

Bryant City Council REGULAR City Council Meeting

October 25, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Boswell Municipal Complex - City Hall Court Room

210 SW 3rd Street Bryant, Arkansas

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/bryantarkansas>

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Prior to the Council Meeting, a prayer was given by Council Member Higginbotham. The prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Call to Order by Mayor Scott at 6:30 pm

Roll Call – Council Members Present: RJ Hawk, Butch Higginbotham, Lisa Meyer, Jack Moseley, Wade Permenter, Rob Roedel, Rhonda Sanders Absent: Star Henson. City Attorney Clancy Ashley and City Clerk Mark Smith were also present. Quorum Present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of the September 27, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes** [YT 2:40]
Motion to approve by Council Member Higginbotham, Second by Council Member Meyer.
Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2. Garver – Stormwater Master Plan Update** [YT 3:05]
Kathryn McCoy with Garver Engineering provided an update on the City Stormwater Master Plan which is moving into Phase 2.
- 3. Garver – Bryant Parkway Update** [YT 9:05]
Richard Corbyn with Garver Engineering provided an update on the Bryant Parkway which is about 10% complete. There have been no delays to date. The test piles for the bridge will start soon and July, 2024 is the date for completion.
- 4. Animal Shelter Appreciation Week Proclamation** [YT 12:55]
The Mayor read an Official Proclamation declaring November 10-16, 2022 as Animal Shelter Appreciation Week.
- 5. Committee Appointments** [YT 16:20]
 - A. Appointing Cody Crist to replace Spencer McCorkle on the Parks Committee.
Motion to approve by Council Member Roedel, second by Council Member Hawk.
Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.
 - B. Appointing Al Wise to replace Jack Moseley on the Water/Wastewater Committee.
Motion to approve by Council Member Sanders, Second by Council Member Meyer.
Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.
- 6. Kristin Robinson – ARPA Professional of the Year Award** [YT 16:50]
Chris Treat, Director of Parks, presented the Arkansas Recreation Parks Association

Professional of the Year Award to Bryant Aquatics Superintendent, Kristin Robinson. Chris said that Kristin has “worked diligently from day one.”

- 7. McClelland Consulting Engineers (MCE) – Parks Master Plan Update** [YT 19:25]
Brett Budolfson, Landscape Architect with McClelland Engineers described how the Parks Steering Committee has been meeting in all wards since May of this year. There has been a Park Analysis of all the Parks in the City and the first Public Survey which had over 1,100 responses. He discussed additional Community Park concepts that could be added to Alcoa and Midland Parks and a Water Park concept.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- 8. Animal Control Director’s Report** [YT 32:20]
Presented by Tricia Power, Director of Animal Control Director Power presented the 2022 Department Review. She has been reappointed as Secretary of the Arkansas State Animal Control Association, the Department’s new Transit Van has arrived, and that there are still two open staff positions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Christin Higgins questioned why “No Parking” signs had been installed on Sanders Lane, why no notice was given to residents regarding the signs and if the current 1991 Ordinance should be updated. [YT 45:25]

Turner Pilsch with Consolidated Pipe asked that the Water Meter project on the Agenda be tabled for further consideration. [YT 51:30]

Bill Knauf stated that he has experienced foundation issues at his house as a result of the building of the Bryant Parkway. [YT 52:35]

Ted Worth with Metron-Farnier asked for the Meter Project issue not to be tabled. [YT 54:30]

NEW BUSINESS

Finance – presented by Joy Black, Director of Finance [YT 56:50]
Director Black stated the report was longer due to the change-over to the new accounting software- Tyler, that Sales Tax income was still strong and the cash on hand was about the same.

- 9. First Monthly Report out of Tyler - Monthly Report for period ending September 30, 2022**
Approval and Acceptance of the regular Monthly Report for period ending September 30, 2022.
Motion to approve by Council Member Higginbotham, Second by Council Member Hawk.
Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

- 10. Budget Adjustments - Resolution for Budget Adjustments** [YT 1:00:30]
Resolution to amend the city budget for the period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022. Discussion followed.

Motion to approve by Council Member Sanders, Second by Council Member Meyer.
Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

➤ **RESOLUTION 2022-30**

Community Development

11. Resolution for Metroplan Engineering Design Only Grant [YT 1:04:00]

Amanda Fleming, Planning and Community Development Grants Coordinator, presented a Resolution Expressing the Willingness of the City of Bryant to Utilize Federal-Aid Surface Transportation Program Funds which is required for Metroplan Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Projects are for design only not construction. Projects selected will be designed in 2023 and eligible to apply for construction funding for FFY 2024. Brief Discussion. Motion to approve by Council Member Higginbotham, Second by Council Member Sanders. Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

➤ **RESOLUTION 2022-31**

12. Public Hearing/Ordinance [YT 1:05:30]

Truett Smith, Director of Planning & Community Development, presented an Ordinance Approving Annexation of the Lands to Bryant Municipal Property Owners' Multipurpose Improvement District NO. 62 (Lombard Development LLC – Cypress Valley, Phase 2). The required Public Hearing Opened at 7:37 PM.

Gary Kennedy the Developer of the property was available to answer questions.

Motion to Close the Hearing by Council Member Roedel, Second by Council Member Hawk.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:38 PM.

Motion to suspend the rules and read 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reading by title only by Council Member Higginbotham, Second by Council Member Hawk.

Voice vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

Ordinance title read by Mayor Scott.

Motion to adopt by Council Member Roedel, Second by Council Member Hawk.

Roll Call Vote. YES: Sanders, Roedel, Permenter, Moseley, Meyer, Higginbotham, Hawk.

ABSENT: Henson.

Motion Passed 7-1.

➤ **ORDINANCE 2022-28**

13. An Update to Open Burning Ordinance [YT 1:09:30]

Fire Chief Jordan presented an Ordinance Amending the Defining and Limiting Conditions for Open Burning Within the City Limits of Bryant; Providing for Enforcement; and for Other Purposes.

Council Member Meyer Moved to Amend the No Burning Holiday List (Section 1, Subsection A, 2) to include Easter, Second by Council Member Roedel.

Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1.

Chief Jordan asked for the web address to be amended to reflect the current address www.efsedge.com/bryant/ (Section 1, Subsection A, 3, e) - Motion by Council Member Sanders, Second by Council Member Higginbotham.

Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1. Discussion followed.

Motion to Suspend the Rules and Read 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Reading by Title Only As Amended by Council Member Higginbotham, Second by Council Member Hawk.

Ordinance Title read by Mayor Scott.

Motion to adopt by Council Member Higginbotham, second by Council Member Hawk.
Roll Call Vote. YEAS: Moseley, Permenter, Roedel, Sanders, Hawk, Higginbotham, Meyer.
ABSENT: Henson.
Motion Passed 7-1.
➤ **ORDINANCE 2022-29**

Public Works – presented by Tim Fournier Director of Public Works

[YT 1:14:30]

14. Meter Recommendation – Metron – Farnier

15. Meter Ratings – Metron – Farnier

Mayor Scott stated that items 14 and 15 would be considered as one item.

Director Fournier gave a summary of the water meter selection process that began in December, 2021 with a number of meter companies considered which led to four companies being invited to participate in a meter pilot program. All meters from the different companies performed well during the pilot. A Grading System was created with input from the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee. In October, 2022, Metron Meters were recommended.

Director Fournier reminded Council that due to electronic failures, there were over 3600 meters that had to be manually read and Public Works has struggled to keep up creating unprecedented stress for employees. Bullet proof glass was installed in the billing office due to threats. More quantities of the old Mueller meters will need to be ordered if a decision isn't made soon on the new meter. There are 600 new homes that are being planned for Bryant and currently two new meters are being installed every day.

Council Member Meyer asked why Master Meter was not considered. Tim replied that at the time, Master Meter did not offer a product and they did not ask to make a presentation. Council Member Meyer stated that she didn't think the comparison was complete without Master Meter being considered. Council Member Hawk asked how Metron differs from the current system. Tim said the city would need none of the old transmitting infrastructure since the meters use the cellular network. Council Member Meyer asked what the installation cost is. Tim stated \$400,000 to \$450,000 was a rough estimate.

