



City of Piggott Council Meeting Minutes

City Hall
194 West Court St.
Piggott, AR 72454

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 6:00 PM

Piggott City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 30, 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 Jamey Parks

Councilmember Kevin Jones

Councilmember Tracy Cole

Mayor Bradley Scheffler

City Clerk Nikki Blue

Attorney Kimberly Dale

Others in attendance: Utility Manager-Brian Haley

Those absent were:

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook

Minutes:

Brian Haley provided minutes for Planning & Zoning and Airport boards. Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve minutes from the October 26, 2023, meeting. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Financials

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked if there were any questions about the financials that were provided in the packet. Councilmember Tracy Cole said she had "minor questions". Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that the Fire Department, Airport and Community Center all show losses and that she's assuming that is because the sales tax allocation hasn't been posted. Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that he was told that the Fire Department had just gotten their Act 833 money and it would be posted next month. She also asked concerning the Street Department about a \$65K transfer that hasn't been used. She said she never noticed it. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said it was probably the rest for the street project. He said we budgeted \$100k for the street and that was probably for the rest of it. He asked Brian Haley which streets were being added and how much. Brian Haley stated that it was right at \$70k and they were doing 5th street from stop sign to stop sign/North to Jackson, 2nd Street from North to Orr and they were going to have them look at a little bit on 12th street. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said that we may go over the budget a little bit but thought we should go ahead and have those done while they were here. Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that what she was referring to was revenue, not an expense. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said that was something he would have to ask {Treasurer} Jamie {Cluck} about. Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that it was fine that we hadn't used it, but that she was just curious what it was for.

Councilmember Tracy Cole said her last question was on the job stimulus expense for "Community Development" and what to know what that was. It was agreed that it was probably for the repairs to the Chamber building that had been approved by the council.

Old Business:

Mayor Scheffler asked if anyone had any old business to discuss. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if the new advisory committee has met yet on the utilities. Brian Haley stated that they have. He said they had a zoom meeting with an energy management company "The Energy Authority" TEA. He said it was just a meet & greet and there was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, but since there are a few members that are out of town, it's been



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pushed out until late January. Brian Haley stated that they may get together next week because they did get some rough numbers from Clay County Electric. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if we had a timeline for them to do the research and make recommendations. Brian Haley stated that not currently. He said there were a few others that we are getting proposals from, so hopefully after the first of the year once we're through the holidays, we can sit down and get things moving.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler said that since we were on old business, we needed to tell them about the legislative audit. Brian Haley said that we have yet to get the city audit back. We asked for an update in November and was told that it had gone to review.

New Business:

Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that the normal December meeting will still be on the 28th, but if it was alright with everyone, we'd move it to noon and provide food. City Attorney Kimberly Dale said that she would be out of town for a wedding that day, but would send one of her other attorneys if needed. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said he didn't think that would be necessary because we would only be reviewing and approving the budget. Mayor Scheffler addressed the council and asked that if they had any questions about the budget to please get the questions to them prior to the meeting so they could address them. He said all questions could be emailed to Brian Haley and could get with the department heads and Jamie and get the answers.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that concerning the Police Department, there was need to get their pay up to what other departments are paying to keep from losing more officers (approx. \$28k total increase). He also stated that we were budgeting another \$55k to the jail to start doing the dispatching. This will be paid in twelve monthly payments.

City updates from Utility Manager, Brian Haley

-Roundabouts

Brian Haley said that they were "supposedly" supposed to be done with the paving next Friday. Councilmember Tracy Cole asked if that was everything or just the paving. Brian Haley answered that it was just the paving. Councilmember Kevin Jones asked if they were leaving all the dirt areas for landscaping. Councilmember Jamey Parks answered that in front of Cox, all of that dirt is going to be grass as well as all that in front of Dollar General. He stated that apparently someone was going to have to start mowing all of that.

Asphalt work

Brian Haley stated that as mentioned earlier, in addition to 12th, Houston and North we were getting work done on 2nd, 5th, and a portion of 12th at the intersection of the Hospital down to about where Jeff Howell's is. They are currently paving on 5th and as weather permits, they will get the rest done.

Utility: from Utility Manager, Brian Haley

Old Business: None

Electric:

Brian Haley said the electric department has been busy putting up Christmas lights. He said there's been a lot of compliments and that if you haven't been down to Heritage Park, you need to check it out. He said they have lights down there and it looks really nice.

Water and Wastewater

Brian Haley says the issue that was mentioned in last month's meeting turned out to be a Midge fly larvae issue, which apparently is common. They have some treatment procedures in place that seems to be working.



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Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that things were really tight on the budget here and that Brian Haley said that we were going to have to start paying our wastewater treatment loan back. Brian Haley stated that we made our first payment yesterday. Mayor Scheffler said that there wasn't much room to be buying anything new or replacing any equipment. Brian Haley stated that you could see things were tight across all three, water, sewer and electric, but the costs were up, inventory parts were up, so we're just trying to maintain and be in the black. Brian Haley stated that \$29k is the annual payment for the loan in addition to the \$9k payment to ARDOT on the water and sewer that is for the roundabouts. When the project is completed, we will receive credit and would like to talk to them about refinancing the remainder for 10 years.

Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that as far as raises on the other departments, they gave a percentage that came out to less than \$1. They are giving the supervisors the authority to make the call on raises based on performance instead of across the board raises.

Public Questions and/or Comments:

No public comments or questions

Mayor Scheffler reminded everyone about the Christmas on the Square.

Councilmember Kevin Jones asked what ever happened to the sidewalk project. He was told that it was too cold now, so it was pushed out until spring. Brian Haley stated that the survey wasn't right, and they had to have easements, so that delayed the project and now the weather wasn't conducive to starting the project in the winter.

Councilmember Kevin Jones asked about the sidewalk by the side door facing the Post Office. He said there was a big hole where a drainage pipe used to be, and they are afraid someone is going to trip and fall. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said he would get Gary down there to check it out.

Adjournment

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked if there was any other questions and Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, meeting adjourned.

Mayor, Bradley Scheffler

City Clerk, Nikki Blue