

**AMENDED PER COUNCIL MAY 22, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING OF GLENWOOD CITY COUNCIL**

MEETING LOCATION: PIKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MARTIN BUILDING, 10:00 AM

Mayor BT Smith called the Special meeting John Powell had initiated to order at 10:00 o'clock. After Smith did so, the mayor requested the names of the other council members he said the state required to take such called meeting action. He indicated it took three of the four council members. Karen Baker and Jimmy Clark acknowledged they were in favor of the meeting as well. City recorder Sharon Noble made the council roll call. All council members were present. Mayor Smith asked Alan Moore to lead the opening prayer and the mayor lead the pledge to the flag.

Councilman Powell then addressed the council and approximately 20 citizens about his concerns regarding what he said were "council meetings getting out of hand." His remarks included his view all should act in a civil manner and follow the Golden Rule. Councilman Jimmy Clark said he was in 100% agreement and that Powell's comments were well said. Council member Baker asked about citizens speaking, and the mayor referred to meetings being "willy nilly, or a free for all." Baker said citizens do need to be able to speak at meetings, but the mayor said the council had passed an ordinance restricting any citizen from speaking on any subject, except the one they signed up for before the meetings begin. Smith said, "It is the law." (audio: comment at 14:00)

Another citizen, Maurice Williams, asked a question about the possibility of a citizen listening to the council discuss a proposed ordinance. He said if the citizen cannot ask a question, and must return the next month, it would be too late. The ordinance might already have been passed the previous meeting. Discussion continued, and the mayor called on Councilman Caldwell, who agreed with Smith on how county citizens are not allowed to speak at Quorum Court meetings either. Then, Councilman Clark made a motion to revisit the public speaker ordinance at the next council meeting. His motion was seconded by Baker, and the council vote was 3-1, with Caldwell voting against the motion.

Councilman Powell then began his presentation on a long list of actionable items he wanted the council to consider. He called on the Police Chief to speak on code enforcement violations and related citations. Powell's comments related to citizen concerns about Glenwood neighborhoods and unsightly yards and deteriorated conditions. Chief Clark Kinzler said there had not been a lot of tickets issued. He noted the department is working on about 20, and four citations have been written.

Powell next asked about the city's accounting system (Assyst) purchased in 2018. Powell indicated that regardless of all the bells and whistles the council does not receive the financial information in a timely manner. Discussion continued with several citizens adding input about other systems. Employing a part time employee to help was considered. Then Powell

suggested seeking resumes of qualified applicants who might be interested in assisting. The mayor indicated he could do that.

Powell moved next to the “smoke” testing on city sewer lines that was done last fall. Powell questioned why such broken or damaged lines still have received no action by now. The mayor said he had not yet sent out the letters notifying residents of the leaks. After council and citizen comments, Councilman Clark made a motion to send the letter. The second was made by Caldwell, and the vote was 4-0. Mayor Smith said he would go ahead and send the Arkansas Rural Water Association letter to the sewer users who are involved.

Zoning commission member, Alan Moore asked to speak on an agenda item on a road he uses, Vaughn Road, saying he wants it to stay as is and not be changed to one lane. Some citizens had cited safety concerns for children and those exiting to Baker Road. Powell said the Vaughn Road item had been removed from the agenda.

Powell said the Glenwood Maintenance Building is again becoming the dumping place for trash in the city bins, rather than for recycled items. He asked the mayor to inquire about the cost of a couple of security cameras for the location.

Buddy Green, a retired veteran, spoke when Powell brought up the deteriorated condition of the American flag outside City Hall. After brief comments, Green said he would take the two flags down himself if that was okay with the council, have it repaired and up it back up by the weekend. He was given the okay to handle it.

The Trestle Bridge Park was the next topic. Citizen concerns have included vehicles entering the park area at unsafe rates of speed and larger commercial vehicles remaining parked near the river’s edge, limiting families with children from parking nearby. General discussion followed. Clark thought a 5 MPH sign and children at play was needed now. He made the motion, with Baker seconding it. The vote was 4-0. A generic sign ordinance was also discussed.

The city gun range was next on the agenda, and the concern was about the need to keep the area clean. An active citizens group was mentioned as well as the possibility of buying security cameras for the area. The mayor added that he could get a portable unit for about \$2,500, that could also be used by police. No action was taken.

A citizen concerned about the lack of maintenance of the city park was recognized to ask a question. She asked if there was any way the city could simply go ahead, now, and add a new commode and lavatory to the park restroom so young families can take their children back to play there again. The mayor and Baker indicated that cannot happen now because of Covid closing of park bathrooms and the repairs should wait till the grant funded park reconstruction begins.

A general discussion about employee policies, job descriptions, cross training and city credit cards was next. The mayor explained the city is like a small business indicating that the new

credit cards simplify or streamline operations. Treasurer Noble asked if the actual receipts will be available for review when the monthly credit card statement is to be paid. Smith explained that he would “okay” the total credit card listing of purchased items monthly, as shown on the sheet, but that “sometimes, no receipts are available.” Citizens were told the mayor’s card limit is \$20,000 and the other 9 cards range from \$0-\$2,000.

The last agenda item was an upcoming city auction of old equipment. The mayor said the list is complete for each department, and any money gained goes back to that specific department. Nick Fowler had earlier requested that all equipment be moved to his Highway 70 location for better visibility for the auction, but the mayor explained that idea is not possible.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Clark and a second by Baker. Caldwell had already left the meeting, so the vote was unanimous on a 3-0 vote. The meeting concluded at approximately 1:00 o’clock.