

**JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS
MURFREESBORO CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

The Murfreesboro City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting Monday, October 16, 2023, at the Murfreesboro City Hall. Mayor Jim O'Neal called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Mayor O'Neal led the council in prayer.

Recorder/Treasurer Lamb called the roll. Council Member Fugitt was absent at roll call but arrived before the conclusion of the meeting. Council Member Gills was absent. All other council members were present.

The minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 11, 2023, were presented to the Council. Member Barnes made a motion to accept the minutes as given and Member Stone made the second. The roll call vote approved the minutes unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Council. Member Barnes made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Member O'Neal made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

Financial, written, and/or verbal reports were given for the Parks Commission, Waterworks Commission, Advertising & Tourism Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission and Animal Control.

Mayor O'Neal advised the council that the weather sirens were getting closer to being installed. An issue with radio licensing is holding up the project.

Mayor O'Neal introduced the annual Millage Resolution for consideration. The mayor recommended leaving the millage rate at the current 3 mills. Recorder/Treasurer Lamb read Resolution 2023-5. Member Barnes made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-5. Member Bachmann made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

Mayor O'Neal introduced Ordinance 2023-6 entitled: An Ordinance Regulating the Discharge of Firearms and Other Weapons Within the Corporate Limits of the City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas; Providing Penalties; Providing the Repeal of Existing Ordinances or Sections of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; Declaring an Emergency; and for Other Purposes for consideration. Recorder/Treasurer Lamb read Ordinance 2023-6. Member Stone made the motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-6. Member Barnes made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously. Member O'Neal made the motion to waive the second and third reading of Ordinance 2023-6. Member Bachmann made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously. Member Bachmann made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-6. Member Stone made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

Mayor O'Neal introduced Ordinance 2023-7 entitled: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 237 Entitled: (An Ordinance Permitting the City of Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas to Collect Vendor/Solicitors/Peddlers Permit Fee) for consideration. Recorder/Treasurer Lamb read Ordinance 2023-7. Member Barnes made the motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-7.

Member Bachmann made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously. Member Barnes made the motion to waive the second and third reading of Ordinance 2023-7. Member O'Neal made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously. Member Barnes made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-7. Member O'Neal made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

Mayor O'Neal informed the council that Johnny Pruitt, the Sanitation Supervisor, is going to be having surgery following a Worker's Compensation Claim from a fall at work. He will be unable to perform most of his job duties until at least the end of the year. The Street crew and the Sanitation crew will team up to accomplish the tasks for both departments.

Mayor O'Neal received the official resignation from Dana Stone for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor O'Neal nominated Mary Jean Barbre to fill the vacancy until the end of the term in February 2024. Member O'Neal made the motion to approve the nomination. Member Bachmann made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

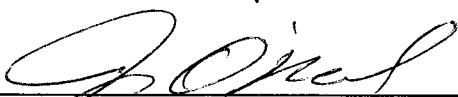
Bids for the Drainage Ditch Project were opened on October 11, 2023, at City Hall. The only bid received was from Francis Excavating. Andy Franks of A.L. Franks Engineering presented the bid results to the council. The total base bid was \$382,646.34. The total of base bid less Deductive Alternate 1 was \$327,915.80. Mr. Franks informed the council that they should accept the lower amount because the culverts included in the deductive alternate were not needed for the project. The grant received for this project is \$300,000.00. The construction budget is \$365,004.00. This should allow the city to retain some of the \$103,140.00 budgeted for the project. The remaining balance could possibly be used for drainage issues on the south end of town. Member Barnes made a motion to accept the bid of \$327,915.80 contingent on the approval of ACEDP. Member Bachmann made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

During the Round Table discussion, Mayor O'Neal discussed the city's employee health insurance. The Municipal Health Benefit Program has created options to fit different budget needs. The plan the city has been using would now be called the Traditional Plan. This plan includes copays for doctor's visits. The new Enhanced Copay Plan includes copays for doctor's visits but also includes the additional services such as lab work and x-rays within the same copay amount. After a brief discussion with the council, the mayor informed the council of the city's intent to utilize the new Enhanced Copay Plan for 2024. The additional cost to the city is less than \$1,000.


There were no other items to be brought to the attention of Mayor O'Neal or the council.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Date approved: 11/13/23



Jim O'Neal, Mayor



Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer