

MAY 19, 2020 GLENWOOD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER: REGULAR MEETING

The Glenwood City Council was called to order by Mayor B. T. Smith, and the roll call of council members was made by City Recorder-Treasurer Sharon Noble. Karen Baker, Charlie Caldwell, and John Powell were present. Jimmy Clark came in soon afterward. He explained he was coming directly from his work in Nashville. John Powell lead the opening prayer and the mayor lead the Pledge to the Flag.

The February minutes which had been prepared prior to the April meeting, were reviewed again by council members. Powell made the motion to approve, with a second by Baker, and the vote was 3/0. The April 21,2020 minutes were presented and approved, on a motion by Caldwell, and a second by Powell. The vote was 3/0.

Agenda item #10, the HACH company service contract recommended by Mayor Smith, was taken up first by the mayor. It is a field service contract that may be needed during the year on city purchased Hach equipment. The service contract quotation is for \$8,449. Baker made the motion to accept it, with a second by Caldwell. The vote was 4-0.

The mayor's agenda item #4 was next. It is the request to accept the \$47,475. Bid of RBIS, LLC of Texarkana. The company had been one of four companies bidding on the Lakeshore Street-Dennis St. Water Main Replacement project. There had been a question about the bid process, but the council was told the bid opening addendum contractor question was explained by Kyron Browning, of Frank's Engineers. Powell made the motion to award the contract, with a second by Caldwell. The vote was unanimous.

Kyron Browning's attendance at tonight's council meeting was also to present Frank's Engineering's Highway 70 Bridge sewer crossing project projected cost estimates. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$524,517.00. Sewer line cost is shown at \$317,750 and water line construction at \$126,950. The engineering fee is 10% of construction cost. That basic engineering fee is shown as \$44,470. Mr. Browning's comments and the council discussion centered on some specifics. That includes whether to run the sewer line on the bridge itself or whether to bore under the river. The mayor's recommendation that Frank's Engineering be engaged by the city to engineer the project was the actual agenda item.

Mayor Smith suggested that the city try to get a zero- interest loan from the Highway Department to fund the costs, since last year state turnback funds amounted to \$183,610. He said this year it will likely be lower. There was considerable council and city treasurer comment to Browning regarding the project costs and current water and sewer loan payments. The motion to engage Franks Engineering was made by Powell and seconding the motion was Baker. The vote was 4-0. The treasurer and Powell asked Browning about setting up a meeting

with the Highway commissioner or department officials to request they look at Glenwood's current water and sewer loan payment burden. Browning indicated he would.

The March financials report came next. The treasurer said she had questioned the staff's water and sewer income statement. Smith agreed with her review, but he told the council that it was a computer error, not incorrect staff financial information, calling it a computer garbled numbers problem. Powell and Baker suggested no action on the March report be taken, until corrections can be made by the city accountant. All present agreed.

Agenda item #9 was listed as follows: Approve resolution to obtain City Visa Card." This was the mayor's next recommendation, which was discussed at length, after the council was informed there will be 10 cards issued by Arvest. Smith told the council it is a requirement to get the Visa card for city use. He said 4 people will now have general purpose city credit cards with monthly limits of \$2,000. Those employees are police chief Clark Kinzler, Office manager/court clerk Brenda Wilson, and the mayor's new employee supervisor/street department employee Brent Staggs. According to the mayor, his credit card limit will be \$20,000. The credit card issue brought several questions and comments from Councilman Jimmy Clark and John Powell, as well as treasurer Noble.

Then four citizens who had sat through nearly two hours of the council meeting and had signed in to speak on an agenda item, got up to ask the police chief a question about when they could speak. The treasurer asked the mayor if they could be allowed to speak now, to accommodate them. The mayor said they would have to wait. The topic was last on the agenda. He asked them to take their concerns outside and talk to the chief.

The credit card discussion continued. Clark basically questioned the reasoning of 4 people making city purchases for items with credit cards, when there can be no weekly accounting oversight of this by the council. Clark asked why the office manager needs a card at all, when the mayor can make those purchases on his city card, since he is the administrator of the account. Powell and the treasurer made cautionary comments at this point also. The mayor told the treasurer to shut up and he spoke empathically to Clark and Powell about his view. Then the mayor allowed Tim McCormick, who was not signed in to speak take the floor. McCormick gave his thoughts on the mayor's view about the cards. McCormick agreed with Smith and said he had worked side by side with the mayor as his former director of employees.

Councilwoman Karen Baker said she has no problem with issuing the 10 cards, since she had worked for companies that had "hundreds of cards." She and Clark did ask about accountability and the mayor said they could see the credit card statement monthly.

When the mayor allowed the treasurer to speak, she said hers is a cautionary tale to the council. Noble said she has been in the audit sessions with state audit staff. She said Glenwood accounting practices have been questioned, that debit cards were deemed illegal, while credit card use is problematic. Also, basically, her line of questioning was about the city receipts not being available to backup the monthly statement. The mayor's view that two-signature checks

are too time consuming, she questioned too. The mayor said some receipts may be lost at times, but the statement acts as proof of any purchase. The treasurer disagreed with the mayor's view. He continued giving assurances to the council that this will streamline accounting and aid the council. Baker then made a motion to approve the Visa Card application, and Caldwell seconded the motion. Then the motion was changed by Baker, after further discussion to read as: Giving the mayor the authority to pursue the card application as stated. Caldwell made the second, and the vote was 4-0. At this point, the 10 cards shown will be issued to the four previously listed, and others named include Donna Williams, Howard Vidrine, Curtis Steel, John Munz, Robert Redford, and Spencer Cagle. The police, mayor, and street supervisor already have gas cards according to the mayor.

The commercial use of parks received brief comments about the need for supervising traffic concerns and the use of the park by commercial companies. The council agreed the police should monitor activity, secure signage, and report back.

The need for speed bumps and more speed limit signs on Third Street and Sweet Gum Lane were briefly addresses. This was the topic the citizens had wanted to discuss. Speeding on both streets are a concern. The speed bump idea was delayed in favor of more signs and police patrols. Sweet Gum speed limit will be lowered to 25mph.

Caldwell made the motion to adjourn, and Baker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

(These minutes are drafted by the city recorder. There were 6 guests in attendance tonight as well as 3 employees, and one newspaper editor.)

The meeting time was slightly less than 3 hours.