

Pea Ridge City Council  
Regular Meeting  
June 16, 2020

The Pea Ridge City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Room at the City Hall Administration Building.

Those present were: Mayor Jackie Crabtree, City Clerk Sandy Button, Aldermen Matt Ahart, Ray Easley, Steve Guthrie and Cody Keene. Also present was City Attorney Shane Perry.

Others present were: Tony Townsend, Nathan See, Ken Hayes, Annette Beard, Jack Wassman, Mike Lisenbee, Rich Fordham, Karen Sherman and Al Fowler.

Mayor Jackie Crabtree called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackie Crabtree opened the meeting in prayer and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Keene moved, seconded by Alderman Easley to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Ahart, moved to introduce Resolution Number 441 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Resolution Number 441, which is entitled:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE SUPPORTING THE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1018 OF 2019 (HJR 1018 OF 2019), PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CONTINUE A LEVY OF A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR STATE HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES; COUNTY ROADS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION; AND CITY STREETS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE RETIREMENT OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED IN ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 91, AS SPECIAL REVENUE TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY REVENUE DISTRIBUTION LAW.

After a discussion, Alderman Guthrie moved, seconded by Alderman Ahart to approve Resolution Number 441 as read. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted nay; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

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Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Easley, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 667 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 667 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL PLAT OF FOX SPUR PHASE 1 SUBDIVISION PEA RIDGE, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS: THE DEDICATION OF UTILITY EASEMENTS, STREETS AND OTHER PUBLIC WAYS THEREIN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance by title only on three different days be suspended. Mayor Crabtree put the question on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Thereupon Mayor Crabtree declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule. The motion was carried, and the rule suspended. Mayor Crabtree then read the Ordinance by title only.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Ahart, moved that the Ordinance be adopted. The question was put by Mayor Crabtree on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved that the Emergency Clause be adopted. The question was put by Mayor Crabtree on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

The Mayor thereupon declared the Ordinance and Emergency Clause were adopted and signed the Ordinance, which was attested by the City Recorder and sealed with the Seal of the City.

Water Wastewater Supt. Ken Hayes updated the Council on the progress of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Supt. Hayes also explained the final financing of the project. The estimated date to close on this loan is July 1<sup>st</sup> with an approximate interest rate of 2.25%.

Supt. Hayes stated an engineering change on the (Blackjack Corner) Highway 94 sewer line project will result in a large cost savings to this project.

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Supt. Hayes requested approval to search for a used full sized 16-yard dump truck for the Water Department for approximately \$35,000.00. Alderman Guthrie moved, seconded by Alderman Easley to allow Supt. Hayes approval to search for a used full size 16-yard dump truck for the Water Department for approximately \$35,000.00. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Keene moved to appoint Ken Hayes as Director and Jackie Crabtree as Alternate to the Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority Board. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Jack Wassman explain the FY 2019 SAFER Grant Program for full time staffing of fire and ambulance departments. The amount of Federal funding provided to a recipient for hiring a firefighter in any fiscal year may not exceed - in the first and second years of the grant, 75 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter employed by that department at the time the grant application was submitted; and in the third year of the grant, 35 percent of the usual annual cost of a first-year firefighter employed by that department at the time the grant application was submitted. Usual annual including the base salary (exclusive of non-FLSA overtime) and standard benefits package (including the average health, dental, and vision costs, FICA, life insurance, retirement/pension, etc.) offered by fire departments to first year (i.e. entry-level) firefighters. Chief Wassman suggested the money saved from the salary budgeted line item for the three years could fund up to two more years salary for the department. Alderman Easley moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to table Resolution 442 until the regular July 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Wassman requested Council approval to surplus the 1979 Sutphen Fire Truck that is no longer feasible for use in the Fire Department. This vehicle was purchased through GovDeals in 2010 for \$10,395.00. A reserve amount of \$3,000 will be set to sell this vehicle or we will donate this truck to another fire department. Alderman Guthrie moved, seconded by Alderman Easley to surplus the Fire Department 1979 Sutphen Fire Truck as requested. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

The Council discussed Ordinance Number 668, an ordinance regulating noise in the City of Pea Ridge. After discussing the concerns of this Ordinance, Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Easley, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 668 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted abstained. Motion passed.

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Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 668 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NOISE IN THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS; REPEALING SECTION 6.04.11 NUISANCE (BARKING); DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The second reading of this Ordinance will be at the regular Council Meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The Council discussed Ordinance Number 669, an ordinance amending the comprehensive sign regulations for the City of Pea Ridge. After discussing this Ordinance, Alderman Easley seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 669 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 669 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SIGN REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS; REPLACING AND UPDATING ORDINANCE NO. 519 AND SECTION 14.24 (SIGNS) OF THE PEA RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The second reading of this Ordinance will be at the regular Council Meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Easley, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 670 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 670 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE; ASSIGNING SUCH TO WARD #2; SAID TERRITORY

Alderman Easley, seconded by Alderman Ahart, moved that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance by title only on three different days be suspended. Mayor Crabtree put the question on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

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Thereupon Mayor Crabtree declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule. The motion was carried, and the rule suspended. Mayor Crabtree then read the Ordinance by title only.

Alderman Easley, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved that the Ordinance be adopted. The question was put by Mayor Crabtree on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

The Mayor thereupon declared the Ordinance adopted and signed the Ordinance, which was attested by the City Recorder and sealed with the Seal of the City.

Alderman Guthrie seconded by Alderman Easley, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 671 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 671 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY  
TO THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE; ASSIGNING SUCH TO WARD #2; SAID  
TERRITORY

Alderman Guthrie, seconded by Alderman Ahart, moved that the rule requiring the reading of an ordinance by title only on three different days be suspended. Mayor Crabtree put the question on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Thereupon Mayor Crabtree declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council have voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule. The motion was carried, and the rule suspended. Mayor Crabtree then read the Ordinance by title only.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved that the Ordinance be adopted. The question was put by Mayor Crabtree on the adoption of the motion and the roll being called, the vote was as follows: Matt Ahart voted aye; Ray Easley voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

The Mayor thereupon declared the Ordinance adopted and signed the Ordinance, which was attested by the City Recorder and sealed with the Seal of the City.

Mayor Crabtree thanked all employees for stepping up and working under extreme circumstances during this Covid-19 pandemic. He further reported that all things considered the City was doing very well.

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Alderman Ray Easley stated that he would not be running for reelection this year.

Alderman Keene moved, seconded by Alderman Guthrie to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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Jackie Crabtree, Mayor

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Sandy Button, City Clerk