

CITY OF KEISER
REGULAR MEETING
May 16, 2023

The Keiser City Council met in regular session Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6 pm at Keiser City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Rick Creecy; Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars; and Councilmembers Donna Bell, Joey Jackson, Laura Smith, and Lynn Skaggs. Mayor Creecy declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

The March 20, 2023 minutes that had been deferred until May's meeting were read and approved with a motion from Smith followed by a second from Skaggs, and all said aye. The April 17, 2023 minutes were read and approved with a motion from Bell followed by a second from Jackson, and all said aye.

Financial reports were reviewed and approved with a motion from Bell followed by a second from Smith, and all said aye. Mayor Creecy recommended moving the city's Debt Reserve account of \$60,136.00 into a CD to draw interest. Bell motioned to allow Creecy to do so followed by a second from Jackson, and all said aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Special Events Committee had nothing to report
- Economic Development Committee had nothing to report
- Beautification Committee rescheduled last month's meeting for Wednesday, May 17th.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Training

- Lynn Skaggs's training certificate has been received.
- Joey Jackson has yet to complete training.

Special Meeting on Vicious Dog Ban

- Mayor Creecy recommended we hold a special town meeting.
- He also suggested we bring in representatives from the Humane Society & Animal Control.
- Citizens will be given the opportunity to speak for or against a vicious dog ban.
- The city has had 15 incidences concerning aggressive dogs. (7 resulted in bites.)
- A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 at 6pm at Keiser Baptist church.

Rate Study

- The study is still not completed. Additional information to Communities Unlimited has been provided.

ANRC Sewer Grant

- A \$4.6mm grant scheduled to be decided on May 17th has been temporarily put on hold.

AARP community Challenge Grant

- The city was denied the \$197k park grant. There were 3,600 applicants and not enough funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants

- Delta Regional Authority Grant - \$500,000 for drainage
- DOJ Cops Hiring Program -\$90k for a 2nd full-time officer for 3 years.
- DOJ COPS Micro Grant - \$25k for community policing and equipment.
- Economic Development Association - \$4.6M for sewer systems.
 1. Mississippi County is 1 of 5 counties in Arkansas have been declared disaster relief areas. \$129MM in funds have been allocated for these counties.
 2. EDA wants job and population growth but understand that we cannot add new customers to existing systems without jeopardizing existing customers.

Mississippi County Electric Fiber Optic Internet

- All main lines have been bored.
- Technicians currently are pulling cable and testing connections.
- There is no date on availability.

Sewer System Meeting

- Representatives from Arkansas Rural Water, City Engineer Lance Powell, Jon Milligan met with Director of Public works Neal Brown and Mayor Rick Creecy on April 24th for a brainstorming session on short term solutions for our sewer system until it can be replaced.
- Take-aways from the meeting included:
 1. A smoke test is scheduled.
 2. Pump #2 on the lagoon lift station is to be repaired.
 3. All city manholes will be inspected for signs of infiltration.
 4. Rural Water's robot will be scheduled to review results of smoke test.
 5. Need to raise remaining manholes above ground level.
 6. A representative from Rural Water will be here from 5/22 to 5/24 to assist with sewer.

Trial on Main Street Sewer Aerator

- Trial equipment is planned to be installed on Main Street lift station this week.
- An aerator enhances microbe growth eliminating grease and sludge in the wells within a month.
- Cost of the equipment including installation is \$2,500.

Sheriff's Auction

- Sheriff's Dept. is holding an auction in June for police vehicles
- Mayor Creecy requested council approval to spend up to \$5k to purchase police vehicle.
- Bell motioned to approve followed by a second from Skaggs, and all said aye.

Offer to Purchase Land

- Don Haille has offered to sell property north of fire station #2 for \$10k.
 1. The council decided not to purchase for that price.

Building Permits

- The following building permits were submitted for approval.
 1. Wesley Smith – addition to his home – approved
 2. Murry Henderson Sr. – Carport – approved
 3. Murry Henderson Jr. – In-ground pool – approved
 4. Murry Henderson Jr. – Storage shed – approved
 5. Mark Henderson – Above ground pool – no approval needed

Legislative Audit

- The Arkansas Legislative Audit for 2021 and the Water Audit for 2022 were reviewed by the council. The only violation was overspending the budget in General and Street. Mayor Creecy assured the council that steps have already been put in place to ensure this does not happen in the coming audit.

Backhoe

- Our backhoe has multiple seals blown causing major fluid leakage which is harmful to the environment.
- Mayor Creecy stated that he is looking for a grant, but something needs to be done soon.
- The council gave approval for Mayor Creecy to look into purchasing a backhoe.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mayor Creecy recommended splitting the Recorder/Treasurer position and have an elected Recorder and a City hired Financial Director.
- The VA will be providing suicide prevention training Wednesday, May 24th at 10 am at Keiser First Baptist Church Mac Center.
- City Hall has implemented a monthly newsletter to keep everyone informed.
- Citizen David Dunlap asked the council to address the issue of burning. He stated that burning leaves, limbs, etc. is hazardous to those with asthma and allergies.
- A new resident to Keiser, Stephan Moore was introduced to the council.
- Bell stated that overgrown yards were becoming an issue again, and needs to be addressed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm with a motion from Jackson and a second from Smith, and all said aye.


Mayor Rick Creedy


Recorder/Treasurer Peggy Sellars