

**MINUTES, TOWN OF MOUNTAIN CITY BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMAN  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M. by Mayor Jerry Jordan**

**ROLL CALL**

Alderman Jason Bryan – Present  
Alderman Jerry Horne – Present  
Mayor Jerry Jordan - Present  
Vice Mayor Lawrence Keeble - Present  
Alderman Dustin Shearin – Present

**INVOCATION**

Prayer was led by Alderman Dustin Shearin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Alderman Jason Bryan led everyone present to the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

**PRESENTATIONS**

Chasity Trivette, Board member of Hometown Service Coalition, was present to give an update on the desired playground equipment for Ralph Stout Park. She presented a slide show which showed the options, sizes, color scheme and layout. Chasity was asking permission for HSC to move forward with the plan that she presented. Alderman Bryan inquired if the MOU from the state had been finished and City Recorder Gerty stated that the TOMC had not received the MOU or status of funding back yet. Alderman Bryan stated without that, the board could not approve anything at this time, and everyone agreed. All board members were impressed with the design and look forward to the updates.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chassie Timbs was representing the Johnson County Adult Softball League. They are requesting to use the field at Ralph Stout Park from August 2024-November 2024 every Tuesday night with rain dates on Thursday. She stated that the league would put any funds raised from concessions, etc. back into the upkeep of the fields. The games would be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Discussion followed. The board advised her that they would allow the JCASL to use the fields, but the league would have to obtain commercial liability insurance and bring a copy of that to the City Recorder for the TOMC records before any games could be held. Alderman Shearin made first motion to allow the JCASL to hold the games contingent upon proof of insurance. Alderman Bryan seconded motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES.

**CONSENT CALENDER**

**Consent Agenda Item No. 3A:** Approval of minutes from July 2, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Jordan made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve the consent calendar with name correction on page 3 from Vice Mayor Jordan to Vice Mayor Keeble. Alderman Horne seconded motion. Roll call followed:

Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS ITEMS OF CONCERN/COMMENTS**

### **Vice Mayor Lawrence Keeble**

- Gratitude and appreciation to all employees
- Inquired if there were any paving funds left. City Recorder Gerty stated there was around \$19,000.00 after paving/radio purchase of ARP funds.

### **Alderman Jerry Horne**

- Expressed his appreciation to all the TOMC employees
- Pleased with seeing all the paving being done (by City and State)

### **Alderman Jason Bryan**

- Also expressed his appreciation to all employees
- Asked when Recreation Board would be meeting. City Recorder Gerty stated in September
- Inquired about any outstanding grants, particularly the CBDG Grant. Mayor Jordan stated that the Environmental Study has been extended on this grant and the site plan has not been received from engineer and cannot do anything until they receive the environmental studies back. Mayor Jordan also stated that there were 8 ARP grants in process. Requested that City Recorder Gerty put something together showing all grants, timing, funds, etc. for the September meeting.
- Asked about outstanding insurance claims. Gerty stated that 3 of the 4 claims have been filed, paid and closed. There is one outstanding claim involving 2 commercial vehicles and both companies are claiming their drivers not responsible. This was for the wreck that damaged the lights/poles at Food Lion/Roan Creek/ intersection.
- Ordinance/Clean. Wanting to know where TOMC is at on the letters that have been sent out. Bryan has received complaints about mowing, etc. Gerty asked Bryan if anyone called him again if he could have them call her office so that she could get specifics and provide to the officers. Discussion followed.
- Asked Kenneth Dickens about brush pick up and if they have any dates set. Dickens stated that 2 weeks in the Spring and 2 weeks in the Fall is what he would like to see put in place. Dickens stated that employees have went around this week and picked up what brush was out. Dickens stated that the long arm on one of the tractors had broken. Once fixed, they can start mowing right of ways again.

### **Alderman Dustin Shearin**

- Asked if anyone knew where the right of way was located at Hardees, Mink Crafts. Stated that there are brush/trees growing near the bridge at Hardee's and was asked if the TOMC could cut it down. Asked Kenneth Dickens to go look at this. Gerty stated that TOMC received a proposal from TNDOT, but it was only for winter road maintenance such as snow removal and did not include any mowing/clearing of right of way.

