

MINUTES
Goshen City Council
July 8, 2025 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

A meeting of the Goshen City Council was held on July 8, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Goshen Community Center.

Call to Order: Mayor Stroud @ 6:30pm

Roll Call: PRESENT - Paula Anderson, Curtis Vaughan, John Vaillancourt, Shawn Mayfield, Birch Wright. City Attorney Brian Hogue in attendance
Not Present: Colton Martin

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

Brian Hogue (Attorney) indicated that the variance process (G) is not ready to present; says we can discuss but rather it get tabled to next month

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the agenda with the change; Paula Anderson seconded
All in favor; None opposed

Public Input - None

Approval of Minutes April 29, 2025 - Special Session

John Vaillancourt made a motion to not approve indicating that it's not all encompassing, as written; no one seconded

Edits - Page 3, confirmed the question marks being identified as "Park and Rec Commission"; additional input by Birch Wright indicating he made a suggestion/recommendation that the public meeting would consist of "Parks and Rec, public input (including Ken and Mary Smith if those chose to be there), the Mayor and any public input that wants to be a part of that group"

Birch Wright made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes; Curtis Vaughan seconded
All in favor; None opposed

Approval of Minutes from May 31, 2025 - grammatical changes

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes; Curtis Vaughan seconded
All in favor; none opposed

Minutes from June 10, 2025 - TABLED (due to not enough review time)

Approval of Financial Report

As of 07/31/25 the General Fund has \$1,047,207.94

Street Fund has \$239,181.26 with \$135K.

Police ACT988 Fund has \$11,544.91

State Park/ARDOT funds combined \$3,076.78
Farmers Market fund \$2883.28
CD - \$658,517.20

Police Report (7A) - Chief Travis

197 calls for service. 37 total charges, 12 criminal, 2 PCS/PDP charges, 2 warrants, 21 moving violations, 1 DWI, 86 warning citations.
Birch Wright asked for confirmation from Chief Travis that they are patrolling for jake brakes and Chief Travis Confirmed.

Infrastructure and Facilities Report

City Park - mowed all park areas and entrances
City Hall and Community Center - Installed mulch rings around trees and t-posts, removed debris, fallen branches, and trash from the park ground
Assisted with events and set up of the community center for the Farmers Market
Maintained the landscaping watering, transplanting trees, general clean ups
Roads - brush-hogged streets; we are behind on brush-hogging (due to rain and Dave being sick); will try to catch up on that in the next couple of weeks.
Redistributed washed out gravel on Spring Park Lane, Nimmo Lane
Removed a downed tree from Blue Springs
Brush-hogged in multiple locations
Installed park signs at the community building; signs for the bike parking now behind the community building

Future Projects:

Installing street signs
Seal the wall at south park entrance; paint the metal support poles; install welcome stone at north park entrance; patch pot holes on city streets; seal concrete on oxford bend bridge and blue springs bridge.

Goshen Fire District Report

Total of 46 calls; 26 medical; 3 motor vehicle accidents with no injuries; swift water rescue 2; service calls for public service was 3; good intent call was 9; false alarm call was 3
Mayor thanked the event that the fire department did at Asher Ranch and Birch Wright thanked them for the event at Waterford

Planning Commission Financial Report

One \$200 fee for a property line adjustment
Birch Wright asked for clarity on the process; Mayor says it goes to Planning Commission for review and approval; this one was Administrative; if any questions/concerns about it, it goes to Planning

Building Inspection Report

16 field inspections - using a new report system; continues to tweak it; will go back and add addresses as all feel it would be helpful.

Parks and Recreation Report

The Arbor Board and Parks Commission had a booth at Community Day on July 3; all went well and it was a good turnout. Volunteer projects have scaled down with ticks and chiggers (hot weather), etc. Mike Nimmo marked 25 trees with stakes that survived the flooding. Areas mowed and unmowed were equally impacted. Hopeful in the fall that those areas can be replanted as well as native grasses to help with erosion of stream; this is in addition to the projects that Russell went over. Hay bails - getting 165 bales which was almost 1 bale more per acre than they got last year; may be from using commercial fertilizer instead of regular fertilizer.

Jerry Jackson asked if anyone else had seen the article on the front page of NWA Times - a well written article, "Forest meets Meadow".

Mayor says we got drawings back from the architectural company for the pavilion. They are not what he (Mayor) asked for. Pitch roof was wrong, missing items, Mayor will follow up with him to get better drawings.

Old City Business

Community Day Follow-Up

Mayor gave kudos to the events committee (including Jason Travis); it was an amazing event with a lot of people. Ran out of food; great to see so many people attend; a lot of folks from out-lying areas (Huntsville, Fayetteville, etc) and from our local gated communities.

