

## JANUARY 28, 2019 GLENWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS: 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Glenwood City Council was called to order by Mayor B.T. Smith and he requested that newspaper editor Joe May lead the opening prayer and Councilman John Powell to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The council roll call was made by City Recorder Sharon Noble. All council members were present. 23 guests were also in attendance which included 8 city employees.

The city recorder noted the three December budget briefings and the two council meetings. The December 17<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting minutes were reviewed by the council and approved on a 4/0 vote, with Councilwoman Karen Baker making the motion, with a second by Charlie Caldwell. The Special Council meeting called by Mayor Smith, to accept the 2020 proposed budget the council had been presented at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was next on the agenda. Those minutes were reviewed and passed unanimously, after a motion by Baker and a second by Powell.

The November financials prepared by staff had been available for review during January. Powell made the motion to approve, and on a second by Caldwell, the council vote was 4/0 to approve. Then Powell recommended the December 2019 financial report be tabled, until next month, since the city council had been provided the December report at the start of tonight's meeting. Council members agreed they need time to review it.

The agenda was available, but the mayor explained he had added some items and they were in the info packet. He explained to the council that regardless of the December 31, 2019 special council meeting to approve his 2020 proposed budget, the action lacked the required resolution. He asked the council to approve Resolution 2020-01, as read, in order to adopt the budget as submitted. Powell made the motion. Clark seconded it, and the council unanimously approved the mayor's request.

The mayor called on Karen Barlowe next, asking her to speak on FY2000, a grant application that requires city council approval to hire one to three police officers. She explained that the grant is a federally assisted one, called the COPS GRANT. If approved, the council was told Glenwood could receive 75% of the cost of hiring an officer or officers for three years. Then the city would be required to retain the officers at full pay and benefits after that date for at least an additional year. Retirement Lofti benefits would be a part of their total compensation package. When asked, Barlowe said her work in preparing the application would range from \$1,200-1,400 as an estimate. Councilman Caldwell, who is the retired county sheriff, and also assists the county presently, spoke in support of the grant. Then Baker made the motion to approve the application process, receiving a second from Caldwell. The council approval was unanimous.

The mayor asked the council if they had looked at the information on a mini excavator they had been given at the start of the meeting. He and city employee Tim McCormick told the council they were requesting that the city council accept the bid for a 2012 John Deere 35D unit priced at \$30,000, from Twin City Grading and Landscaping in North Little Rock. Though the unit has no warranty, the mayor said it has been checked out, and is in good condition. In approved by the council, he said the company will deliver it within a few days. Powell made the motion to accept the bid, on a second by Baker. The vote was 4/0.

The mayor mentioned solar energy as a topic for future discussion, noting that Centerpoint School is to use it. Then he told the council that sewer plant DMR reports for the past month were within the standard perimeters, and that the water department samples were also in compliance, meeting state standards.

Agenda item #14 brought comments from several Glenwood volunteer firemen. D.J. Williams told the council that the firemen were owed more than \$6,500 for attending fire dept. meetings and for fires they had worked, but they had failed to receive compensation. There was continuing discussion about differences of opinion among the current fire department officers and the mayor. The council also directed questions to the firemen. Then, the three officers said they were resigning as fire dept. officers immediately. The group left the council meeting to attend a fire department one. The council approved the fire department's request for \$6,595 to be paid among fire department volunteers based on their documented participation as noted in the report. Baker made the motion and Clark seconded the motion. The fire department server, purchased by the city, was to be returned to the fire department, by Mr. Williams.

Next, the mayor brought up the city zoning ordinance, adopted in May of 2017. He called on city resident, Alan Moore who said he was speaking as a citizen, not a zoning commission member. He told the council that the "grandfather clause on mobile homes" needed to be less restrictive. He said it is a "trash or treasure" thing, and that folks should be able to bring in mobile homes (that are 15 years or less) to replace older ones on any street. Councilman Powell said that hurts the integrity of the ordinance, since it would be hurting the city goal of "Residential One" zoning. Powell and Noble had served on the committee that wrote the ordinance in 2016, and sought the 2017 passage of it, so they asked about delaying any action until the zoning chair could address the council. The mayor agreed with Mr. Moore, as did council members, Baker and Clark. Businessman and citizen, Randy Tidwell asked about bringing in older mobile homes, mentioning a 30-year model. After continuing discussion, the amended proposed ordinance, 2020-01, was introduced on a motion to read, with a 3-1 vote, with Powell voting no. The motion had been made by Baker and seconded by Clark. Then on a motion by Baker and a second by Clark, the amended zoning ordinance was presented for council approval. Powell asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Smith asked the recorder to call the roll on the zoning vote. Baker and Clark voted to approve. Powell and Caldwell voted to disapprove. The council's tie brought the decision to the mayor and he said he was voting "yes." The amendment was passed 3-2.

Next, the mayor told the council that soon he thought he may need to hire another city employee since those who were mowing and doing such work for the city are now in other roles. The council had no comment.

The final major item on the agenda (#19) was a proposal by Powell. The council had approved increased water and sewer rates during the summer of 2019. Yet, new council members were not aware an additional 5% is added annually to city water bills due to another city ordinance. Recent citizen comments to council members prompted them to seek a change, by not allowing the additional 5% increase. Powell wrote the proposed ordinance. Each council member, the mayor, and the city attorney were aware of growing citizen complaints on this issue. Mayor Smith spoke first, saying he is opposed to the reduction because the city needs the money to cover expected increases in water and sewer spending. He enumerated what he sees as projected costs. Powell countered with his own calculations, as did the city treasurer. Citizens present for the discussion had questions for the mayor and council.

Councilman Powell asked to introduce his effort to repeal the 5% increase. Some water dept. related employees had come in to add to the discussion. The office manager answered questions posed to her by citizens and the mayor. Smith repeated that he strongly objected to any council change of the increase, but Powell asked the council to allow the repeal of the 5% increase.

Then Powell made the motion to introduce proposed ordinance, # 2020-02, repealing the additional 5% water rate increase. Baker seconded the motion to introduce, and the vote was unanimous. Next, Powell made the motion to read the proposal. Clark seconded his motion, and the roll call vote was 4/0. Mayor Smith read the proposed ordinance. Clark made the motion to accept the reading, with a second by Powell, and it was approved unanimously. Powell then made the motion to enact ordinance #2020-02, with a second made by Baker. On a roll call vote, Baker, Caldwell, Clark and Powell voted to approve the ordinance, attaching the emergency clause by the same vote count. The billing change, reducing the increase by 5% will go into effect in the February 21<sup>st</sup> billing cycle.

The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Powell made the motion and Caldwell seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

(Drafted minutes written by city recorder. Audio of meetings are also recorded.)

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_, 2020. THE VOTE WAS \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR B.T. SMITH \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILMAN JOHN POWELL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILMAN CHARLIE CALDWELL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILWOMAN KAREN BAKER \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILMAN JIMMY CLARK \_\_\_\_\_

ATTESTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

CITY RECORDER-TREASURER SHARON NOBLE