- Alderman Shearin stated that he would not be running for re-election so that he could focus on his family right now.

### **Mayor Jerry Jordan**

- Condolences to the families of Dannie Dunn and Bo & Joyce Wilson and JCMS Student Bianka Houser.
- FTHRA celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Friday, Augst 2. Mayor Jordan is Chairman of the Board.
- Appreciation to PD and SD for taking care of the July 4<sup>th</sup> events and Sunflower Festival.
- DMR will be meeting. Just purchased 80 new acres. Also have around 47 students from ASU and 24-30 cameras set up studying wildlife. Mayor Jordan gave each council member an economic impact analysis from DMR.
- Sales Tax Referendum-2024 passed. Will have to wait and see how much \$ the city will receive. Suggested maybe even putting the funds in a capital line item when received.
- Joe Barlow/Kim Sutton car show rescheduled to September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Health Fair August 10 at FCC Life Center
- Met with Dave Frisbie, new owner of Forge Mountain. Mr. Frisbie is working on a master plan and wants to share the vision that he has and wants input back from City/County leaders.
- Charlie & Nancy Greene property at Sunset Drive/Wall. Kenneth Dickens and Mayor Jordan met with the Greene's. The city is going to get bids to tear walls out and replace with interlocking blocks/weather bearer/drainage.
- Swimming Pool has officially closed. Before next year need to discuss possible longer schedule in the future. Last year, the city lost \$19,000.00. However, the pool will need some major repair, including the possibility of a pool liner.
- Appreciation to all staff
- Vice Mayor Keeble inquired about the side-by-side trail near Burger King. Mayor Jordan stated that it is still in the plan, but they are behind due to the rain. DMR is going to approach lobbyist/Nashville to try to get more roadways approved to ride on.
- Mayor Jordan stated that Interim Water Plants Manager Anthony Barry has been doing a great job and made a Motion to appoint Anthony Barry as permanent Water Plants Manager. Alderman Shearin seconded motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.
- Made a motion to approve the Wastewater System Improvement Project to Iron Mountain Construction based on the recommendation by Bennett and Associates. Alderman Horne made first motion to accept the bid. Alderman Bryan seconded the motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.
- Bids have been released on the Water Treatment Rehabilitation at Rambo Springs and Silverlake and the WWTP Filter Press Replacement.

### **City Attorney, George Wright**

- Agreement with Heritage Hall-Cannot Locate One. Heritage Hall provided an old one that had an expiration two years from 199something.
- Action Coalition Lease, working on
- Merger with Cold Springs, working on

**City Recorder, Audra Gerty**

- FYE Audit is well underway for 23-24 Fiscal Year
- New website will be launched no later than August 31. Will have calendar of events, access to forms/links, board meetings will be able to be uploaded along with minutes.
- New phone and network equipment is currently being installed throughout town facilities. Once this is done, the new phone system will be installed.

**DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR REPORTS/COMMENTS****Flo Bellamy, Community Center**

- No Comments

**Kenneth Dickens, Public Works Director**

- With New Business
- Mayor Jordan asked if he was able to get in touch with Maymead about the mess they have left on sidewalks/streets. Dickens stated that he has not had anyone to return his calls, and he will call Wiley if not cleaned up/no one calls.

**Joe Woodard, Assistant Chief of Police**

- No comments

**Jamie Meade, Fire Chief**

- No comments

**Chris Atwood, WWTP Manager**

- Influent filtration problem-wants board to be aware that WWTP is barely making permit. He has had to shut treatment off at times. If they take on much more water, plant will not make permit. Basin holds a million gallons. It is filling in 12 hours or less. Some rain event of ½ inch should never have to cut treatment off and the WWTP is having to do that. At 87-90% capacity. Plant is set up for 1.2 million and Atwood stated he is pushing over 2 million through. In his opinion there are two options; invest in a new collection system or build a new plant. Maybe have engineers do a feasibility study. Discussion followed.
- Alderman Horne asked if Chris Hook could help in any way by pulling man-hole lids and trying to narrow issue down. Hook and Horne both agreed that some of the issue is probably coming from the manholes. Discussion followed.
- Alderman Bryan suggested that Alderman Jerry Horne be involved with all meetings regarding this.