Resolution Approving Mill Branch Park Master Plan (25:00 on audio - approx)

Paula Anderson indicated that the Table of Contents does not match what corresponding letter says (table of contents vs. document - Letter I). There is a new Mission Statement added (in red) and Paula Anderson feels that what is stated is not a mission statement as it is limiting; should we title it differently? Mayor says Abby (office) didn't know how the City Council wanted it worded/titled; Mike Nimmo says it was resolutions and suggested changing from a "Mission Statement" to "Guidelines".

Mayor asked for a motion to point out clerical, numbering, grammatical errors to be fixed so that we can fix them w/o bringing back to Council.

Birch Wright made a motion to read and title only; John Vallaincourt seconded

Comments: None

All in favor; none opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud **"A resolution adopting Mill Branch Park Master Plan"**

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the reading; John Vaillacourt seconded

Comments: None

All in favor; None opposed

Resolution Adopting Mill Branch Park Maintenance Plan (29.18 on audio - approx)

Paula Anderson has concerns that the scope says 'it applies to all parks' but we are calling this the Mill Branch Park Maintenance Plan. Mayor responded that we only have 1 park but Paula Anderson says she considers the playground as a park (it's not attached/congruent) and Mayor says the playground is considered part of Mill Branch Park and that the plan is to develop the linear trail that connects them and make it all one, big park and this land (2 acres) is included in the 111 acre Mill Branch Park. Both Birch Wright and John Vaillacourt agree with Mayor that it's all inclusive. Brian Hogue added that if another park (that is not Mill Branch Park) gets added (in the future), that will get amended; this resolution will become moot and a new resolution will need to be adopted.

Paula Anderson - location markers that are in the maintenance plan - is that acceptable in our sign ordinance? Brian Hogue said there was some discussion about the type of sign or how it's installed and (potentially) damaging trees and Paula Anderson says, yes, as far as signage within the park. Brian does not remember it being a discussion around the sign ordinance itself. In direct relation to that, John Vaillancourt asked about a special attachment that was discussed to put signs on trees. Mary Smith (public) says they are arboretum tags and they have a screw so the tree can still grow and the tags remain there. Mayor stated that when the sign ordinance was discussed one of the items that came up was that we could use arboretum signs on trees because in the sign ordinance you can't put anything on trees and that was one of things that an exception was made for in the sign ordinance so there are no violations.

Paula Anderson asked about condition surveys (page 4) says that we're going to get 2 Park-, 2 Arbor Board- and 2 Goshen residents to do the condition surveys; Mayor responded that has never happened, not on a regular basis, but we have to have that to apply for Grants.

Paula Anderson - on mowing, 'mowing weekly during mowing season' but we do have weeks (sometimes in July and August) where there's no mowing that gets done due to dry and non-growing grass. Mayor says it's just for us to show that we have a plan for mowing in place.

Birch Wright made a motion to read and title only; John Vaillancourt seconded
All in favor; None opposed
Brian Hogue read aloud **"A resolution adopting Park Maintenance Plan"**

Birch Wright made a motion to adopt; John Vaillancourt seconded
Public Comment: None
All in favor; None opposed

Ordinance Adopting Sign Regulations (3rd Reading) (38.29 on audio - approx)

Brian Hogue pointed out changes: Section 3 (previously called for specific permit fees) change is that there will be a separate resolution setting the permanent fee that way it's easier to amend as needed.

Section 5, para A (previously stated that street frontages shall be considered separately for each street, the lot fronts, measured by property lines) change as it now reads "for each street abutting any individual parcel".

Section 5, para f (removing variance process from all of these ordinances)

Section 8, para D (last sentence removed)

Section 8, para M (previously read "construction sites are encouraged to advertised). The word 'encouraged' changed to 'permitted'.

Section 10, para B (variance process has been stricken)

John Vaillancourt made a motion to do a third reading in title only; Birch Wright seconded
Public Comment: None
Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (Abstain), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **"An ordinance repealing ordinance number 156 and adopting new sign regulations for the city of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes"**

Birch Wright made a motion to adopt; John Vaillancourt seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (abstain), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue says there is an emergency clause (to take effect immediately instead of 90 days from now) on all of these if they (Council) want to adopt.

Birch Wright made a motion to adopt the emergency clause; Shawn Mayfield seconded

Public Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes); Shawn Mayfield (yes); Curtis Vaughan (abstain); John Vaillancourt (yes); Birch Wright (yes)

Ordinance Adopting Lighting Regulations, 3rd Reading - (45:10 on audio - approx)

Brian Hogue went over changes:

Section 3, para A - (previously read 'residential outdoor lighting fixtures may emit a maximum of 1100 lumens, for the purpose.....) 'for the purpose' has been stricken and removed 'for landscape lighting'. Now reads: ' 1100 lumens, unless the lighting is on a timer for walk-way or security lights'.

