

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
August 17th, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Tyronza City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Woods. With the roll having been called, the following council members were recorded as present: Barbara Ross, Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington, Angie Allison and Candace Drace. A quorum was declared. Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood and City Attorney Noyl Houston were also in attendance.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the July 20th, 2023, regular council meeting minutes and the July 31st, 2023, special called meeting minutes. Barbara Ross seconded by Angie Allison, moved to suspend the reading of the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to approve July 20th, 2023, regular council meeting minutes and the July 31st, 2023, special called council meeting minutes. Barbara Ross seconded by Angie Allison, moved to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, the voting was as follows: Ayes: Unanimous

The expenditures were next on the agenda.

Mayor Woods asked for a motion to approve the expenditures for July 2023, Barbara Ross, seconded by Angie Allison moved to approve the expenditures.

The expenditures were then open for discussion.

Barbara asked if the ditch bucket had come in, she saw where it had been paid for.

Mayor Woods said it had come in and was on the backhoe.

Michael Hood said he saw where two used tasers were purchased from the Lepanto Police Department.

Mayor Woods said the officers did not have enough tasers for each of one of them to have one. They were purchased so they would not have to switch out tasers each shift. The tasers were half the price of a new one.

There being no further discussion on the financials, a voice vote was then taken, and the voting was unanimous to approve the July 2023 financials.

The meeting then moved to new business on the agenda.

Mayor Woods reported the 2022 City audit had been completed and a report had been done. He said there was one finding in the audit. The finding was noncompliance with state law and accepted accounting practices and was noted in the office of Mayor.

The finding stated that on April 21, 2022, the Council agreed to pay for repairs to a house rented by the Police Chief but not owned by the City. In turn, the landlord agreed to allow the Police Chief to make rental payment to the City. During 2022, the City paid \$2,701 for repairs to the house, and the Chief paid \$611 to the City for rental payments, in apparent conflict with Ark. Const. art. 12, 5. According to City officials, the landlord agreed to reimburse the City for any reasonable repairs; however, as of July 12, 2023, the City had received no reimbursements.

Michael Hood said he wanted the record to show that the Council did not agree to pay for the expenses. He said that was between the former mayor, police chief and property owner.

The Recorder/Treasurer asked the council members if they had noticed the money did get paid back on July 18th, 2023 by the landlord.

They said they had seen that.

An answer was filed on the finding stating the statute had been reviewed and the City would abide by the statute.

Mayor Woods reported that Joey Greene had left the City's employment. The job opening had been posted and he had a few applications. He said Danny Marrs had come back to work to help get caught up on mowing the grass.

A report from the Planning and Zoning board on annexation was next on the agenda.

Barbara Ross reported for the board. She said she was at the meeting and the board discussed annexing land into the city limits. She said that 102 acres could be annexed. Land that was discussed for annexation were the City's sewer ponds that were not already in city limits, the service road going to the sewer ponds and land that was on the east and west side of Highway 118 south of town.

She said there were some prospects of a truck stop being built on the east side or west side of Highway 118 south of town. She had talked to Charles Glover about his family wanting to sell land for the truck stop. He said his family was willing to sell the land.

Mayor Woods said that Chris McCorkle had land on the east side of Highway 118, and he talked to Chris, and he did not want his land annexed into the city limits.

Noyl said there were different ways to annex land into the city limits. He said he thought the City was talking about annexing land where the subdivision was going to be built.

Barbara said the land in phase one and phase two of the subdivision was already in city limits and the landowner was going to wait and see how that went before continuing with land that was not in city limits.

Noyl said annexation was so much simpler if it could be done by petition. That is where the landowners agree to come into the city limits. He said there were a lot of new requirements.

There had to be an abstractor or title of insurance agent certify that the landowners were the owners of the land. There had to be a survey description and a surveyor attest that the land joins the existing city limits. He said that shouldn't be a problem if the landowner wants to be inside the city limits.

Barbara said the sewer pond land belonged to the city.

Noyl said there would still need a survey description of the sewer pond property and the service road property too.

Barbara asked if there would be a problem annexing the serving road, would the highway department have to agree.

Noyl said if the highway department had deed to the land, they would have to sign off on the annexation.

