

DECEMBER 31, 2019 GLENWOOD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: 2:00 pm

The Glenwood City Council was called to order at 2:18, December 31, 2019, in the city council chambers. The council roll call was made by Recorder Sharon Noble. All council members were present. The opening prayer was given by Councilman Jimmy Clark and Councilman John Powell lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

An informal discussion had been called by the mayor at 1:00, to precede the special meeting. At that time the proposed 2020 budget presented by the mayor was discussed by Powell, Councilman Charlie Caldwell, and Clark. The mayor had made additional changes since yesterday's budget meeting, and some of those figures were discussed. During that session, three citizens attended. Jennifer Smith, Ericka Baker, and Kevin Baker. They had signed in to speak to the council.

At the beginning of the regular meeting, Mayor Smith explained this was to be a "one issue" meeting on only the 2020 budget proposal. Each guest indicated they wanted to ask the council about the water and sewer increase.

The mayor called on Mrs. Smith. She talked about the burden the water and sewer rate increase now has on her family, and those on fixed incomes. The mayor and Powell explained their view on why the increase is necessary. Powell said he and the committee worked with the figures they were given. The mayor spoke about the money the city needed this year to make water and sewer improvements.

Next, two business owners, Kevin and Ericka Baker asked if the council could lower the rates. Mr. Baker said the 15% water increase was a huge problem for his farm and the new laundromat he and his wife own has the water and sewer higher charges. He questioned why the council has now added another 5% this month. Baker said his water bill is running \$500-\$600 now.

Mr. Baker then questioned the mayor and council about why treated water is running continuously on property near him, asking about it being a lot of wasted treated water. The mayor and Powell were aware of the problem. They mentioned another city water line that runs constantly in a rural area. The mayor said he knows the water rate increases are unpleasant for all, but necessary. Mrs. Baker added that Glenwood residents who are elderly with fixed incomes and many single parents who cannot afford washers and dryers come to their business, and the increased costs of water, is hurting all of them, not just their single business. She said their business is a service to these people. The mayor said he owns a local business and understands their problems. He suggested that maybe the water/sewer rate amount might be reduced by 5% in the future by ordinance if the council can find ways to cut costs. Mr. Baker asked why not now.

The council then went back to the budget items presented by Mayor Smith. The mayor had the office manager explain her work when Powell asked questions about some of the line item expenses. She informed the council that they are unaware of all her duties, the technicalities she handles, and why the current CPA costs Powell questioned were reasonable. More areas were discussed where budget cuts

might help balance the proposed budget. Those included taking \$9,000 from the fire vehicle fund this year and seeking any help on the police and fire dept's Lopfi' \$20,000 transfers to fund pensions. The council agreed that deleting the highway #70 bridge-sewer line expense listed as an estimate at \$175,000 would help balance the current figures. General fund and streets were discussed after water and sewer. Then the mayor recommended that the council go into executive session at 3:10, to discuss personnel and employee pay raises the mayor is seeking. Powell said that the city treasurer should not be included. The mayor requested that the Police Chief sit in on the session since police salaries would be discussed. Powell made the motion to go into the executive session with a second by Jimmy Clark.

The vote was 4-0. The council reconvened, and the mayor called the Special meeting back into session at 5:05. He said the necessary budget adjustments were now completed and the 2020 budget was ready for a council vote. There was no further budget discussion. Powell made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Caldwell seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The council meeting was then adjourned on a motion by Powell, and a second by Councilwoman Baker, with a unanimous vote. The time of adjournment was 5:12.

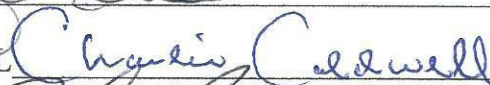
APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

APPROVED ON Jan. 28, 2020. The Council vote was 4-0

MAYOR B.T. SMITH 

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

KAREN BAKER 

CHARLIE CALDWELL 

JIMMY CLARK 

JOHN POWELL 

ATTESTED BY CITY RECORDER-TREASURER:

SHARON NOBLE 