

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
December 16th, 2024**

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: Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington, Barbara Ross and Angie Allison. Absent: Candace Drace. A quorum was declared. Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood and City Attorney Noyl Houston were also at the meeting.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the November 21st, 2024, regular council meeting minutes. Angie Allison, seconded by Willie Harris, 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 the November 21st, 2024, regular 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 November 2024.

Michael Hood, seconded by Willie Harris, moved to approve the expenditures.

Mayor Woods asked if there was any discussion on the expenditures.

Willie Harris questioned a check written to Pratt's Auto Salvage in the amount \$942.50 for a headlight assembly for the 2021 Ford Explorer. She felt that was a lot to pay at a salvage yard for a used headlight. She asked were other places checked before purchasing the head light assembly there.

Mayor Woods said that other places were checked. He also said it was cracked and in order to get it fixed the whole assembly had to be replaced. He said the police chief checked several places for prices and Pratt's Auto Salvage was the least expensive placed and he told the police chief to go ahead and get the part.

Willie said she thought that was a high price to pay at an auto salvage for the part.

Michael Hood questioned checks written to Global Life.

The R/T said a Global Life representative came in and talked to the employees about their insurance. Some employees signed up for the insurance which was payroll deducted.

Barbara said the bank register showed she got two checks. It was an error, one of the checks was voided.

Willie said there didn't seem to be as many vin verifications in November.

The R/T there weren't as many receipts written. The office was writing a receipt for each one but changed to writing one receipt a day for all the vin verifications that were done that day.

Willie asked what the total amount collected for vin verifications for November was.

The R/T said it was \$8,425.00.

Barbara commented on the police officer's report. She said the report showed officer contacts were made but didn't show the time for worked hours logged on the report.

With there being no further discussion on the expenditures. A vote was taken, and it was unanimous to approve.

The meeting then moved to new business.

Riverside Ambulance service asked to be put on the agenda to address the council about a possible contract between Riverside Ambulance and the City of Tyronza.

Andrew Perry spoke for Riverside Ambulance.

The council members were given a proposed contract to review.

City Attorney, Noyl Houston, had also reviewed the contract and talked directly to Andrew about the contract.

Andrew said Riverside Ambulance was going to put two more trucks in service. The trucks would be volunteer ambulances. They were proposing to put one in Marked Tree and one in Tyronza. He said they had a roster of over thirty people who would be willing and ready to work in the trucks. He said anyone employed by Riverside Ambulance on a volunteer basis would be able to drive the truck as long as there was an EMT or Paramedic on the truck with them.

He said they were asking for an exclusive contract to serve the City of Tyronza with EMS services. He said a truck would be placed at the Tyronza Volunteer Fire Department to be used in Tyronza. He said in the event the truck in Tyronza wasn't available, there would be two other trucks available for Tyronza.

Mayors Woods said he didn't know what the exclusive part meant.

Andrew said for the City of Tyronza and the Tyronza Fire District, Riverside would be the primary ambulance service for the area. The only one the city could use initially. He said if Riverside by some means did not have an available unit, they would take on the responsibility of finding the nearest ambulance to dispatch to the call.

Mayor Woods said the City wouldn't be the one to call for an ambulance and he didn't want to tie anyone's hand or be liable in any way in getting ambulance service.

Andrew said once the contract was in place, it would be submitted to the county. The county would need a resolution from the City saying the contract was valid and then when 911 calls came in for the Tyronza area, the call would be given to Riverside.

Mayor Woods asked Andrew had they talked to the Tyronza Fire Chief.

He said they had talked to Fire Chief Chris Daniel and several firefighters, and they were agreeable to the service.

Mayor Woods said the fire chief would be in charge of the fire station and whether Riverside's ambulance would be placed inside or outside the department.

Andrew said it would not matter to them whether the truck was parked inside or outside. They did, however, need a place to plug the truck up.

Willie asked if the department caught on fire and burnt down, who would be liable for their ambulance that was parked at the fire department.

Andrew said that he would have to get with Blake and find out the answer to Willie's question.

Noyl said the City should not be liable in that situation.

Mayor Woods said he did not want the City to be liable at any point and would like a statement in the contract to that effect. He also said he did not want a decision made on the contract that night. He said he would like time for the council members and the citizens of Tyronza to think about the information that had been given. He said he was for the contract but wanted to make sure the City was covered from every angle of any liability.

Noyl said that he and Andrew talked before the council meeting and there were two things he mentioned that needed to be added to the contract.

One was a clause that mentioned that Riverside Ambulance was an independent contractor and there was no agency agreement or partnership created by the contract. The City would not be looking over Riverside Ambulance shoulder seeing how patients were being treated and as long as they were doing their job adequately, that would be their responsibility.

Noyl said there needed to be another provision that Riverside Ambulance would be required to carry liability insurance coverage the whole time they were operating the ambulance. He said there was currently nothing in the current contract that required that. He said the City would need to be named as an insured, not because the City would be liable but because the City could be sued if there was a collision. That would impose a duty to defend upon the insurance company which would be very important to the City.

Noyl said using volunteer drivers was a little mirky to him as to how that would work. He said any volunteer driver should be considered insured under Riverside Ambulances policy.

Andrew said the drivers would respond as a member of the City's volunteer fire department. Once they got into the ambulance as a driver, then they would be considered an employee of Riverside Ambulance.

Noyl said it was one thing for that to be in the contract, but it also needed to be covered and addressed in the insurance policy. If it's not in the policy, then the insurance company would say they would not cover it.

Noyl said there was one other thing that he and the Mayor talked about. He said it was common in contracts to have an indemnity provision so if something were to happen that Riverside caused the City to incur loss, liability or an expense by reason of their actions or inactions, there should be an indemnity provision where Riverside Ambulance would reimburse the City anything it would be out.

Andrew asked Noyl if it would be ok if he called him tomorrow so that he could get the wording that was needed for the contract.

Mayor Woods said the City would need a copy of the insurance.

Noyl said the City would need a copy of what was called a Certificate of Insurance, certifying the insurance coverage and stating the City was an insured and to be able to view the policy to make sure volunteers would be covered under the policy.

Mayor Woods said the dollar amount would need to be on the policy also.

Noyl said the amount should not be under one million dollars.

Andrew said he would get with Blake on the insurance coverage.

Barbara said the contract has a provision that stated the City would pay the provider a monthly fee. She asked if Riverside was expecting the City to pay them a monthly fee.

Andrew said no, and it was listed as \$0.00 in the contract.

Barbara asked if the paramedics that would be riding in the back of the ambulance would be trained personnel from them.

Andrew said the paramedics that work the trucks now were Riverside paramedics.

Barbara then asked if the volunteers from the Tyronza Volunteer Fire Department would only be used as drivers.

Andrew said one of the Volunteer Fire Department members was a paramedic.

Barbara asked would there be any problem with the Tyronza Firemen working in a dual capacity.

Noyl said he wouldn't see that as a problem.

Noyl said in the original draft of the contract, he thought he saw something about Riverside using their own supplies. He said he did not see anything in the current contract about that.

Andrew said they would use their own supplies and purchase supplies for the fire department to use.

Barbara asked if the contract would prevent someone who lived in Tyronza who had a direct line to another ambulance service from calling that ambulance service.

Andrew said the answer for that question lied in the health department rules. The health department lays out ambulance districts. He said that ambulance service would have to call the home base service and get permission to come into the area.

Angie said that was how it currently worked with no contract.

Michael Hood asked if the truck they were putting in Marked Tree would be at Riverside's ambulance base or at the Marked Tree Fire department.

Andrew said they were keeping their base now and hopefully would be putting an ambulance at the Marked Tree Fire Department as well.

Barbara asked if the R1 truck had more life support supplies on them.

Andrew said the trucks at the fire departments would be licensed as volunteer trucks and stocked as a BLS truck. He said when a paramedic got on the truck with all of their supplies it would be upgraded to an ALS truck.

Barbara asked if when a call was taken and it was determined that a more advanced truck was needed, would they make sure the right personnel responded to that call.

Andrew said as far as patient care went, they would make sure the patient got the best care possible.

Michael asked when the rules changed about first responders being able to drive an ambulance.

Andrew said he thought it was in October when that change was made.

Willie asked if the driver's license would be periodically checked.

Andrew said the driver's licenses were reviewed; he just wasn't sure when they were reviewed.

Angie said she thought the idea was great. It would benefit the City of Tyronza and Riverside.

Andrew thanked the council for letting him speak and he would get with Noyl to make the changes.

The meeting then moved to the proposed 2025 Budget. The council members were presented with the proposed 2025 budget. A budget workshop was scheduled for January 7th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Next to be discussed was naming the stage park.

Cheryl Woods and Kristina Woods had asked for the stage park to be renamed to honor Mrs. Martha Stalker who donated the park to the City of Tyronza.

After discussion, Angie Allison seconded by Michael moved to name the park the Martha Stalker Park. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve. It would be given an official 911 address. A sign would be installed.

Mayor Woods announced the City had received two grants.

One was the ATAP grant in the amount of \$39,000.00 to repair sidewalks in front of the City Hall. The grant was an 80/20 grant the City would contribute 20% of the \$50,000.00 project. ARPA money had been allocated as the 20% grant match. The application was a result of the Beautification Committee meeting and recommendations.

The second grant was awarded to the Tyronza Police department in the amount of \$59,500.00. Linda Hinton and Chief Spain worked on and submitted the grant. The grant would be used for bullet proof vests, non-lethal weapons, and drones.

Mayor Woods said the City had been nominated by the Arkansas Delta By Ways for a hospitality award. The banquet would be held in Stuttgart, AR on January 31st, 2025. The Mayor said he would be going to the meeting.

In old business, Mayor Woods said the well still had not been repaired. The company was still waiting for parts to come in. Projected date for them to come and do the repairs was January 6th, 2025, or January 16th, 2025.

Angie Allison said this would be her last meeting. She said it was an honor to serve Tyronza and she would continue serving Tyronza through the committees she was on and any other way she could. She gave the mayor, city attorney, recorder/treasurer and council members name plates that she had made.

Mayor Woods asked if there were any other business that needed to be discussed.

Babara said the fire fighters have had to go out on the interstate several times and used the jaws of life. She asked if there was anyone who could file for reimbursement. She said there was nothing received in 2024.

Jeff said he had talked to fire chief Chris Daniel about that, and he said he was filling out the paperwork to send in, they just haven't paid.

Mayor Woods said he would get with Chris again on the billing.

With there being no further business, Michael Hood, seconded by Angie Allison, moved to adjourn. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.



Jeff Woods, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer