



# City of Piggott Council Meeting Minutes

City Hall  
194 West Court St.  
Piggott, AR 72454

Thursday, February 23, 2023 6:00 PM

**Piggott City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Piggott City Hall Community Room with Mayor Bradley Scheffler presiding.**

Mayor Scheffler called the meeting to order. Flag had been moved for photos so there was no Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation led by Councilmember Kevin Jones

## **Roll Call**

### **Those present were:**

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook

Councilmember Tracy Cole

Councilmember Jamey Parks

Councilmember Kevin Jones

Mayor Bradley Scheffler

City Clerk Nikki Blue

Attorney Kimberly Dale

**Others in attendance:** Utility Manager, Brian Haley, Police Chief, Jeremi Wicker

## **Minutes:**

Councilmember Kevin Jones made a motion to approve minutes from the January 30, 2023, meeting.

Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked for a motion to amend the agenda to put the hospital RFQ first on the agenda.

Councilmember Kevin Jones asked for more information as to what this was concerning. Councilmember Tracy Cole explained that the hospital has plans to open another clinic in Piggott in the future but needed approval to start the process to get quotes for services required. Councilmember Tracy Cole also explained that this would not approve the project but only approve the ad being put in the paper to request quotes.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Tracy Cole make a motion to approve the hospital ad RFQ for architectural and design services and construction management services for a potential future clinic in Piggott. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

## **Old Business:**

### **-Board Appointments**

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked the council if they had looked over the board appointments that were included in their packets. He told the council that there was one more position that would need to be filled on the Municipal Airport Board, but we didn't have another applicant currently.

Councilmember Jamey Parks made a motion to approve the board member for Planning & Zoning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the four listed on the Municipal Airport Board. Councilmember Tracy Cole seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

**Property lien placement:** It was discussed the public hearing for property liens was being moved to March. Letters have been sent out to property owners and the ad for the public hearing will be run in the newspaper for four consecutive weeks prior to the hearing.



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## New Business:

1% Sales & Use Tax – Piggott Community Hospital

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to introduce the *ordinance providing for the levy of a one percent sales and use tax within the city of Piggott, AR for a period of sixty months for the use, benefit, and operation of the Piggott Health Care Facilities Board D/B/A Piggott Community Hospital*. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read in its entirety by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Jamey Parks made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading, title only. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read, title only, for its second reading by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, title only. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read, title only, for its third reading by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve the third reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to introduce the *ordinance calling for a special election in the city of Piggott, Arkansas, on the question of levying a one-percent sales and use tax within the city of Piggott, Arkansas*. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read in its entirety by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its second reading, title only. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read, title only, for its second reading by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Tracy Cole seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to suspend the rules and place the Ordinance on its third reading, title only. Councilmember Tracy Cole seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Ordinance was read, title only, for its third reading by Attorney Kimberly Dale.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve the third reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.



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## **City updates from Utility Manager, Brian Haley**

### **-Asphalt work**

Brian Haley spoke on how the city was doing some exploration to find out what the issues on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue are so they could be resolved prior to the asphalt overlay being done.

Brian Haley said he is currently waiting to hear from *Sugg Construction* (Company awarded job w/ ARDOT grant money). The bid the company won included not only Piggott, but also McDougal and Greenway on the bid. The city wants to talk with the company about negotiating additional asphalt work while they are here since the money has already been budgeted.

### **-Roundabouts**

Brian Haley spoke with the project manager on the roundabout project. He was told that they were set to complete Marmaduke prior to returning to Piggott which was estimated at 2-3 week. Once they return to Piggott, they will be dedicated to this job until completion. Their estimated completion date is late August-early September 2023.

It was discussed that Marmaduke was on calendar days whereas Piggott was setup on weather days. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if the completion date included the fourth location or only completing the three that were already started. Brian Haley said the completion date was the completion of the entire project.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler pointed out that the contractors did finish the job of lowering/rerouting the sewer lines as discussed in the January meeting.

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if this was the same or a different contractor that was doing the job on Scurlock. Brian Haley said yes, it was a different contractor. He went on to explain that the initial reason for not finishing the job was because of the inability to get concrete, but weather permitting, they will be back to finish the job. The company agrees to put the drives that are concrete and in chat, back in "like manner".

### **...Asphalt work continued**

Councilmember Kevin Jones asked to go back to the discussion of the asphalt work and asks for clarification on where the work was to be done on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Brian Haley said the work would start at the intersection of S. 12<sup>th</sup> and Clay and extend all the way down 12<sup>th</sup> to Houston, then all the way down Houston back to Clay.

