



City of Piggott Council Meeting Minutes

City Hall
194 West Court St.
Piggott, AR 72454

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 6:00 PM

Piggott City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 24, 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 Jeff Benbrook

Roll Call

Those present were:

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook

Councilmember Tracy Cole

Councilmember Jamey Parks

Mayor Bradley Scheffler

City Clerk Nikki Blue

Attorney Kimberly Dale

Others in attendance: Utility Manager-Brian Haley

Those absent were:

Councilmember Kevin Jones

Minutes:

Brian Haley provided minutes for Planning & Zoning and Airport boards. Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2023, meeting. Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to approve minutes from the July 27, 2023, meeting. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook 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 just had a couple "minor ones". Brian Haley asked if it was for MLWS or City, to which Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that she had one on each. She said she noticed on Parks & Rec we were giving them the sales tax now, \$4k city appropriations and a utility reimbursement. She asked if that was correct. Brian Haley said that he thought the appropriations was the sales tax and councilmember Tracy Cole stated that it showed it was in addition. Mayor Bradley Scheffler stated that it was his understanding that it should be the sales tax and the utilities and would check with Jamie Cluck on that. Councilmember Tracy Cole said she had a question about distribution expense on MLWS. She said it looks like we had some unbudgeted maintenance and asked if that was correct. She stated that it wasn't a lot, but wondered if something happened that we didn't expect. Brian Haley stated that we didn't expect to come in at the first of the year and buy transformers. He stated that we have about 180 5kva pad mount transformers and at the first of the year we only had 1 spare. He went on to explain that at the first of the year, we purchased 6 5kva pad mount transformers. He stated that in early 2022 we could've gotten them for about \$1,500 each, but current cost is \$5k each. He stated that there was a lot of unexpected expense at the first of the year just on material that was needed. Mayor Bradley Scheffler added that things are starting to level out on expenses, and he thinks we're getting there.

New Business:

City Wide Yard Sale – Brian Haley stated that there was going to be another city-wide yard sale in October and the city was asked to waive the fees the same as we do for the city-wide yard sale in April each year.

Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to approve waiving the fees for a 2nd city wide yard sale.

Councilmember Tracy Cole seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, motion carried.



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Arkansas Travel Guide- Mayor Bradley Scheffler addressed Councilmember Tracy Cole and asked since she had been working on this, if she'd explain. Councilmember Tracy Cole stated that we started 2 or 3 years ago advertising in the Arkansas Travel Guide and that the guide goes out all over the place. She stated that we've gotten tourism because of it. She continued with the size of the ad and that it is split with the Chamber. A full-page ad cost \$4,400 and a half page is approximately half the cost. She suggests that the city and the chamber go in to do a half page ad. Matilda Pfeiffer is doing a half page and 1/6 page on their own this year and Pumpkin Hollow hasn't responded although they have done an ad in the past.

Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion for the city to do a half page ad in collaboration with the Chamber (and Pumpkin Hollow if they respond by the deadline of Sept. 1st). Mayor Bradley Scheffler noted that this would be for next year's budget. Councilmember Tracy Cole explained that the deadline was September 1st, but it could be billed in this year or next year's budget. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Parks and Rec -Fishing Rodeo - Brian Haley told the council that it is scheduled for September 9th and it is assisted in sponsorship by Arkansas Game & Fish. They will provide us with fish, usually delivered the day before. It will start at 10am and we have 3 big grand prizes and will give away prizes every 15 minutes. City Clerk Nikki Blue stated that there was a minimum participation required and how it also includes adults as well as children now.

City updates from Utility Manager, Brian Haley

-Roundabouts

Brian Haley said he was told this morning that the projection date of the roundabouts was now November 1. He said they did do some asphalt work today. Councilmember Jamey Parks explained that the special kind of asphalt that was being used was only made in small batches and they had to wait until the plant was making it. They missed the last batch because of all the rain.

Asphalt work

Brian Haley reached out to the contractor working on it to which he never received a response.

Utility: from Utility Manager, Brian Haley

Brian Haley asked that we amend the budget at a later date to replace the main sewer lift pump at the lift station. He explains the process and that the main pump was put in place in 1985 and it is in need for replacement. He stated that it would be about \$40k. City Attorney Kimberly Dale suggested that we get a motion and second to approve that way we would already have it in the records when the budget is amended. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook made a motion to amend the budget at a later date for replacing the main sewer lift pump. Councilmember Jamey Parks seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, motion carried.

Electric

Brian Haley said they had been running the engines at the power plant for the last couple days. He reiterated the information about margin capacity that he explained in last month's meeting and the benefit to the city with keeping the power plant functional. He stated that if we were to exceed 10mw, we would be margin capacity deficit which could potentially cost \$70k. Knowing that the extreme heat was coming this week, we worked to get everything lined up and got them running yesterday. He had the guys down there today and was asked at what point did he want them up and online, to which his response was "at 9.5mw I want them online." He said luckily, they never needed to get them online because it started trending down once it reached 9.5mw. "We hope not to need them, but as insurance against a \$70k bill, I think it's a no brainer."



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Brian Haley stated that Black River was up and running and is estimated to use about 18,000kw-20,000kw customer which is equivalent to Aerial.

Water and Wastewater

Brian Haley says the wastewater plant is up and running as it should and in compliance in August.

Brightspeed- Brian Haley stated that Brightspeed was in the process of a fiber rebuild in town. The city has run about 30 locates for them already and they said they should be done by the end of the year.

Public Questions and/or Comments:

Teresa Morris (Mann) spoke up about tourism and stated that she thought it would be neat to have murals or billboards at the 3 entrances advertising the town and museums. She continued by saying there was nothing to draw people into the town when they drove by. It was mentioned that because the highway towards Pollard was “scenic highway” nothing other than signage for a business was allowed. Teresa suggested having barn murals then to advertise our museums. Mayor Bradley Scheffler said that if we could find someone to let us paint their barn, we would. Councilmember Tracy Cole mentioned that with the ad in the Arkansas Travel Guide, we were going to add information about how this coming April, Piggott would be in the path of totality during the eclipse.

Adjournment

Mayor Bradley Scheffler asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Tracy Cole made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jeff Benbrook seconded. With all councilmembers present in favor and none opposed, meeting adjourned.

Mayor, Bradley Scheffler

City Clerk, Nikki Blue