduled Appearances: None

Consent Agenda: The City Council Members reviewed the Regular Council Meeting minutes from July 26, 2023 and bartender licenses for Brinly R. Bauer at Cell Block and Ambler L. Osteen-Kangas at the Corral. Motion by Council Member Roesler, seconded by Council Member Menke to approve Regular Council Meeting minutes from July 26, 2023, and bartender licenses for Brinly R. Bauer at Cell Block and Ambler L. Osteen-Kangas at the Corral as presented under the Consent Agenda. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Business Agenda - Mayor's Report: In Mayor Milliren's absence, Council President Hooker offered the Council's condolences to Mayor Milliren and the Whitwam family.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Rasmussen gave an update on recent meetings with both the FunFest Committee and Library Board. The FunFest committee is exploring its options for the 2024 event due to the recent sale of lots that they had used for the event and the reconstruction of Madison Street next year. The Library Board had a recent meeting to work on the contract with the Durand-Arkansas School District, and that process is progressing well.

Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 23-05 A Resolution Approving Transfer of O.R. Hanson Park Property by Quit Claim Deed. Offered by Council Member Weisenbeck. Administrator Rasmussen explained that the five (5) acres had been deeded to the City from the School District of Durand in 2001, to be used only as a City park. As part of the recent discussion regarding allowing a dog park on the site, the City heard many concerns about parking, noise, and access to the property. The school district had also asked about taking the property back for potential residential development, which was a provision of the transfer, in the event that the City did not use the property as a park.

Since the City has numerous park facilities, combined with the need for residential development, this Resolution was brought forth for discussion. Motion by Council Member Roesler, seconded by Council Member Menke to approve Resolution 23-05 Approving Transfer of O.R. Hanson Park property back to the school district, via quit claim deed, for residential development. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Public Safety – Police Department: Police Chief Ridgeway noted that the recent Blues on the Chippewa festival went very well, with no major issues. National Night Out was also a success with over 430 plates of food served. He also gave an update on the recent ALICE (active threat) training at the high school.

Fire Department: Fire Chief King was absent. He will present both his July and August reports at the September 13 meeting.

Ambulance Department: Co-Director Bignell was present to give her report for July. There were 33 total calls for the month (29 911 calls & 4 transfers). Ambulance personnel responded to 28 of the 911 calls but none of the transfer requests. One new member was added to the service, and Director Bignell noted that there were still openings for a proposed EMT 1 course to be taught in Durand beginning in late August.

Public Works/Utilities: Engineer's Report: Engineer R. Kiviniemi was absent.

Public Works/Utilities: Public Works Director Gilles gave an update on several Public Works issues including: 1) Discussing the 2024 Madison Street reconstruction project with business owners and the need for a future public open house on the project; 2) 12th Avenue E project is nearly complete. Just waiting on blacktop in the next couple of weeks; 3) Provided an update on the Dollar General sewer issue. They will probably need to dig a new service line to the main; 4) Provided an update on the curb/gutter/blacktop issue on River Street; 5) Noted that the City had performed required PFAS testing for City water. Happy to report that no levels were detected, so we no longer have to test. We also had to test for lead and copper, but those results are pending; and, 6) Noted that the swimming pool will be closing Friday, August 11.

Public Works: Update on Tarrant Park Pool Project: Public Works Director Gilles noted that we are awaiting final updated bid documents from USAquatics, but we are still on target for the documents to be available to potential vendors later in August, with final bids submitted by the end of September. Staff also discussed the meeting with Cole Hagness and the SOS Pool members just prior to the council meeting. Many of the group's questions were answered, and staff thanked Cole Hagness and Durand Builders for all their assistance and advice on the project.

Vouchers: Motion by Council Member Weisenbeck, seconded by Council Member Roesler to approve the vouchers presented #28951 – 28972 in the amount of \$83,929.42. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next City Council Meeting is on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Roesler, seconded by Council Member Hayden at 7:25 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Scott Rasmussen, City Administrator