

## **KEO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

March 15, 2021

Mayor White called the March 2021 council meeting to order at 7PM. Those present were Mayor Stephanie White, Recorder/treasure Clara Hughes, aldermen: Jerry Morton, Adam Cloninger, and Ty Johnson. There was one council member absent and Lanehart who was in the meeting by using zoom. There were 6 guests present for this meeting.

Minutes were read by recorder/treasure and a motion was made by Adam Cloninger to accept the minutes as read with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry with all in agreement.

The February city financials were presented to the council and after discussing these financials a motion to approve these financials was made by Cloninger with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Morton and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry Morton asked what the payroll amount was for the mayor and he requested that the city needed to give the mayor an increase in salary. After a discussion on this matter the council made the decision to increase to the same amount as the recorder/treasure. And plus with the amount that was agreed upon of paying for the cell phone service. That motion was made in December to pay for the cell phone service for the mayor. After the discussion Morton made the motion to increase the mayor's salary with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson and the motion passed with one abstention.

City of Keo water financials were presented to the council and motion was made by Lanehart with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cloninger to accept these financials as presented with all in agreement.

Mayor White asked Andy Franks to address the council and give an update on the process and steps on moving forward with the grant. After giving his updated report on the steps that are being taken he asked the council to allow him to go forward with this. Jerry Morton made the motion to allow Andy Frank's to take the next steps with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson with all in favor.

Fire Chief gave his monthly report to the council with reporting one call for the month.

Constable Tim Collins said it had been fairly calm in the city of Keo this last month.

Old business:

ANRC stated there would not be principal forgiveness to the city of Keo unless we increase water rates. There would be no grant funding unless we raise sewer rates.

The mayor then asked the council if they could meet to discuss setting a base rate for specific charges, charge for water shut off or turning on, charges for broke lines, shut off notices, rate prices for meters, etc. for the water & sewer department, the council agreed to meet in the next few weeks to discuss these things.

Mayor then asked the council about helping the city of England with ambulance service fees, and the council asked to table this until next month's meeting.

Mayor White then asked the council again concerning the new street signs for the city after a discussion on this Jerry made the motion to allow the mayor to purchase the green signs in the amount of \$3550.00 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lanehart and the motion passed in all in agreement.

She then asked them to consider allowing her to set up getting some street repairs done. She stated Fordyce needed some work done and several holes around town needed to be filled, after talking Lanehart made a motion to allow Mayor White to have Dougan do the street repairs in the amount of \$18,975.00 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cloninger and the motion passed with all in favor.

Mayor White then read Resolution # March 15, 2021-1 authorizing the chief elected official to sign an application for CDBG funds and allowing the submission of an application for ACEDP GRANT funds to the State of Arkansas.

She then read resolution March 15, 2021-2 resolution designation Non-profit agency CDBG grant administrator to allow the Arkansas Economic Development program for a wastewater rehab project.

Resolution Anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan was read as well & the Citizen participation plan for the city of Keo, Arkansas.

After reading these over a brief discussion Lanehart made the motion to accept these resolutions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson with all in agreement.

Mayor White then brought to the council that she had water account #'s 143 & 217 who requested their water portion to be cut in half, due to leaks from Snow 2021 and said the customers had presented proof that they had repaired these leaks. Cloninger made the motion to cut the water in half with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Morton with all in agreement.

Mayor White gave information concerning the "501" celebration on May 1<sup>st</sup> and asked the council for ideas of what they would like to do for city wide cleanup this year. They agreed the city needed to have dumpsters available for the city to have clean up day to help improve the city and to help with mosquito control.

She then asked the council about advertising for a part-time person to help with sewer & water. Council agreed that the city did need someone to help in times of an emergency and agreed a straight labor flat rate of \$15 dollars as an hourly rate.

Lanehart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM with a 2nd by Morton with all in agreement.