**Anthony Barry, Water Plant Manager**

- Thanked the council for the appointment of Water Plant Manager
- Stated there was a crack in the clear well at Silver Lake-high service pumps. Have met with the engineer.
- Fox Hollow Pump House-have met with Mountain Electric, VFTechnical and town electrician Clyde Nelson. Discovered that there are power surges that is causing the system to shut down pumps. They think a line conditioner will fix the issue and keep the spikes of surges from happening. The cost of parts will run around \$3500.00 plus electrician cost. Discussion followed. Gerty stated there are funds currently in the budget, so no budget amendment needed at this time.

- Stated that the 2007 Dodge Dakota at Lowe Springs Water Plant has served its purpose and can no longer be used. Going to look and see if they can find a good used vehicle to replace this one.

**Chris Hook, Collection & Distribution Superintendent**

- Hillcrest Apartments (rusty water issue)-waiting on Iron Mountain Construction pre-construction meeting then should be able to start. This issue is on the town and there are no ARP funds to fix this. We are replacing galvanized lines. Some of the apartments also have galvanized line, which the owners/management will also need to repair their side.
- Found a major water leak on Iron Mountain. The leak was in a second 2” main on the other side of road that they had no record of. This leak has probably been going on for years. Was able to repair and stop the 30,000-gallon water loss.
- Alderman Shearin inquired about the lead-line survey progress. City Record Audra Gerty stated that TOMC has inventoried around 3,000 connections. Discussion followed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Accept Resignation of Brent Thomas, Collections and Distribution  
Vice Mayor Keeble made 1<sup>st</sup> motion with Alderman Shearin seconding motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.
- 2) Accept new hire Jamie Johnson III, Water Plants and Pump Station  
Mayor Jordan made 1<sup>st</sup> motion with Alderman Horne seconding motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.
- 3) Approval to declare the following items as surplus:
  - a) WPPS-DODGE Dakotas (2) sell as scrap
  - b) Street Department - 2002 F250 with snowplow to sell on Gov Deals
  - c) Street Department - 2008 Thomas School bus to sell on Gov Deals
 Alderman Shearin made motion to approve surplus of all 4 vehicles with Alderman Bryan seconding motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.
- 4) Review and discussion of proposal for new garbage truck chassis and lift axle for Sanitation Department. K. Dickens and Scott Hamilton had information for the council about issues with the current chassis/lift axle and money that has already been spent over the years. Hamilton also had quotes on the ‘one arm bandit’ trucks and trash cans and had spoken to a few Elizabethton employees about how their new truck was working and how they were handling picking up garbage. Hamilton also had information on adding a trash can lift in the future. Discussion followed. Alderman Bryan made motion to approve purchase of chassis/lift axle with Mayor Jordan seconding motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.

### **Other Items Brought to Attention/Discussed**

Scott Hamilton, mechanic, stated that the diagnostic equipment is outdated, and he is unable to use on the newer vehicles. He is asking for a new scanner at a cost of \$9,349.45 +/- . Stated that he cannot scan any vehicle computer over 2020 year. Discussion followed. Mayor Jordan made a motion to approve the purchase of the new diagnostic equipment with Alderman Horne seconding the motion.

Mayor Jordan suggested moving the November 5th City Council meeting to 5:30 due to the election. Everyone agreed.

Alderman Horne questioned the signed contract for leak detection and the cost. Mayor Jordan stated that he approved and signed the contract. Alderman Bryan questioned if we are double paying this company because we had to provide them with one employee. Mayor Jordan and A. Gerty stated that the funds would be coming from ARP Water Loss funds. Discussion followed

Representatives for the Pete Pavusek Memorial Scholarship were present requesting the ball fiends at Ralph Stout Park for a Softball Tournament fundraiser. The dates are September 27 and 28 at Ralph Stout Park. They stated they would have insurance and participants would have to sign a waiver.

Mayor Jordan made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to allow the tournament. Alderman Bryan seconded motion. Roll call followed: Alderman Bryan, YES, Alderman Horne, YES, Mayor Jordan, YES, Vice Mayor Keeble, YES, Alderman Shearin, YES. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Shearin made motion to adjourn at 08:08 p.m. with Alderman Bryan seconding motion.