

Pea Ridge City Council
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2022

The Pea Ridge City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 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, Lynn Hahn, Annette Beard, Stephanie Henson, Shane Henson, Jared Powell, Starla Billington, Ken Hayes, Alan Schumacher, Patrick Hudson, Watson Neal, Monte Keene, Edward Bertola, Jared Powell, Kris Baldwin, Dustin Phy, Tom Seay, Ben Osowiecki, Dylan Jump and Aaron Morgan.

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 November 15, 2022, Regular 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.

Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Guthrie to surplus and recycle 14 Scott self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that are old and out of service. 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.

Fire Chief Jared Powell and Administrative Assistant Stephanie Henson explained the Network Participation Agreement with Alacura Medical Transportation Management. The Arkansas Ambulance Association has awarded Alacura the contract with Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield. Without this in-network contract Blue Cross Blues Shield will only pay our Ambulance Service based on the Medicare fee schedule. This agreement will be placed on the Agenda for the January Regular Council Meeting. In reference to this agreement, Alderman White addressed a concern over an NDA being signed by the department head without the City Council approval. After a discussion, Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Keene for department heads and personnel to have Council Approval before signing any NDA's or Agreements. 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.

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Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman White, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 778 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 778 by title only, which is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PEA RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 14, THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS MAP OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS, TO REZONE CERTAIN LAND BELONGING TO SCHUMACHER FARMS AT SUGAR CREEK LLC FROM RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO COMMERCIAL (C-2)

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: 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 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: 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.

Alderman Keene, seconded by Alderman Guthrie, moved to introduce Ordinance Number 779 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 779 by title only, which is entitled:

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

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Alderman Guthrie, 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.

Alderman White, seconded by Alderman Keene, 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 2023 Budget was presented with the Total Receipts/Expenditures for each department as follows:

BOND ACCOUNT	\$ 50,000.00
CITY GENERAL	8,510,488.00
CITY PARK	450,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT ACT 833	25,000.00
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT	8,000.00
IMPACT FEES	702,000.00
LIBRARY	75,440.00
SEWER DEPARTMENT	1,465,400.00
STREET DEPARTMENT	1,304,000.00
STREET FUND	500,000.00
UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS	20,000.00
WATER DEPARTMENT	3,423,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	\$16,533,328.00

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After a lengthy discussion concerning the budget, Mayor Crabtree read Resolution Number 490, which is entitled:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR OPERATION OF THE CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

Alderman Guthrie moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to approve Resolution Number 490 as read. The roll being called, the vote was as follows: Ginger Larsen voted aye; Merrill White voted nay; Steve Guthrie voted aye; and Cody Keene voted nay. Motion failed.

The Council discussed several necessary changes to approve the 2023 Budget as listed below:

No new hires effective 1-1-2023 except as approved by the City Council
Amend the Library Salary in City General by decreasing it \$28,863.00

Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to approve Resolution Number 490 as read with the following changes:

No new hires effective 1-1-2023 except as approved by the City Council
Amend the Library Salary in City General by decreasing it \$28,863.00

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 2022 Amended Budget was presented with the total receipts/expenditures for each department effected as follows:

CITY GENERAL	\$ 7,380,068.00
CITY PARK	34,850.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT	1,650,000.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT ACT 833	35,000.00
LIBRARY	93,800.00
STREET DEPARTMENT	1,307,600.00
	\$10,501,318.00

Mayor Crabtree read Resolution Number 491, which is entitled:

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A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR OPERATION OF THE CITY OF
PEA RIDGE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Alderman Keene moved, seconded by Alderman Guthrie to approve Resolution Number 491 as read. 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 Resolution Number 492, which is entitled:

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ATTORNEY FOR THE
CITY OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to approve Resolution Number 492 as read. 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.

Mayor Crabtree read Resolution Number 493, which is entitled:

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A CITY PROSECUTING
FOR THE CITY OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

Alderman White moved, seconded by Alderman Keene to approve Resolution Number 493 as read. 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.

On a recommendation from Mayor Crabtree Alderman Keene moved, seconded by Alderman Guthrie to give all employees an 8.6% increase per year. 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.

Mayor Jackie Crabtree passed the gavel to newly elected Mayor Nathan See, congratulating him and wishing him the best as Mayor of Pea Ridge. Those present expressed gratitude to both outgoing Mayor Crabtree and newly elected Mayor See.

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

Jackie Crabtree, Mayor

Sandy Button, City Clerk