Section 8, para C - entirety of paragraph has been stricken (was addressing the variance process)

Birch Wright made a motion in read and title only; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comments: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **"An ordinance repealing ordinance number 107 and adopting new outdoor lighting regulations for the city of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes"**.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the ordinance; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comments: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

John Vaillancourt made a motion to invoke the emergency clause; Birch Wright seconded

Comments: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Ordinance Adopting Driveway Regulations - 2nd Reading (48:29 on audio - approx)

Spelling error notated by Paula Anderson

Paula Anderson made a motion to read and title only; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **“An ordinance repealing chapter 15.24 of City of Goshen subdivision and minor subdivision regulations adopted by Ordinance number 198 and adopting new driveway and access regulations for the City of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes”**

Brian went through additional changes:

Para D - Ingress/Egress/Driveway Apron (previously 1a did say there would be a minimum distance 15' from the street and it included, designed to prevent water and loose gravel from washing onto the street). Last portion has been stricken.

Also stricken was para E (proper drainage tile)

Para F 1 - was titled Culverts; now is titled Culverts and Rights of Way

Para G - was a Sub-b entitled variance process - that has been removed

Birch Wright asked for clarity on what the culverts needed to be made of; Mayor says as far as the city, it is concrete unless you apply for a variance. If you are an ARDOT approval, it's whatever they approve.

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the 2nd reading; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comments: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes); Birch Wright (yes)

Variance Process - Tabled

Resolution Authorizing OzarkAg Contract (Metal Shop Bid) (54:29 on audio - approx)

Brian Hogue asked if there would be a separate contract provided to us from OzarkAg; Brian Hogue drafted the resolution authorizing the mayor signing a contract for the contract/dollar amount but there are terms that we need included in the contract; if OzarkAg does not provide another contract, he can work off of the NEC contract and we can adopt resolution authorizing Mayor to sign.

Birch Wright asked for clarity on how long OzarkAg will honor the quote; Mayor responded that they will honor it until it is completed.

Brian Hogue added that there's an issue (with the M&M contract) - can we pay more than the bid amount (\$3400) to help them cover the cost of the performance bond? Brian is unsure as to the answer to this right now and just wanted it on the Council's radar.

Birch Wright made a motion to read and title only the resolution; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud: **“Resolution authorizing Mayor to contract with OzarkAg”**

Birch Wright made a motion to approve; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

All in favor; None oppose

Ordinance Amending Ord. 171 - Organizational Chart - 2nd Reading (1:00:29 on audio - approx)

Dotted line from Mayor to Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Arbor Board

Swapped Captain and Lieutenant

Paula Anderson made a motion to read and title only; Birch Wright seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **“An Ordinance amending Ordinance number 171 which formalized the administrative framework of the city of Goshen Arkansas and for other purposes”**

Birch Wright made a motion to approve the second reading (w/additional word ‘which’ removed); John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Ordinance Approving Stroud/Crowne Annexation - (1:02:32 on audio - approx)

Paula Anderson asked (Section 2) about schedule of services includes solid waste collection and disposal but all in Goshen are on their own with waste services (of their own choosing). Brian agrees that needs to be changed. Mayor asked if we can adopt with removing that - Brian Hogue says, no, version that is adopted needs to be clear and correct and also advised what could potentially happen if verbiage is offering services that are not actually offered w/in city limits. Brian also said he’s just advising and is not stopping the Council from voting.

John Vaillancourt made a motion to read and title only the 2nd reading and bring back next month with corrections for third reading. Curtis Vaughan seconded.

Comment: Shawn Mayfield asked the Council to take the emergency clause into consideration for next month

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **“An Ordinance accepting the annexation of certain territory to the city of Goshen approving the schedule of services to be extended to said area and assigning such area to a ward”.**

Chief Travis asked about the roadway to the Crowne property and does the bridge become city property? Brian Hogue says, yes. Birch Wright asked if the county has to do the ordinance (since it’s an annexation). Brian Hogue does not know; thought Mayor drafted it but he did not; came from County on their generic form. Appears that Section 2 is the only area for correction(s).

Paula Anderson made a motion to accept the 2nd reading; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (yes)

Resolution Appointing Day Crowne to Parks Commission - Tabled (1:12:06 on audio - approx)

Paula Anderson made a motion to table; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

New City Business

Soliciting within City limits Discussion - Birch Wright lives in Waterford with no soliciting policy behind the gates. In the last 30 days it's been inundated with solicitors that were asked to leave and did not. Birch says we have nothing to support criminal trespassing; is there an ordinance in place currently? No, we do not have an ordinance in place for solicitation (Chief Travis). In Elkins you can buy a sticker (at City Hall) and if it's violated, they can be cited for criminal trespassing because they have an ordinance in place. Brian Hogue will look into some options and bring it back next month. Chief Travis doesn't believe a sign at the front of the community will take care of the issue; each individual house should have something posted

Ken Smith (Public) asked if roofing contractors and window washers are covered under that. Yes, unless the homeowner has called them directly to come for an estimate.

