

## **KEO CITY COUNCIL MEETING March 28, 2022**

Mayor White called the March city council meeting to order @ 7:05 PM. Those present: Mayor Stephanie White, Recorder/treasure Clara J. Hughes, & council members: David Lanehart, Jerry Morton, Chris Collins, and Lynda Staton. There were 7 guests present.

Mayor White suspended the normal meeting procedure to allow the council to vote to appoint a new council member. One person came forward to take the position to replace Ty Johnson who resigned at last month's meeting. Jerry Morton made the motion to appoint Randy Hudkins to become the new alderman for the city council with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynda Staton with all in favor. After the motion, Mayor White asked Randy Hudkins to come forward to be sworn in. Afterward, the normal procedure of the meeting was resumed.

The February minutes were presented to the council, after discussion Lynda Staton made a motion to accept these minutes with one correction for the missing motion to allocate the First Electric \$500 donation to be used toward payment for dumpsters for city wide cleanup (4/30/22) with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Morton; the motion passed with all in agreement.

The council reviewed February 2022 city financials; Morton made a motion to accept all the financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Staton and the motion passed unanimously.

The February 2022 water & sewer financials were presented to the council. Following discussion, Morton made a motion to accept these financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Collins with all in agreement of these water financials.

The water report was given by Chris Collins stating that there had not been many problems.

Fire Chief Charles Martin gave his report stating that there had been 3 runs within the last month.

Constable Tim Collins gave a monthly report stating there had been training done on how to handle vicious dogs at his last training meeting at Lonoke County sheriff's office. He hoped that this training would help him with helping the city with nuisance dogs in the town.

Mayor White gave an update on agenda items: she is looking for a grant to help purchase a generator for the water treatment plant. She also wanted to table the discussion of drainage problems until next month's meeting. She discussed the Oak Street sewer project should be starting in the summer. There is a possible need to add rock to the railroad property as it will be used by residents on Oak St. during construction. Mayor White stated they were waiting on parts for the new city siren. She then gave an update pertaining to the fire department expansion grant and informed everyone that we would have a public meeting at 6pm before next month's meeting at 7PM.

Mayor White then asked the council to consider allowing her to purchase a security camera system for city hall. After discussion, Lynda Staton made the motion an expenditure of up to \$800.00 to buy the camera system and accessories with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Morton with all in agreement. She also wanted to thank Sheriff Staley for having the new keypad lock installed at city hall so that Lonoke County deputies and State Police can use the facilities when needed while working in this area.

Mayor White gave an update on the \$75,000 Fun Park Grant awarded to Keo. The plans include the following: improvements to basketball court, new goal and backboard, park benches and picnic tables, making the park ADA compliant, professional play equipment, and new ground materials for fall safety. Construction could possibly start this summer. She also brought to the council the need to remove the old playground equipment. After discussion, the council decided to table the decision on removing the old playground set.

The mayor asked to table the discussion on code enforcement pertaining to people keeping their yards mowed and clean and to remove old abandoned vehicles and junk sitting in the yards and on the edges of streets. And not use the city ditches to put limbs and debris in due to it causing drainage problems.

Mayor White wanted to remind everyone that April 30<sup>th</sup> is Celebrate 5/01 cleanup day for the city. Dumpsters will be delivered and available from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup> for the citizens of Keo to use. There will also be a tire and E-waste recycle trailers here. She asked the community to please join in to clean up debris to help with the mosquito problems on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated shirts and gloves will be available for the first 20 volunteers.

Discussion of mosquito spraying was brought to the council concerning the need to hire an additional person to spray the city nightly. Also, to remind citizens that the route for spraying has changed to include only the city limits and residents are not charged if their area is not being sprayed.

Mayor White brought to the council a bill for a customer with a repaired water leak. Acct 74 had a bill for 23,280 gallons. Jerry Morton made the motion to cut the water usage in half (11,640 gal) with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynda Staton and the motion passed with all in agreement.

She asked the council and guests for volunteer, election poll workers for the May primary. Several in attendance volunteered to attend training at Leno County Courthouse Annex, April 21 at 6pm.

Fire Chief Martin asked to speak to the council. He thanked them for allowing him to serve the community as chief for many years, but he wanted to resign due to personal issues. The council thanked Charles Martin for all that he has done for the city.

At 9:00 PM Morton made a motion to adjourn this March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Collins and the motion passed with all in agreement.

Mayor Stephanie White

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Recorder Treasure Clara J. Hughes

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