

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 11, 2014**

The Board of Mayor and Commissioners held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room at City Hall. Before calling the meeting to order, Vice Mayor Debbie Hughes asked Terry Case to give the invocation and David Abbott to lead the pledge to the flag. Upon roll call, the following members were present: Commissioner Jimmy Wigfall, Commissioner Jeff Powers, and Vice Mayor Debbie Hughes. Absent: Commissioner Ronnie Lancaster and Mayor Jane Dawkins.

Vice Mayor Hughes asked the Board to review the minutes of the February 11, 2014, board meeting. A **Motion** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Commissioner Wigfall, seconded by Commissioner Powers. Voting aye were three, none opposed. A **Motion** to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 special board meeting was made by Commissioner Wigfall, seconded by Commissioner Powers. Voting aye were three, none opposed.

Beth Duggar, President of the National Cornbread Festival, approached the board and asked permission to close the same streets at the same times as last year for this year's festival. She also thanked the city for all the support and effort that is given for the festival. The festival will be held the weekend of April 25th.

A citizen's comment form was completed by Allie Mae Haley before the meeting. She had several questions for the Board. City Administrator Sammy Burrows addressed the questions as follows:

Haley asked why the WIFI had been cancelled by the city. Burrows stated that the Board did not renew this contract due to the cost of \$24,000/year and lack of poor service and signal. Also he stated that the city provides free internet service at the public library.

Haley questioned the passing of Ordinance #741 regarding the property tax increase. Burrows stated that the Ordinance was passed with three readings: August 13, 2013, August 20, 2013, and final reading/public hearing on September 3, 2013. Burrows did say that the City is in the process of changing our charter to have these ordinances passed with two (2) readings.

Haley's third question involved the city passing a brush tax. Burrows said this was never discussed and would not occur.

City Administrator Burrows wanted to let the citizens know that there is help from the State regarding paying property taxes for the disabled, elderly, and widowed. This voucher is available at city hall and assistance in completion of voucher is available. A county property tax voucher is available also.

Burrows told Haley that all special meetings are posted on the door at city hall. The city is not required by the state to publish these special meetings in the local newspaper. The regular meetings are held the same time each month.

Commissioner Powers asked Burrows to take a look at the pot hole behind the Chester Powell Apartments. Burrows said the city was picking up eight (8) tons of cold mix in the morning and would be addressing this problem and others.

Vice Mayor Hughes asked Attorney Billy Gouger if he had spoken with anyone regarding the issues brought up at last month's meeting regarding house repair/trash cleanup. Gouger stated that Kessler was the only person who had responded. He plans to meet with her at a later time to try to rectify the issue with her mobile home/empty house. Gouger said he has had no response from the other two citizens.

Hughes also asked Gouger about organizing a clean-up committee for each area in the city. Gouger stated that the Mayor could designate members and appoint an advisory committee.

Hughes stated that several citizens have gotten flat tires around C & D Recycling. Burrows said the Street Department has been running the magnet to help pick up debris from the road. He said for the citizens to take the bills for the repairs to C & D Recycling.

Hughes asked Burrows if the Police Department has started serving the official notices regarding junk, debris, and trash violations. Burrows said the Police would be serving these notices to help clean up our city. We have an ordinance and state law that prohibits this.

Burrows provided to the Board financial statements from the Little League Baseball Team and the Girls' Softball Team. Both teams are requesting a donation from the City. There are approximately 130 boys (11 teams) playing baseball and approximately 52 girls (4 teams) playing softball this year. They will be using Kimball's facilities and also our fields. The City donated \$3,000 to the baseball team last year and \$2,000 to the girls' softball team. A **Motion** was made by Commissioner Wigfall, seconded by Commissioner Powers to give the same donation as last year. Voting aye were three, none opposed.

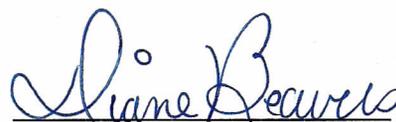
Burrows asked if the Board would consider hiring a part-time helper for the Parks & Recreation Department from April through August. This would cost approximately \$5,400 which is in the budget. A **Motion** was made by Commissioner Powers, seconded by Commissioner Wigfall to hire a part-time helper. Voting aye were three, none opposed.

Sparkle Day will be held on April 12th. If rained out, it will be held on April 19th. This will start at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall. Marion Natural Gas will provide gloves and garbage bags. The city will provide water and lunch at the Dixie Freeze. Prizes will be awarded for the largest groups: 1st place \$250, 2nd place \$150, and 3rd place \$100.

Arthur Rounsaville, a volunteer at the recycling center, asked the Board if they intend on keeping the recycling center open. Burrows said the city is looking for a place to relocate the center. He thanked Mr. Rounsaville for all his hard work and effort.

Commissioner Wigfall wanted to thank whoever has cleaned up Railroad Avenue. Burrows said the owner is responsible for this cleanup from 3rd Street to 1st Street.

There being no further business and upon **Motion** made by Commissioner Wigfall, seconded by Commissioner Powers, the Vice Mayor adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Beavers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Diane Beavers, Recorder

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Debbie Hughes, Vice Mayor