The council decided to table any decision for the Planning and Zoning Board to get more information. Barbara would talk to Producers to see if they wanted inside the city limits.

Barbara then gave an update on the park grant. All the information needed to apply for the grant had been gathered and was being put into the application. The deadline to get application to in was August 25th.

Mayor Woods said he had completed and emailed a letter to Street Aid for future street overlayment.

Barbara asked if the grant could be used to put down gravel and get ready to pave the rest of Southwest Oak Street going to the land that was donated behind the park.

Mayor Woods said that AR Dot would come out and say what roads and projects could be done. Jeff said he would look at the material he had on the grant and see if he could find out if that was a possibility.

Fire Chief Chris Daniel then spoke to the council. He recommended the council consider a raise for the firefighters. He recommended fire meeting pay be raised from \$5.00 per meeting to \$10.00 per meeting, fire runs be raised from \$10.00 per fire to \$15.00 per fire and then minimum wage after being on the scene for two hours. He said the total pay for firefighters in 2022 was \$6600.00.

He also said they had some fire turnouts that would be expiring in 2024 that would need to be replaced.

He also said the fire department was asking anyone in town who had a storm shelter to register it with the fire department. This would help when there was a natural disaster the firefighters would know where to go and look for survivors.

Willie Harris asked Chris to explain the fire report.

Angie said there have been a lot of things going on and she said the fire department worked really hard during those events. She said she supported them one hundred percent. She said She did not think he was asking for too much.

Barbara asked if the fire department training was done in-house or did they have to travel somewhere.

Chris said they do what they can in house, there is some training that they have to travel to.

Michael Hood asked how many new recruits the fire department had.

Chris said he had two new recruits.

The council said they would look into the raises and get back with Chris. It would be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood said the CD's would mature on September 13th, 2023. The CD's were currently on a fifteen month rate at a 1.05 % rate. Armor Bank will do a special eight-month rate at 4.8% APR, 4.91% APY. Unico had an eleven-month special rate for 5.05%, 5.16% APY. She asked the council how they wanted to renew the CDs.

After discussion, Barbara Ross suggested going with Armor Bank with the eight-month special rate of 4.8% APR, 4.91 APY.

Daniel Brewington seconded by Angie Allison moved to renew the City's CDs at Armor Bank for the eight-month special rate of 4.8% APR, 4.91% APY and for the signatures on the CDS to remain the same as the previous signature, which would be Mayor Jeff Woods, Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood and Councilmember Barbara Ross. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

Daniel Brewington asked if there was an estimate to repair the stage.

Mayor Woods said he did get an estimate. He said he asked David Wood to put a team together to repair the stage. The estimate was \$19,000.00.

Barbara asked Mayor Woods if he had heard anything from the Poinsett County Judge on whether FEMA was going to offer any assistance to complete repairs due to the storm.

Mayor Woods said FEMA did come into town. He had not heard anything from the County Judge on whether they would be getting any assistance. He was told by FEMA there would not be any money for commercial buildings, there would be low-cost loans.

Barbara asked if the City would get anything for the cleanup.

Mayor Woods said he was not sure. He was hoping there would be some for the work and equipment used during the cleanup.

Willie Harris asked what the next step would be in cleaning up the burned-out buildings next door to the city hall.

Mayor Woods said that would be up to the landowners and after a certain time the City could do something. He said he had talked to Rodney Harris, the owner of one of the buildings, and he is planning on keeping the bricks. Jeff said he encouraged Rodney to keep the brick because there may be some money to build the building back because it was in a historic district.

Barabara Ross said the City needed to look at putting street lights on East Drive where Dollar General was located.

Mayor Woods said he would look into getting lights for East Drive.

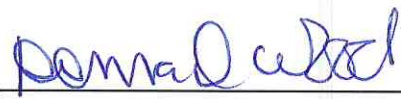
Daniel Brewington said he felt the City needed to look into getting dispatchers for the police and fire, or look at a different option than what the City currently had.

Mayor Woods said he had been in meetings discussing a central dispatch.

There being no further discussion, Michael Hood seconded by Angie Allison moved to adjourn.



Jeff Woods, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer