

Minutes
City of Shannon Hills, Arkansas
Regular City Council Meeting
March 8, 2011

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Mike Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Invocation led by Mayor Kemp

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Kemp.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Kemp; Aldermen Brenda McCann, Sue Skipper, Toni Cobb, Jim Frala, Scott Bennett (arrived late due to work), and Gervous Lambright; Treasurer Carol Pessa; Recorder Sandra Vosburg; and City Attorney Patrick Benca.

Financial Report: Before discussing the financial statement, Treasurer Pessa asked the Council for permission to destroy records that were seven years old in accordance with State Guidelines. She will need an alderman with her for the destruction. Mayor Kemp and Treasurer Pessa will be working on this item. Treasurer Pessa then answered questions about the financial statement. The Mayor's salary was inadvertently listed under the Police Salaries. Treasurer Pessa has contacted the accountants to get this corrected. She also explained an item on the statement called "cash line item". Mayor Kemp called for a motion to accept the financial report as given. Alderman Lambright so moved, Alderman Frala seconded the motion, and the Council passed the motion unanimously by voice vote of six "ayes". There were no negative votes.

Minutes: Mayor Kemp entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2011, Regular Meeting. Alderman Lambright so moved, seconded by Alderman McCann, and the Council passed the motion unanimously by voice vote of "ayes". There were no negative votes. Mayor Kemp then entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2011, Special Meeting, as corrected to include the fact that Mayor Kemp voted on the motion. Alderman Frala so moved, seconded by Alderman Lambright, and the Council passed the motion unanimously by voice vote of "ayes". There were no negative votes.

Department Heads Reports: Written reports submitted by department heads are available for inspection upon request. They are filed with the minutes folders in the Recorder's Office. Fire Chief Mel Aldridge was at the meeting to give his report.

Chief Hale gave a verbal report of the items covered in his written report. Officer Jackson announced a lunch meeting to be held at Healing Waters on March 22, 2011, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to give the citizens of Shannon Hills a chance to meet new Police Chief Bobby Hale.

Mayor Kemp invited Robert Holt to tell the audience a little about the outreach program at Healing Waters. Brother Holt said they are currently feeding 150 people (75% of these people within a radius of five miles of Shannon Hills); they are establishing a U.A.M.S. medical clinic; they have 25 computers to set up a tutoring center; they have been approved as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter. In response to a woman in the audience who asked if they needed volunteers, he said they could always use volunteers, especially on Sundays and Thursday evenings.

Mr. Passmore, Water Department Manager, explained that a 2-inch water main was accidentally drilled through by the cable company. Our department worked to get this fixed as soon as possible and did an outstanding job. He also reported that our 6-inch snow event brought out more citizens who helped clean up the streets. He said that in his 7 years working for the city he has never seen as much citizen involvement as he has in the last three months. Passmore also told the Council he has ordered the snow plow and sand spreader they authorized last month.

Sunshine Week Open Government Proclamation read by Mayor Kemp. Mayor Kemp and the Alderman signed this proclamation making March 13-19, 2011, Sunshine Week. Proclamation attached to these minutes.

Mayor Kemp announced he has set a tentative Town Hall Meeting April 11, 2011, around 4 to 4:30 p.m. with Congressman Tim Griffin at Shannon Hills City Hall. The Mayor also hopes the Saline County Quorum Court will have a meeting at our City Hall in the future.

Old Business:

Court Clerk Report – Mayor Kemp reported he has met with Judge Curtis Rickerd and Court Clerk Stacy Cook regarding discrepancies in the financial records of the court clerk. In the agreement between the Mayor and the Judge, the Judge said General Fund will begin receiving checks from the Court in April 2011, Ms. Cook is more familiar with the Court software now, and she is aware she is required to fill out a time card as a part-time employee. Alderman Skipper asked what about the money from December, January, February, and March which should have come to the General Fund. Mayor Kemp responded that was part of the agreement between him and the Judge to settle this issue.

City Check Signatories – City Attorney Benca presented two ordinances for the Council’s review. He read each ordinance to the Council. Council decided they wanted to review these ordinances and bring a revised ordinance to the floor at the April meeting. Attorney Benca will work on this and send e-mail version to the Mayor for review.

New Business:

Official City E-Mail – Aristotle has been working with the City to provide this service free of charge. Mayor Kemp explained how it would be used. Council members agreed to use this e-mail through Aristotle.

Legislative Audit – According to Mayor Kemp, everything on page 3 of the Legislative Audit has been resolved with Judge Rickerd; no money missing from the Police Fund, record just not maintained as required. Lucky Turney has made corrections to be in compliance. Mayor Kemp began discussion about the Recorder being paid the same salary as the Mayor when she was Acting Mayor. Alderman Cobb asked him why he had not addressed any item other than this from the legislative audit in the Benton Courier. Mayor Kemp said he was not responsible for what the newspaper reported. Alderman Cobb said she did not think they should be addressing this item until the investigation was complete. City Attorney Benca said his recommendation would be to make no comment at this time but the Council could do as they wanted. General consensus was to drop this item for the time being.

Planning Commission Vacancy Election - There were eight applicants for this position: Mike Adams, Robin Baker, Carl Berry, Lamar Johnson, Christopher McCauley, John Mesker, Bryan Stanley, and Susan Watkins. Those selected were Christopher McCauley, Mike Adams, Bryan Stanley, and Susan Watkins. The City Council voted by a ranking system of four to one, with the highest combined votes selecting the Commissioners. The votes were counted by Planning Commission Chairman Andy Taylor and Robert Holt of Healing Waters.

Safe Routes to School – The City is working on this project. A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall who have generously given a portion of their land to install this project. They have given many times to make our City a more beautiful and safe place to live.

General Discussion: Alderman McCann asked when Police Chief Hale is taking his refresher course and was told he will be attending a course given in Little Rock and will therefore be in town for any emergencies. He and Mayor Kemp reported that they have nine certified applicants and Chief Hale he is still doing background checks on them to select our two new police officers.

Comments from the Floor: Ms. Marie Williams explained problem she is having getting water and sewer to her new modular home. Mayor Kemp and Water Department Manager Passmore said they will begin working on this immediately to get her a good resolution.

Mrs. Penny Kemp asked Aldermen McCann and Skipper why they voted against hiring two new police officers last month. Alderman McCann said that at the February 2011 meeting we did not know how much of the \$32,000 the Court Clerk said the City owed the Court we would have to pay from the General Fund. She voted against the Ordinance because she did not know if the City would have enough money to pay two additional officers at that time. Alderman Skipper agreed.

A lady from the audience asked why the Council kept passing ordinances since they are not being enforced now. Mayor Kemp responded that we are working on improving that.

Adjourn: Alderman Frala moved to adjourn, Alderman Skipper seconded the motion, and the Council voted “aye” unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Date: _____

Approved: _____

Mike Kemp
Mayor

Attest: _____

Sandra Vosburg
Recorder