

**TYRONZA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
January 25th, 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: Barbara Ross, Willie Harris, Michael Hood, Daniel Brewington and Angie Allison. Candace Drace came in at 7:30 pm. A quorum was declared. Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood was also at the meeting. City Attorney Noyl Houston was not able to attend the meeting.

The invocation was given by Barbara Ross.

Mayor Woods asked if there was a motion to suspend the reading of the December 21st, 2023, 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 December 21st, 2023, regular council meeting minutes. Angie Allison, seconded by Barbara Ross, 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 December 2023.

Michael Hood seconded by Barbara Ross moved to approve the expenditures.

The expenditures were then open for discussion.

There was no discussion on the expenditures.

With there being no discussion on the financials, a voice vote was then taken, and the voting was unanimous to approve the December 2023 financials.

Superintendent Pierce was first on the agenda to speak to the council on the school's request for a millage increase. He gave each council member and the mayor a copy of the proposal. The proposal was to tear down the old junior high building and the old agriculture building, the old home economic building, the safe house and the bus lot.

The new building would be backed up on the property some. He showed the council a picture of what the new building would look like and pictures of the floor plans. He said they were building what the state required plus some additional footage. The additional footage would have to be paid for by the school.

He said the new school building would cost around \$19 million dollars. He said the school had three million in the budget, the state would be contributing eight and one-half of a million dollars and the bond issue would generate seven million dollars. The school was asking for a 7.9 millage increase.

The new building would house junior high and senior high school students. The old high school would be updated for the K-2. The old elementary school would be torn down.

The new building would have a performing arts room. This room had been increased to hold two hundred people. The state plan was for only fifty people.

The requested millage increase would raise the current 35.2 to 43.1.

Angie said all the information was available on the school's website. She said there was a question-and-answer section on the website also and all the questions would go directly to Mr. Pierce.

Mr. Pierce said there were two public meetings scheduled. There would be one on January 29th from 5 pm to 7 pm in Lepanto and on in Tyronza on February 20th from 5 pm to 7pm.

Barbara Ross asked what part of the building was the state not going to fund.

Mr. Pierce said the hallway would be ten foot wide. The state would only fund a six foot hallway so the school would have to fund the additional four foot.

Barbara asked if the hallway would be the safe room.

Mr. Pierce said the performing arts room would also be the safe room. It would double as the performing arts room and the safe room.

Barbara asked if the state would fund a safe room.

Mr. Pierce said the state would does not fund safe rooms anymore.

Barbara expressed concerns that the proposed millage increase would make Tyronza's millage the highest in Northeast Arkansas. She said Tyronza's millage would be 54.4.

Daniel said he didn't think Tyronza's would be the highest in Northeast Arkansas. He said Mississippi County had a higher rate.

Mayor Woods said if the proposed millage did make Tyronza's millage the highest in the area, it could hurt any future development for Tyronza.

Mr. Pierce said the school's millage rate would compare to Marion and Earle.

Barbara said she felt a new junior high and senior high could be built with a 4 mill increase if the plans were revised to not build the auditorium and not tear down the safe room.

Angie said she felt a new junior high school would be a selling point for Tyronza.

Mr. Pierce said the new auditorium was a state requirement.

Barbara asked how many years the debt for the project would be.

Mr. Pierce said he thought it would be thirty years.

Barbara asked if the school had a debt that was about to be paid off that could be factored into the proposed millage increase.

Mr. Pierce said that had already been figured into the proposed millage increase.

Barbara asked how much of the current millage was set aside for debt.

Mr. Pierce said 25 mill was obligated to debt service.

She asked how many mills were set aside for the bond issue, then she looked it up and it was 10.2. She then asked when that would be paid off.

Mr. Pierce said he wasn't sure, but they could ask the finance people at the public meeting.

Barabara said if the 10.2 was paid off, the burden of the project would not have to be put on the citizens.

Mr. Pierce said they had looked at all of that and those were questions the finance people at the public meeting would be able to answer.

Barbara said the vote would be on March 5th and asked if there was an alternate plan that the project could be revised. She asked if when they talk to the finance people and find it was where they didn't have to ask for the 7.9 mill increase could it be changed before the election.

Mr. Pierce said it could not be changed.

Willie asked what would happen if the vote failed.

Mr. Pierce said they had three chances to get it approved.

Barbara asked if the reason for tearing down the elementary building was because the state was asking for repairs to be done on the building.

Mr. Pierce said tearing down the elementary building was a local decision.

Barbara asked if the proposed millage increase would be designated for just the project.

Mr. Pierce said it would not be, it could be used wherever they needed it to be used for.

Mr. Pierce thanked the council for allowing him to address them about the project.

The East students were next on the agenda to present a natural disaster program to the council.

Kylie Parham and Aiden Thompson spoke to the council. The name of their project was Natural Disaster Relief. The project was for the citizens of Tyronza to know where to go and what to do in case of a natural disaster. They had developed a flyer with emergency contact numbers and they planned to put the flyers in fire stations, police stations, grocery stores and gas stations. They were also making a website where citizens could go and get information on natural disaster relief. The East students were partnering with the Harrisburg students on the project. The purpose of the project was so people would know who to contact and where to go in case of emergencies and to keep non-emergency phone line from being backed up with calls.

The students asked if the City would put their flyer in with the water bills to be distributed to the citizens of Tyronza.

Mayor Woods said the City could do that.

Michael Hood suggested the students make stickers with the information on them so that people can stick them on their refrigerators to have the information readily handy.

The students asked if the City would share the cost of printing the information.

Angie, the student's teacher, said she was thinking about having a magnet made with the information on it. She said they would have to raise money for that to happen and for now they were wanting to get the flyers out to the people.

Michael suggested the City help with the cost of the magnets.

The students would check on the price of making the magnets and get back with the council.

The students explained the QR code on the flyer was to scan for contact information for the Red Cross and plans were to put another QR code to scan for their website.

The council said the students were doing a good job and thanked them for their work.

The meeting then moved the 2024 Budget.

Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood then read the proposed entitled AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AMENDED 2024 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TYRONZA, ARKANSAS in full thereby placing it upon its first reading.

Angie Allison, seconded by Michael Hood, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be suspended, and that the ordinance be placed on its second reading by title only.

Barbara Ross asked if they were talking about the update 2024 proposed budget.

Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood said it was the copy that was put in the council packets.

The Mayor put the question on the adoption of the motion to the council, and the roll was called. The vote was as follows: Barbara Ross-yes; Willie Harris – yes; Daniel Brewington-yes; Michael Hood-yes and Angie Allison-yes.

The Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended. The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon its second reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Angie Allison, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be further suspended, and that the ordinance be read by title only.

The Mayor put the question on the adoption of the motion to the council the roll was called and the voting was as follows: Willie Harris-yes; Angie Allison- yes; Barbara Ross-yes; Michael Hood-yes and Daniel Brewington-yes.

Thereupon, the Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended.

The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon a third and final reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Willie Harris, moved the ordinance be adopted.

The question was put by the Mayor to the council on the adoption of the motion, and the roll was called, the voting was as follows: Barbara Ross-yes; Angie Allison-yes; Willie Harris-yes and Michael Hood-yes and Daniel Brewington-yes.

The Mayor thereupon declared the ordinance adopted.

Mayor Woods and the City Council then recognized Cheryl Woods, Chris Woods, Deloise James and Sandra Lucas for their dedication and hard work for the community and senior citizens by presenting them with a plaque.

Mayor Woods then gave an update on the FEMA windstorm assistance program. He said he was working on getting the figures and forms to put in the portal so the City could get some reimbursement on the expenses incurred from the windstorm.

Barbara asked if there would be any reimbursement from the trees that were blown over.

Mayor Woods said he would ask that question on the next phone meeting.

Discussion on changing the street name of Oak/SW Oak street was next on the agenda.

Michael Hood suggested changing West Oak Street to Smith Street in honor of Oattie Smith who lived on the street for years. Daniel Brewington suggested naming Southwest Oak Street to Sharp Street in honor of Offard Sharp who worked for the City for years. After discussion the council decided to change West Oak Street to Smith Street and Southwest Oak Street to Sharp Street.

The change would be submitted to the state 911 system to make the change.

Barbara wanted the residents affected by the change to be notified.

Recorder/Treasurer Donna Wood then read the proposed ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF A PORTION OF OAK STREET AND SOUTHWEST OAK STREET in full thereby placing it upon its first reading.

Michael Hood, seconded by Willie Harris, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be suspended, and that the ordinance be placed on its second reading by title only.

The Mayor put the question on the adoption of the motion to the council, and the roll was called. The vote was as follows: Barbara Ross-yes; Willie Harris – yes; Mayor Jeff Woods-yes; Michael Hood-yes.

The Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended. The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon its second reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Angie Allison, moved that the rule requiring the reading of any ordinance in full on three different days be further suspended, and that the ordinance be read by title only.

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Thereupon, the Mayor declared that at least two-thirds of all members of the council having voted in favor of the motion to suspend the rule, the motion was carried and the rule suspended.

The ordinance was then read by title only, thereby placing it upon a third and final reading.

Barbara Ross, seconded by Candace Drace, moved the ordinance be adopted.

The question was put by the Mayor to the council on the adoption of the motion, and the roll was called, the voting was as follows: Barbara Ross-yes; Mayor Jeff Woods-yes; Willie Harris-yes and Michael Hood-yes.

The Mayor thereupon declared the ordinance adopted.

Mayor Woods gave an update on switching the police dispatch from Marked Tree to the Poinsett County Sheriff's Office.

He said the change had been completed for the police department and that the fire department was still being dispatched through Marked Tree Police Department.

