

The regular meeting of the Brandenburg City Council was held September 11, 2023 at Brandenburg City Hall.

PRESENT:

Bryan Claycomb, Mayor
Amy Haynes, City Clerk
Brian Haag, Police Chief
T.J. Hughes, Public Works Dir.
Jessica Brown Roberts, Atty

COUNCILMEMBERS

Charlotte Ford
Bruce Fackler
Mark Spry
Bill Basham
Bradley Johnston
Ginger Coomes

VISITORS: Gene Webster-WVIH, Julia Youles-MC Messenger, Rodney Ford

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & PRAYER:

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Bruce Fackler, followed by a roll call by City Clerk Amy Haynes.

YARD OF THE MONTH:

Yard of the Month for September 2023 was awarded to Rick & Julia Barr at 107 Lisa Drive. The Barr's were not present at the meeting, but the sign will be placed in their yard and a certificate mailed to them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Fackler mentioned that he believed the regular meeting minutes should have read as "decreed" in reference to a sewer plant order, it was noted that the notes taken showed that the wording used was "agreed", and that either one is pertinent to the order. A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023 regular monthly meeting and the September 8, 2023 special meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #621:

The summary of Ordinance #621 Amending the Planning and Zoning Ordinance was read aloud by City Attorney Jessica Brown Roberts. A motion was made by Mark Spry, seconded by Charlotte Ford, to approve the ordinance as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

In response to the second reading Mayor Claycomb noted that he would like to officially appoint Bethany Carr as the Assistant Planning and Zoning Administrator effective on the meeting date of 09/11/2013. A motion was made to approve the appointment by Bill Basham, seconded by Charlotte Ford. The Mayor briefly described the current role of the Administrator Lee Klockow, as well as Bethany Carr's new supporting role. Vote of motion was unanimous.

TRANSFERS:

A motion was made by Bradley Johnston, seconded by Mark Spry, to approve the monthly transfers as read. Vote of motion was unanimous.

OFFICE REPORT:

City Clerk Amy Haynes presented the monthly office report for August 2023.

She also noted to the Council as a reminder that the Senior Citizens Center would be holding an open house on Monday, September 18 from 10L:00am-Noon. This is planned to serve as a meet and greet for the public and to give explanations of the new services which will be offered. Amy stated she would be sending out reminder texts to the Council prior to the event.

POLICE REPORT:

The Chief noted that his department had responded to approximately 369 calls for service in the City during August. He stated that he had received a follow up email from Shield 616 regarding the fund raising for the new vests, and a presentation has been set up for November 20th at 5:00pm at Journey Church. He also mentioned that his department and the Citizens on Patrol had helped out on Tucker Day on September 9th and had a very busy day with a lot of kids activities and visitors.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Director TJ Hughes read aloud his report for August 2023. He also notified the Council that October will be the regularly scheduled month for fire hydrant flushing.

Mayor Claycomb then advised that the City would be issuing a response to the Walker Company regarding various issues not being resolved. He listed the following items:

- 1) Water leaks at hydrants
- 2) Scum pump needing repairs
- 3) Rewiring the VFD
- 4) Valve's out
- 5) Blowers not starting automatically as they should
- 6) Staff gauge wrong
- 7) E-House door closure not installed
- 8) Vehicle accident / damage

Councilman Fackler then asked if we are starting on resolving the issues with the lift station on Donna Drive. The Mayor noted that we aren't anywhere yet on that project, but that it would definitely have to be upgraded with new growth. He stated that we would first need to do a smoke test to determine that only sewer is being run to the lift station. The main problem is that the wet well isn't deep enough. Councilman Johnston stated that it was probably more cost effective to simply replace the existing lift station with a new one, and then take the old one offline. The approximate cost per the Mayor would likely be around \$250,000.00, and according to Johnston, would be more like \$300,00 - \$350,000.00. It was then mentioned that Chris McGehee has submitted a rezoning request which will change the zoning of his annexed property from R1 and C2, to R2, R3, and C2. He stated that it would go before the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 19th, and then would be sent to the Council for their review. Councilman Spry noted that the original contract to his understanding meant that several homes would be added to the load on that lift station, starting with the first 30 that were promised. The Mayor noted that he changed the deal to allow McGehee to have the mixed zoning of R2/R3 and C2. And he stated that there was not a promise of 30 homes in the original contract. Councilman Spry then asked if there was a timeline for construction of any type, and Mayor Claycomb stated that there was no timeline. He stated that we are collecting taxes in the City at this point due to the annexation.

PARKS:

Councilman Spry mentioned that there were 2 cottonwood trees dying and need to be addressed as to limbs which are overhanging the sidewalk and could propose a danger. Public Works Director TJ Hughes stated that he would look at them. Spry also mentioned that there are weeds growing up into the trees in the area of the old boat ramp, which appear to be kudzu, which could be invasive and difficult to remove if they aren't addressed. Hughes stated he would also look into this issue.

Mayor Claycomb then asked that TJ check on a security light on the electric pole across from the new platform in the park.

A mention was made as to if there was any other headway on the proposed splash park in the park, Mayor Claycomb stated that he was still looking into other options.

SIDEWALKS:

Mayor Claycomb stated that the City has the opportunity to take out the old sidewalk on Main Street at an overall cost of approximately \$71,500.00. He broke down the expense as follows:

\$38,000 – Proposal for the removal all the way down the hill

\$8,500 – Proposal for asphalt to new curbing

\$25,000 – Approximate proposal for new curbing.

He stated that these funds were available through the remaining funds in the American Relief account.

He also mentioned that we would need the approval of the State Highway Department and should have a response from them by Wednesday.

A motion was made by Bradley Johnston, seconded by Bill Basham, to go ahead with the removal of the old sidewalk on Main Street. Vote of motion was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Attorney Jessica Brown Roberts presented to the Council the deeds between the City and Nucor regarding the property near the WWTP. She explained that the City would be deeding a 5 acre tract to Nucor, and the City would retain 9.5 acres. She stated that the Mayor needed approval to go forward with executing the agreements. A motion was made by Bradley Johnston, seconded by Bill Basham, to authorize Mayor Claycomb to execute the agreements. Vote of motion was unanimous.

A second motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Ginger Coomes, to authorize the Mayor to sign the access easement to the WWTP along Ronnie Greenwell Commerce Road. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Councilman Spry asked a question about the Dr. Reichart property and whether or not the Mayor had any further contact with him regarding a location for a new well. The Mayor stated there had been no contact.

Councilperson Coomes asked if there were any updates regarding the Elmer Davis Property at the top of Main Street. The Mayor responded no.

Councilman Johnston asked for an update on the water plant upgrade. TJ Hughes, PWD, noted that he was made aware that the contractor was waiting on valves to be delivered, as well as waiting on NUCOR to remove the old tank. He stated that once these were done, the media should be set to arrive and be installed.

Councilman Basham wanted to take the opportunity to thank all City employees for a job well done.

Councilman Fackler stated he had no business to discuss.

Councilperson Ford wanted to take an opportunity to thank TJ and his department for the sidewalk repairs on Old State Road. She also wanted to remind members that nominees were still needed for Yard of the Month for October.

A motion was made by Bruce Fackler, seconded by Ginger Coomes, to adjourn the regular monthly meeting. Vote of motion was unanimous.

Bryan Claycomb, Mayor

Amy Haynes, City Clerk / Treasurer