

**POCAHONTAS CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JUNE 13, 2017**

Mayor Kary Story called the regular scheduled meeting of the Pocahontas City Council to order. Roll call was conducted by City Clerk/Treasurer Suzanne Hawkins. Aldermen in attendance were: Wayne Broadway, Rainer DeClerk, Verna Dudley, Keith Futrell, Rob Olvey and Ben Pond. City Attorney Alex Bigger was present. The media was represented by KPOC radio and Star Herald newspaper.

Public Comment – No citizen comments were made.

Approve May 2017 Financials – Olvey motioned to approve. Futrell seconded. All voted yes.

Approve May 9 Meeting Minutes – Futrell motioned to approve. Olvey seconded. All voted yes.

Approve May 18 Meeting Minutes – Olvey motioned to approve. Dudley seconded. All voted yes.

**MONTHLY REPORTS** – Police – Chief Cecil Tackett reported. He stated the department had participated in Click-it/Ticket-it Safety weekend, May 26-28th issuing 17 seatbelt citations. Four drug arrests resulted from the weekend.

Fire – Chief Darrel Kester reported. 30 Business Inspections were completed during the month. Olvey questioned about when the re-evaluation for the ISO rating for rural could be completed. Kester stated he would have to make a request and stated accurate documentation could be used.

Hospital – CFO, Joey Radcliffe reported. He noted admission numbers were lower during the flood.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Nuisance Property Update – Bigger reported he had sent the nuisance resolution to Vance.

Resolution to Fund Backhoe – Story stated he wanted to clarify the amount concerning the back hoe discussed in May. The interest rate documents in the May meeting referred to a \$57,000 approximate amount that was given to potential banks to determine an interest rate. Story stated that amount was the amount needed from a loan and allowing for a down payment by the city. Wicker shared that the state contract amount was approximately \$82,000 and the rock hammer added on increased the amount to the \$91,000 figure. Pond suggested using some funds from the Recreation Facility funds to make the purchase since the Park & Recs do use the back hoe. Pond asked for a list of substandard equipment that needs replaced. Pond motioned to pay \$65,000 out of the Street department and the remaining balance amount out of the Recreation Facility funds. Olvey seconded the motion.

All voted yes. Pond motioned to read the resolution. Olvey seconded. All voted yes. Bigger read the resolution. Pond motioned to adopt the resolution. Dudley seconded. All voted yes. This is **Resolution 10-2017.**

McCurter Annexation – Story stated McCurter has not obtained the required performance bond. Story stated McCurter had called him today and said he almost had it worked out. Story advised him to contact the city attorney and make him aware of the performance bond status. Bigger reported that he had been in contact with McCurter and his real estate agent sending them emails regarding the needed signature on the agreement and the need for a performance bond. He stated they had been given 60 days to obtain the bond. Bigger said he emailed McCurter 30 days ago and explained the timeline to obtain the performance bond. Bigger stated he has not received any confirmation of a bond. Story said the issue is that the 60 day time period for the annexation is up tomorrow. Futrell motioned to read the ordinance. Olvey seconded. All voted yes. Bigger read the ordinance to repeal 2017-06. Pond

motioned to read by 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only. Olvey seconded. All voted yes. Bigger read the title. DeClerk motioned to adopt. Dudley seconded. All voted to adopt. This is **Ordinance 2017-09.** Agri-Gro Lease Research – Olvey reported his findings. He stated the Whitewood Building is rented for \$1.05 sq. ft. and another building, the Durabilt is rented for \$1.20 sq. ft. The city's rent proceeds are presently \$.64 sq. ft. There was discussion of a recommended rate for the rent. Kester stated the city had done repairs on the sprinkler system for the building in question. Pond motioned to authorize the Mayor to notify in writing the Agri-Gro company and inform them of the change to the lease removing the discount option for paying up front. This would make the lease \$45,000 per year which is \$.75 per sq. ft. Olvey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All voted yes.

Futrell asked Story if he could share information about the meeting concerning the levee and flooding that was held last week in Jonesboro. Story stated the federal officials were present and they showed various options available to work to find a fix for the flooding issues. He stated there would have to be a study completed. Federal funds are available to help with the costs of this study. Story stated he felt the Corp of Engineers needed to be involved in the fix since that is their specialty. The present levee was constructed from a study done in 1938 and that is the minimum standards the current levee is built to. Until another study is done, the 1938 study will be the standard. Story stated the levee board has already sent in the letter to the Corp of Engineers to repair the levee back to those standards. Dudley questioned why the levee would be built back the same since it floods the city. Futrell said the flooding is going to happen again if something doesn't change. DeClerk noted that 50 years ago the river was dredged regularly by the Corp. Futrell stated there has been relief ditches filled in and gates taken out of the levee over the years. Story stated he is still wanting to work with the Corp of Engineers to research the process for the study. He said the Corp of Engineers is willing to come to the council meeting and present to council the options available. Olvey stated the council needs to do everything they can to try to protect the city. Story stated he would contact the Corp and see when they could come meet with the council.

Pond motioned to adjourn. Olvey seconded.

Minutes submitted by:



Suzanne Hawkins  
City Clerk/Treasurer



Kary Story  
Mayor