Brian Haley said we haven't been given a start date yet, but he stated the grant is for \$300k and the quote for the full job came in at \$396K. The city has agreed to do the full job and pay the remaining \$96k which Brian Haley said the state had immediately requested. The city has already placed the funds with the state and has \$100k additional money set aside for the possibility of adding more locations to be done as well as needed.

### **-Trashcans**

Councilmember Kevin Jones asked if there was an ordinance in place about rolling trashcans back in after pickup. He said he was asked by Brad Montgomery to check into it. Brad said that it is a constant problem on Houston with trash all down the road. Brian Haley said there was an ordinance in place but could not remember the number or specifics. Chief Jeremi Wicker said he would speak with code enforcement officer Sam Poole about making contact with individuals that are leaving them in the road.



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## **-Financials**

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if we had any financials for the month. Brian Haley said we did not. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if they could please get financials each month. Brian Haley stated that financials would be provided and that they were just not ready yet because it has not been a smooth transition and things were still being worked out. Mayor Bradley pointed out that the city server had been down and caused issues and delays.

## **Utility: from Utility Manager, Brian Haley**

### **Electric Updates**

Brian Haley said they are currently working with the engineer from BRTC about the sizing of the pad. The contractor for BRTC is bringing their mini excavator up to dig the lines in and we'll coordinate with the contractor we have lined up to pour the pad for the transformer. Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that it's estimated that they will use as much electricity as a small factory once they get open. The mayor asked how many stations they would have. Brian Haley said they will have 15 welding and 15 robotics. He said the main focus is on high school students, but the spaces that aren't filled by students will be open to the walk-ins.

### **Water and Sewer**

Brian Haley said the bar screen has been installed at the wastewater plant. He said it was put online yesterday (February 22, 2023). Engineers from Parkson along the engineers from Smith and Company were onsite and had training sessions with our employees. He said it is up and running. After less than 24 hours they already had three 5-gallon buckets of mostly rags so it was doing what it was designed to do. He said the spacing on the bars was fairly small so it is catching a lot of small stuff which will just keep it from going into our plant.

Councilmember Jamey Parks asked if the mixed liquor was getting better now. Brian Haley said the contractors have that installed and now they have the flow diverted that's coming in to the lagoon where they're draining the mixed liquor basin. They are draining that down and clean the sludge out of the bottom of and it and the sludge out of the polishing pond. He went on to say that as far as the mixed liquor basin, they were installing diffusers and lines. He said the polishing pond has a curtain that separates the water that goes underneath and that's in bad shape as well so they are going to replace that. The contractors said that if they had good weather, they would be done in about 4 weeks.

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if we would be compliant at the end of the 4 weeks. Brian Haley said we should be compliant. He stated that the plant was built in 1988 and the original mixed liquor basin had riprap and sloped earth walls with a liner. In 1993 the plant was taken offline and poured vertical walls and with the 1<sup>st</sup> sample, we were compliant, so we have high hopes with this. Mayor Bradley Scheffler spoke of how the previous bar screens were behind the pumping station and they were constantly pulling debris from the pumps. The new bar screens are installed before the pumps so that should keep them cleaner and save the lifespan of the pumps as well as free up man hours. Brian Haley said they were having to clean the pumps out weekly and it was primarily rags and "disposable/flushable" wipes. He said that's a problem with all wastewater plants.

**Proudest Kid Lunch** is Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ noon. The winner chooses the restaurant and the kids and parents are treated to lunch by the Mayor. The mayor invited anyone on the council to join if they wanted.



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**Cameras-** Mayor Bradley Scheffler introduced the topic of cameras for the city. He said that there were some local businesses that had their windows shot and Police Chief Jeremi Wicker was researching prices for camera in town. Police Chief Jeremi Wicker stated that he'd like to get 2 Flock cameras to start although two was not nearly enough. He stated that the cost was \$2500 per camera per year. The cost includes the maintenance, cell phone connection and 24 hour monitoring. He said it would help get better identification of license plates of individuals who commit crimes. He stated that this type of crime wasn't a regular occurrence in Piggott, but these cameras could help the Police department in many areas. He said there was no discount for purchasing multiple cameras. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked where he would place the two cameras. Police Chief Jeremi Wicker stated that he would like for the City to have more, but the first two he thought should be placed at the stoplight because it would capture Hwy 49 and Hwy 62.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that the County Judge has also spoken about wanting something better for around the courthouse so they could be used there as well.

Police Chief Jeremi Wicker said that he had also researched about a grant that may be coming available.

**No additional public comments or questions.**

## **Adjournment**

With no other business on the agenda, Mayor Scheffler asked for a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

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Mayor, Bradley Scheffler

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City Clerk, Nikki Blue