



# City of Piggott Council Meeting Minutes

City Hall  
194 West Court St.  
Piggott, AR 72454

Thursday, March 23, 2023 6:00 PM

**Piggott City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 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 followed by the 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 Lexi Butler in place of Kimberly Dale

**Others in attendance:** Utility Manager, Brian Haley

## **Minutes:**

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked for a correction of the minutes to state her question concerning the roundabouts to state the 4<sup>th</sup> intersection and not the 4<sup>th</sup> roundabout.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve minutes from the February 23, 2023, meeting with the correction. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook seconded. With all councilmembers in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook asked if the other boards had met since they didn't have anything in the packets. Brian Haley stated that he didn't know they received copies of those meetings and that he attends the Planning and Zoning and Parks & Rec, but does not attend the Airport board meeting. He stated that he could furnish those for the council.

## **Financials:**

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked that the council receive by month and year to date comparisons on the financials going forward. Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that we were still working on that and that both Tiffany (Bosworth) and Jamie (Cluck) said they should have them ready by next month. Mayor Bradley Scheffler directed the question to Brian Haley to explain further as to why they were not provided with this month's packet. Brian Haley stated that Tiffany was doing an amazing job and had been working a lot of hours, but she was basically having to learn the process. He also stated that Jamie had also been working a lot of hours and was playing "catch up" on everything since it had been some time since she has done this. He went on to say that there were multiple reasons as why we didn't have them yet, but would rather not go in to it right now. He explained that it was not that we did not want to give the council the complete financials, it was that we did not want to give the council the financials until we were certain that they were accurate. Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that she has a hard time understanding the financials that were in the packets and Brian Haley said that was the same information that was given to them previously but without the budgetary information. He said it wasn't included because it was not accurate.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that Tiffany was having difficulty understanding where the expenses go as were entered in and Brian Haley said that she was having to reverse engineer to see how it was done since there



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were no instructions left for her to follow. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if anyone has considered asking. Brian Haley said that he had not. No one else commented.

## **Old Business:**

There was no old business discussed.

## **New Business:**

Mayor Bradley Scheffler mentioned the State of the Union Address included in the packets.

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

### **-Roundabouts**

Brian Haley spoke with Jim Galloway with R.L. Persons. He said they are back in Piggott and have pretty much finalized the one at Marmaduke other than maybe a couple days of concrete work. Brian Haley said when he spoke with him that morning he was informed that ARDOT had mis put where they had drawn in the stoplight post on the south side (Cox's location) and it is located directly on top of the watermain that has already been moved once. The watermain will have to be relocated at ARDOT's expense. Brian Haley said that he was told that they are still anticipating the project to be done by late August/early September 2023.

### **Asphalt work**

Brian Haley spoke with the owner of Sugg Construction and they said they wanted to start construction just as soon as it was warm enough for the asphalt. They said they would be interested in doing additional work for the city and Brian Haley thinks they will do it for the same price they bid the job for the state. Brian Haley stated that the city has been working on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and that they have gotten things ready so we should be good to go once they get ready to start.

### **Sidewalk**

Brian Haley spoke with Greg Bell in reference to the city sidewalk. Greg said they were working on getting a right of way cleared up on "the church". He didn't state which church he was referring to. Greg said they would probably have a bid in May which means construction would probably start in June.

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if we had received the plans yet. Brian Haley responded that he has not. Councilmember Tracy Cole said that when he does, she would like to see them. Brian Haley said that the last time they submitted, they were 60% complete on the design. Brian Haley told Councilmember Tracy Cole that he would provide her with a copy once he receives them.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked if we would be responsible for going to bid on the sidewalk. Brian Haley stated that he does not know. He said that its 80/20 and our 20% is cash, so that may be part of our 20% to pay for all that, but he will talk to Greg and find out.

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

### **Water and Wastewater**

Brian Haley said we are getting really close to the completion of the rehab of the wastewater treatment plant. We've installed all the bar screens and that is working really well. Contractors installed handrails today. He said it's doing what it is supposed to do. He said that they went beyond the scope of work and cleaned out the lift station, which hadn't been cleaned in probably 30 years, so that the debris in there did not go into the area that



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was just cleaned up. He said Kajacs was hired (by the hour) to clean out the sludge that was waist deep in the pit. He went on to detail the items such as 2'x4's, bricks, concrete blocks, etc. that were found. It was asked as how those type of items get in there and Brian Haley replied that when a manhole is opened, items are often thrown in there.

Brian Haley said that the diffusers which float on top of the water with air coming out of the bottom were still not complete. The limit switches for the rakes which had been ordered have come in so that also had to be done, but we are just about ready to open it back up.

## **Electric**

Plum Point will be going down April 1<sup>st</sup> for maintenance and expected to be down until the 21<sup>st</sup>. When Plum Point is down, we buy energy off the market. We have the option of either buying off market or buying basically an "insurance" policy.

There are three options on the insurance policy:

- 7x24 = 7 days a week/24 hours a day/\$45 a MW
- 7x16 = 7 days a week/16 peak hours a day/\$46 a MW
- 5x16 = Monday-Friday/16 peak hours a day/\$48-\$49 a MW

Councilmember Tracy Cole asked how much we use Plum Point this time of the year. Brian Haley said that we usually use about 2 MW an hour. He went on to say that market energy was currently going from about \$15 MW for off peak hours and \$26-\$27 MW for peak hours. He said historically that April is the best time of the year to be offline because prices are the cheapest. He stated that we can save a substantial amount of money by buying off the market. He even noted that people that were owners of Plum Point weren't even taking the insurance policy. He said depending on load, it could save us close to \$50k.

## **Public Questions and/or Comments:**

Gayla Johnson from the Clay County Times Democrat said the judge asks for everyone to join in on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the courthouse tomorrow at noon. They will be serving cake.

## **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