

Pea Ridge City Council
Regular Meeting
August 16, 2022

The Pea Ridge City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 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, Council Members Ginger Larsen, Merrill White, Steve Guthrie, and Cody Keene. Also, present was City Attorney Shane Perry.

Others present were: Nathan See, Nick Larsen, Tony Townsend, Ken Hayes, Carolyne Wendel, Karen Sherman, Annette Beard, Shane Henson, Stephanie Henson, Bob Cottingham, Dustin Phy, Natasha Neal, Watson Neal, Nadine Telgemeier, Boyd McNeil, Jared Powell, Margaret Cheek, Mary Durand, Cindy Putzier, Don Putzier, Ellen Reeves, Angie Jennings, David Eaton, John Hicks, Sue Elverston, Tonya Guthrie, Thomas Morris and Leslie Vest.

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 Guthrie to approve the minutes of the July 19 21, 2022, Regular Meeting and the August 2, 2022, Special Meeting. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

David Eaton, CPA Audit Manager, Przybysz Associates, CPAs, P.C., presented the Audited Financial Statements December 31, 2021, for the City of Pea Ridge Waterworks and Sewer System. Mr. Eaton stated that they found no material violations. He stated the audit was very good with no findings. Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Guthrie to accept this audit as presented. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steven Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Alderwoman Larsen, seconded by Alderman Keene, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 767 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 767 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF
COMPETITIVE BIDDING; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

August 16, 2022

Alderman White, seconded by Alderman Keene, 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: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve 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 White, seconded by Alderman Keene, 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: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye.

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: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve 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.

The Council discussed Ordinance 772 to provide access to health benefits for retired municipal employees. Two options were presented for this benefit as listed below:

Option 1: The retired employee pays the entire cost of participating in the health insurance plan (this includes the portion of the premium for the retired employee and the portion of the premium, if any, for any additional family members of the retired employee);

Option 2: The retired employee pays 100% of the cost of the health insurance for his or her family member(s) participating in the plan; (the city continues to pay 100% of the cost of the retired employee's health insurance premium the same as if the retired employee was still employed);

Alderman Keene moved, seconded by Alderman White to choose Option 1 for purposes of Ordinance Number 772. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 772 by title only. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye. Motion passed.

August 16, 2022

Mayor Crabtree read Ordinance Number 772 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS FOR
RETIRED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Alderman White, seconded by Alderman Keene, 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: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve 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 Guthrie, seconded by Alderman Keene, 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: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted aye; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted aye.

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.

In reference to additional information on the Mayor's retirement benefits concerning spousal compensation, Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to not continue retirement benefits after the death of the retired Mayor. City Attorney Shane Perry stated the statute states this would be addressed on the death of a retired Mayor, not prior to that time. Alderman White rescinded his motion and Alderman Keene rescinded his second. No action taken.

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

Jackie Crabtree, Mayor

Sandy Button, City Clerk