

CITY OF KEISER  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 24, 2023

The Keiser City Council met in regular session Monday, January 24, 2023 at 6 pm at Keiser City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Rick Creecy; Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars; and Councilmembers Donna Bell, Laura Smith, and Lynn Skaggs

The December 2022 minutes were read and approved with a motion from Smith and a second from Skaggs, and all said aye.

Financial reports were reviewed and approved with a motion from Skaggs and a second from Smith, and all said aye.

- Mayor Creecy informed the council that, at this point, water/Sewer is not sustainable. In the 2022 analysis expenses were \$234K compared to an income of \$184K. Creecy asked the council to consider what avenue should be taken to rectify this deficit.

Bell reported that the Keiser Events Committee had been honored by the Arkansas Delta Byways' Boot Strap Award for its significant contributions in preserving and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of Eastern Arkansas. Bell stated that the 2023 Christmas parade has been scheduled for November 30, with a rain date of December 4. The annual Fall Festival date has not yet been determined.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Vacancy

- Mayor Creecy officially announced that there is a council vacancy in Ward 1, Position 2. A Special Meeting will be scheduled to hear any potential candidates for the position. An appointment will be made at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Water Training

- Bell, Smith, and Creecy have completed their training.
- The city's 2022 status has been reported to the Dept. of Agriculture.

Annexation

- According to the city attorney, annexation is moving along with a survey underway.
- Lot breakdowns have been included in the council packets.

Dollar General

- Keiser Full Gospel Church declined to make available to Dollar General .9 of an acre of the 4.7 owned by the church.

Culvert on Main Street

- The new culvert on Main Street has settled leaving a bump. Blytheville ARDOT has patched and inspected. They will routinely check the culvert for additional settling. The plan is to repave this spring.

Potential Homes

- Mayor Creecy asked the council their thoughts on allowing pre-built homes on Franklyn St.

#### Pit Bull Ban

- Mayor Creecy reminded the council that at December's meeting a ban on Pit Bulls was discussed. He enquired if this should be pursued.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Attendance, Workweek, and Payday policies

- Creecy recommended changing the city's attendance policy from "Unnecessary and excessive absences and tardiness" to Unexcused absences in any six (6) month period.
- Creecy recommended changing the workweek reporting from Friday – Thursday to Sunday – Saturday. Payday would be on Monday instead of Thursday.
- The council unanimously agreed to the changes.
- An amended Handbook is attached.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- 2023-1 to amend the 2022 budget; Bell motioned, Skaggs seconded, all said aye.
- 2023-2 to approve the 2023 budget; Bell motioned, Smith seconded, all said aye.
- 2023-3 to authorize the mayor to initiate city projects; Bell motioned, Skaggs seconded, all said aye.

#### Order of 2023 Meetings

- "Roberts Rule of Order" will continue to be the format for 2023 meetings by a motion from Skaggs, a second from Smith, and all said aye.

#### State of the City

- Mayor Creecy gave the council a list of the city's 2022 accomplishments along with his goals for 2023.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### ANRC Loan Forgiveness Grant

- A \$4.6 MM Project Priority List application has been submitted. Loan forgiveness is calculated by two factors: LMI & Sewer rates. The sewer rate must be within 1.25% of the LMI to qualify. Keiser is at .28%.

##### Sewer Lift Stations

- The city has 5 lift stations. All but 1 needs upgrades. Two of the 5 are not reliable. Grant or not, we will have to upgrade soon.

##### Customer Requests

- A Roto-Rooter bill for \$189.50 when the main pump was down. The council agreed to pay.
- An element burnt out on water heater when city water was off. The council declined payment.
- In the future the council advised that citizens notify city hall before bills are incurred.

Mayor's Meeting

- Mississippi County has retained a PR firm to publicize the County.
- There are expectations of 3K new jobs coming to Mississippi County in the next year.
- A road from the steel mills to 181/I55 is planned.
- The county is considering ways to help towns with investors and property.
- The Quorum court is also considering ways that it may be of assistance with grant matching dollars.
- Judge Nelson was asked to consider a county dog pound.

East Arkansas Planning District Training

- Funding Opportunities, training, and In-House revolving loans.

With no further business to discuss, Bell motioned to adjourn followed by a second from Smith, and all said aye.

The next regular meeting of the Keiser City council will be February 20, 2023 @ 6pm Keiser City Hall.

  
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Mayor Rick Creecy

  
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Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars