# **Pocahontas City Council Meeting**

Pocahontas City Hall

April 9, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Keith Futrell called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on April 9th at 5:30 pm.

City Clerk/Treasurer, Michelle Teel conducted a roll call.

**Alderman:** Wayne Broadway - absent Nathan Camp - present

Keith Futrell - n/a Rob Olvey - present

Jamey Sullinger - present Kerri King - present

City Attorney Joe Grider was present. The Star Herald represented the media.

**Public Comments:** n/a

**Financials:** Olvey motioned to approve the March 2024 financials. Camp seconded. All voted yes.

**Minutes:** Olvey motioned to approve the March 12th minutes. King seconded. All voted yes.

**Randolph Co. Chamber:** Tonya Hass, the new chamber director, informed the council about an 80/20 TAP and RTP grant the city may be interested in applying for. The grant would fund recreational and motorized trails. Hass explained that it could be used for items such as sidewalks, bridges, and recreational trails, and there are many opportunities. The application deadline is May 31, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. thass@randolphchamber.com

**Water System Project Update:** Doug Cox and Ben DeClerk gave an update on the water treatment plant. March 28th started opening bids. The bids received were higher than anticipated coming in at $13.26 million and $15.9 million. The Water Dept. has A.N.R.C. financing secured at 1.75% if all the deadlines are met by June 28, 2024. Cox stated they seek additional outside funding for the balances above the A.N.R.C. financing. An updated rate study was required and Cox explained a 3rd step increase may be necessary in addition to the 2 that were previously planned for and doesn’t know the amount at this time. Cox told the council he would entertain any suggestions the council may have.

**Code Inspector:** Dement gave the council an update regarding the Superior building and said they had cleaned it up. Dement was able to identify the building's management agency and contacted them regarding the cleaning of the property. Dement also reported there are currently five (5) condemnation properties: 710 Burrow St. – 1309 Carter St – 701 Weible St. – 1421 Jensen St – 2006 Bledsoe. Dement meets monthly with the City Attorney.

**Resolution to Approve Lease Agreement with Black River Commodities, LLC for Pinnacle South Building Located at 2206, 2606, and 2610 Hwy 67 South.** King motioned to read the resolution. Sullinger seconded. All voted yes. Grider read the resolution. King motioned to approve the resolution. Camp seconded. All voted yes. The resolution was adopted. This is **Resolution No. 21-2024.**

**City of Pocahontas Employee Handbook—** no meeting has been held yet. We plan to have something for review by the next meeting.

**Fencing Update:** New fencing must meet updated requirements. We need to educate citizens on the updated fencing requirements continually. Grider stated that any fencing in question should be reported to the code inspector for review.

**Step Pay Pocahontas Police Dept.** Eddington stated that the step pay document has been corrected for clarification. No pay changes were made. The new document is dated 04/03/2024. Olvey motioned to approve the document. Camp seconded. All voted yes. A roll call vote was taken.

 Broadway – absent Sullinger - yes

 King – yes Camp - yes

 Olvey - yes

The Step Pay document was **approved.**

**Safe Haven**: Grider stated that this would be addressed at the next meeting. We are working on clarifying the charges.

**Spring Clean-up —** Mayor Futrell addressed the council and stated that the spring clean-up was a success. Last year's cost for the 2023 spring clean-up was estimated at $40,000.00, compared to an estimated cost of $13,600.00 this year. We are still waiting on an invoice from Glisson.

**Resolution Waiving Bidding to Allow the City to Purchase Equipment from Temple, Inc for Traffic Signal Upgrades** – Olvey motioned to read the resolution. Camp seconded. All voted yes. Grider read the resolution. Olvey motioned to approve the resolution. Camp seconded. All voted yes. The resolution was adopted. This is **Resolution No. 22-2024.**

**Resolution to Execute a Termination of Agreement Related to Larry Don rose, Frances Rose and Pocahontas Aluminum** - Camp motioned to read the resolution. Sullinger seconded. All voted yes. Grider read the resolution. Olvey motioned to approve the resolution. Camp seconded. All voted yes. The resolution was adopted. This is **Resolution No. 23-2024.**

**Private Club Permit** – Grider contacted Little Rock, and all clubs are treated the same wet vs. dry county. An ordinance must be passed for a private club permit before issuing an ABC license. Grider outlined the basic steps are as follows:

There is a one-time fee (city application). Pass the Ordinance. Apply with ABC. Once approved and issued, bring the license back to the city. Apply yearly for a permit. Grider also noted that the club must be a non-profit and have the appropriate paperwork. Olvey motioned to read the private club application as read. King seconded. All voted yes. A roll call vote was taken.

 Broadway – absent Sullinger – yes

 King – yes Camp - yes

 Olvey - yes

The application document was **approved.**

**New View** – -Grider said in a letter dated March 28, 2024, the city received a letter from an attorney that a lawsuit had been filed regarding the issue of a lease between New View and the City of Pocahontas for the Waterloo building for a breach of contract. Grider told the council that the Municipal League had been contacted and that they may step in and represent the city. Attorney Robert Thompson agreed to accept the lawsuit if the A.R.M.L. declined. Grider said the city has sixty (60) days to Waive the Summons, which would be his recommendation. Grided hopes to have an answer from the A.R.M.L. by next week. Camp motioned to accept service and waive the summons. Olvey seconded. All voted yes. A roll call vote was taken.

 Broadway – absent Sullinger - yes

 King – yes Camp - yes

 Olvey - yes

The motion to accept service and waive **passed.**

**Financial Investment** – The budget committee and city council are considering the opportunity for the city to invest money in a short-term investment. Camp recommended that all local/area banks be included in making proposals to the council at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The maturity date of the current CDs the city holds is 12/15/2024, and it has yielded a current interest balance of $24,265.92.

**Resurfacing** - Reynolds Asphalt has submitted quotes for a resurfacing project. Olvey motioned to accept the quote. Camp seconded. All voted yes.

**Mayor Comments:** Futrell said the city sales tax is still ahead of last year and is excited and encouraged by the continued increase.

The airport currently keeps fifty dollars ($50.00) of petty cash. At the last airport meeting, the airport commission approved keeping two hundred ($200.00) available in petty cash.

Futrell reminded everyone of the dedication memorial for Mayor Keith Sutton on May 11, 2024, at the Five Rivers Shooting Sports Complex and encouraged everyone to enjoy the day.

The A.R.M.L. convention in Little Rock is scheduled for June 12th – June 14th. If any council plans to attend, please notify Charlotte in the mayor's office or the City Clerk so arrangements can be made.

**Eclipse—**Futrell shared that the eclipse was a huge success, with forty-eight (48) states and eight (8) countries enjoying viewing it from Pocahontas. The parks were full, people were happy, and it was an excellent day. Futrell thanked the Pocahontas Police Department, Parks & Rec., and everyone for their hard work and hospitality to make it so successful.

Futrell reminded everyone there was a Water Works meeting tomorrow. The water department has asked the city to partner on purchasing a mini excavator. The city would keep the equipment and water department use when necessary. Water Dept. will provide a trade-in of $27,500.00 to W.T. Equipment. $81,188.00 total purchase. City portion $40,600.00. Water Dept. portion to the city $13,094.00.

Olvey motioned to adjourn. King seconded. All voted yes.

Minutes submitted by:

Michelle Teel Keith Futrell

City Clerk/Treasurer Mayor