The Poinsett County Sheriff's Department would be putting a repeater on the Tyronza water tower and would not be charging the city for the dispatch services.

The Poinsett County's Sheriff's Department gave the Tyronza Police Department two radios and Tyronza Truck and Trailer would be making a donation to the police department to buy a third radio.

Obligating the ARPA funds was next on the agenda.

The council members were given a list of proposed purchases with the money. The list included new computer for mayor, adding accounting software to mayor's computer, adding water software to recorder/treasurer computer, purchase three sets of fire turnouts, updating the sound system in the court room and fixing sidewalk in front of city hall and adding decorative lights.

Barbara Ross said she agreed with everything except for the sidewalk repairs. She said there was a grant through AR Dot for sidewalk repairs.

Candace Drace asked if the flagpole at the park would be replaced at the downtown park.

Mayor Woods said it would be replaced.

Michael Hood said he had seen a lot of AR Dot trucks on East Street and asked was there any more news on the road being extended.

Mayor Woods said he met with a representative and they wanted to get the road started by April. He gave the representative a letter stating the City would be using Bonds Engineering because questions were being asked that an engineer would need to answer.

Barbara Ross said there was a delay because Bond Engineering told the Highway Department the road project should not be getting into the sewer pond. The Highway Department then had to revise their plans. If Bonds Engineering agrees with the City then the project will move forward. If not, it will need to be revised again.

Mayor Woods said he needed to get with Chris McCorkle about him being a contractor for the city so that the work on the project would not have to be bid out every time.

Jeff gave an update on the City sign. He said he called the sign company, and they said the sign was good. Jeff said he felt like there needed to be some kind of thick steel backing on the back of the sign to help it withstand the winds.

Mayor Woods said he also talked to Justin with Tyronza Truck & Trailer, and they would still make a \$1,000.00 donation toward replacing the sign.

Candace Drace asked if the City was still looking into putting a City sign at the other end of town.

Jeff said that was something he was still looking at.

Barbara said Anderson Signs could put a solar lit sign up. It would say welcome to Tyronza, have the exit number and businesses could put their names on the bottom of the sign. She said as far as the finances are concerned it may be cheaper just to replace the existing sign. She also said that Anderson Signs would be giving her a quote on a sign.

Willie Harris asked if a US flag could be put back up at the City Park. She said it had been down for months.

The Recorder/Treasurer said the hook that attaches the flag to the rope was broken and had to be replaced. Danny got a flag and said he would be working on it when it dried up enough.

Jeff gave an update on the lights on East St. He said Entergy called him on the 18th and had given Craighead Electric the release to install the street lights. The release will have to go to the commissioner first to be approved.

Fire Chief Chris Daniel then spoke to the council. He asked everyone to keep the family of Jerry Organ in their thoughts and prayers.

He said he purchased three sets of turnouts, and they finally came in. He then said he would be applying for a grant through the Arkansas Rural Services to purchase three more sets of turnouts. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant and the fire department would be using the Act 833 funds to pay for half of the turn outs.

Chris said he would also like to mention a program that he was working with Robin Daniels on. It is called Tic Tac Toys. They are collecting new toys to be given away at the Christmas Parade.

Michael Hood asked if the fire department had their annual election of officers.

Chris said they had and most of the positions stayed the same. The officers are,

Chris Daniels, Fire Chief; Joe Byrd, Assistant Fire Chief; Johnathan Drace, Assistant Fire Chief; Hunter Turner, Captain; and Mark Wilhoite, Captain.

Candace Drace suggested that in early fall for the City to make a post that would ask anyone that was going through hard times and needed help for Christmas to make contact with the City, and for the City to sponsor some type of angel tree for Tyronza children.

Angie Allison said the school does something like that too.

Recorder/Treasurer, Donna Wood the read the proposed resolution entitled "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TYRONZA TO APPLY FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE TYRONZA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM THE ARKANSAS RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM" in full.

Barbara Ross seconded by Willie Harris, moved to adopt the resolution. Upon a voice vote, the voting was unanimous to approve.

At a previous council meeting, there was a question of whether the gun purchased for the police chief was registered to the City of Tyronza or to the police chief. Mayor Woods reported the gun was registered to the City of Tyronza and when the gun was paid for by the police chief it would then be transferred to him. The council members were provided with a copy of the gun registration.

Fire Chief Chris Daniels brought one of the new fire turnouts for the council to look at.

Willie asked if they were buying new helmets.

Chris said the helmets were still good and currently did not need to be replaced.

Michael Hood asked if the Mayor had been notified of any boom trucks for sale.

Jeff said he had not been notified of any boom trucks for sale. He said he was still looking and waiting for one to come available.

With there being no further business, Willie Harris seconded by Michael Hood moved to adjourn. The meeting was then adjourned.



Jeff Woods, Mayor



Donna D Wood, Recorder/Treasurer