Turner Pilsch with Consolidated Pipe who is the distributor for Master Meter said they used their AMI meter (rather than cell technology meter) because they considered AMI to be better for Bryant. Council Member Hawk asked where else in Arkansas have these AMI meters been installed. Mr. Pilsch said there are none installed in Arkansas but that they have been installed in many cities across the country.

Ted Worth with Metron said he thought cellular meters were the best and that Metron meters keep a data log in one minute increments and that is what the customer needs to determine what is causing the leak in their home. Council Member Meyer asked how quickly Metron can deliver meters. Mr. Worth said they can deliver in four weeks and that they are not struggling to get chips for their meters since they use a standard chip set.

Water and Waste Water Commission Members Linda Levart and Robert Griffith both indicated that they wouldn't change their minds regarding who they would recommend because they felt the Metron meter had the features the city needed. Council Member Moseley who was

previously on the Water Wastewater Committee stated that the Committee left no stone unturned researching the meter project. Council Member Sanders asked City Attorney Clancy if there would be any legal issues since Master Meter was not part of the meter presentations. Attorney Clancy indicated there were no legal issues.

Council Member Meyer made a Motion to Table the Meter decision for 30 days so more information could be gathered including the cost of the meter installation. Council Member Hawk stated that he was fine with the selection of Metron but wanted to know the cost of installation. Council Member Hawk seconded the Motion to Table. The Mayor restated the Motion to Table the Meter recommendation for a month. A Voice Vote followed but the Mayor stated he didn't hear everyone vote and called for a Roll Call Vote. YES: Meyer, Hawk. NO: Moseley, Higginbotham. PRESENT: Sanders, Roedel, Permenter. ABSENT: Henson. Motion Failed 6-2.

The Mayor stated the next Motion was to approve the meter recommendation and take up the issue next month with the costs for installation included. Motion by Council Member Moseley, Second by Council Member Higginbotham. A Voice Vote followed but the Mayor stated he didn't hear everyone vote and called for a Roll Call Vote: YES: Roedel, Permenter, Moseley, Higginbotham. NO: Meyer, Hawk. PRESENT: Sanders ABSENT: Henson. The Mayor voted YES. Motion Passed 5-4.

Council Member Moseley made a Motion to add an item to the Agenda, Second by Council Member Permenter. Voice Vote. Motion Passed 7-1. Moriah Winkel, Water and Wastewater Analyst, presented a Resolution asking for authority to ask for the ANRC (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission) grants. Motion to approve by Council Member Permenter, Second by Council Member Higginbotham. Voice Vote: Motion Passed 7-1.

➤ **RESOLUTION 2022-32**

Council Member Higginbotham asked Director Fournier when the work on Rogers Street would be done. Director Fournier stated the project is still on the schedule but he was not sure of a start date. Council Member Sanders asked when meters would be ordered. The Mayor explained that only a few are needed to get through the rest of this year and when the installation cost is determined it will be emailed to the Council. Council Member Hawk asked if a Budget Adjustment would be needed to purchase meters. The Mayor explained that would not be necessary.

Council Comments

[YT 2:06:27]

Council Member Sanders reminder of the First Responders Luncheon on Thursday, October 27, 2022. Thanks to Tim and Water Committee for their work. Council Member Hawk thanks to Water Committee. Council Member Higginbotham thanked the Water Committee and Water Billing Staff. Thanks to Council for working together.

Council Member Meyer said the Water Committee has endured a lot.
Council Member Roedel thanked the Water Committee for willingness to serve.
Council Member Permenter thanked the Water Committee.

Mayor Comments

[YT 2:12:00]

The Mayor thanked the Water Committee and all the City Committees.
Halloween on the 31st.
Coffee with the Mayor at Alcoa Park, Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 9 AM.
Early voting is happening now- be sure you vote.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Council Member Hawk, second by Council Member Permenter.
Adjourned time: 8:43 pm.