Mike Nimmo (Public) asked in regard to solicitation, what constitutes solicitation? If a contractor that has a signed contract with a homeowner puts up their sign in the front yard, is that solicitation? Per Brian Hogue, no, because they have a contract to work there. Brian Hogue will bring back examples of what could address these issues.

Amending Ordinance 59 - Waterford Improvement District Commissioners (1:23:53 on audio - approx)

Birch Wright says waste water group that they contract with - specific language that we have to have in an ordinance establishing commissioners for the property owners improvement district. The ones currently listed, don't live there (Waterford). He has taken it to the POA board and 3 members on the board that have agreed to be commissioners (Mr. Goens, Miss Prichett, and Mr. Stags). This ordinance spells out who it is and we can get this approved and get this to who we contract with so that they can get it to AEDQ and the rest of the state Entities.

Paula Anderson made a motion to suspend the rules, waive the 2nd and 3rd readings, and read and title only;

Curtis Vaughan seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (abstain)

Brian Hogue read aloud: **"An ordinance amending ordinance 59 to establish commissioners of property owners improvement district #2-Waterford at Hissom Ranch"**

Paula Anderson made a motion to adopt the ordinance; Shawn Mayfield seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (abstain)

Paula Anderson made a motion to adopt the emergency clause; Shawn Mayfield seconded

Comment: None

Roll Call Vote:

Paula Anderson (yes), Shawn Mayfield (yes), Curtis Vaughan (yes), John Vaillancourt (yes), Birch Wright (abstain)

Revised Schedule of Fees (1:27:17 on audio - approx)

Mayor advised that the fees that are not changing are electrical, mechanical; biggest thing is that we are not charging enough for our building fees and building costs have gone up. Mayor says the way we come up with our permit fees are thru ICC calculations that are based on year's prior income and the cost of us having our building staff to run the permits (overhead) - Jerry Jackson says it's a guide based on actual revenue and expenses and that we are a little below where we should be and that the fees are only \$300 more than before and we are just trying to recoup our costs.

Shawn Mayfield asked what would fees be on a \$1M home:

Square footage x \$170/psf (building cost) = total value - then you do permit multiplier (which comes from ICC)

Example: \$646,000 home the permit fees would be \$2764.88

Shawn Mayfield says he believes the fees are too high because we don't provide water, sewer, infrastructure and development, etc. Mayor says our costs w/in the permitting system for the city (using salaries) requires us to raise the fees.

Paula Anderson asked about building plan review fee - doesn't see it as fair and just because the multiplier goes down. Mayor says not written correctly and it needs to be added (to add the additional .00125) and the example needs to be shown.

Paula Anderson asked about swimming pool permit fees - doesn't seem right that if you have a heated pool, you need a permit to get the gas - but what about electric heaters? This needs to be changed/updated - If requiring gas, then you need a gas permit as well.

Mayor added that the reason for getting this done is because the ordinance has never been amended; it was brought before Council and Council approved everything that we adjusted but it was never ratified in the ordinance. Even though we adjusted the fee schedule in 06/2023, we never changed the ordinance of fee schedules with the building permits; we adopted it at the meeting(s) but we never actually changed the ordinance and the ordinance needs to be changed to match. Birch Wright asked how updated is the ICC guidance? Mayor says 2025 and that's what we based ours on.

Ordinance 168 Discussion (1:45:01 on audio - approx)

Mayor offered that the reason for getting this done is because the ordinance has never been amended; it was brought before Council and Council approved everything that we adjusted but it was never ratified in the ordinance. Even though we adjusted the fee schedule in 06/2023, we never changed the ordinance of fee schedules with the building permits; we adopted it at the meeting(s) but we never actually changed the ordinance and the ordinance needs to be changed to match. Birch Wright asked how updated is the ICC guidance? Mayor says 2025 and that's what we based ours on.

Shawn Mayfield would like to compare to Fayetteville, Springdale, and adjoining areas; he's getting conflicting information on our fees being higher as compared to others. Jerry Jackson says he wouldn't be surprised if that's what you did find as Goshen has the highest real estate values in the State that supports the fees. Shawn Mayfield says cost per square foot says we are not as high as some of the other areas (not seeing \$300/psf). Mayor says we can definitely pull comparisons from surrounding areas and bring it to next meeting.

Resolution to apply for Arkansas Community Project Grant - (1:47:23 on audio - approx)

Grant for us to apply for skid steer and/or an excavator; hoping for both to be covered in the Grant and it would save us \$250K. A few corrections need to be made to resolution: doesn't add up to 100% (change 30% to 20%); says skid steer but 'and/or excavator' needs to be added; says 'bring' instead of 'buy'.

Paula Anderson made a motion in read and title only; John Vaillancourt seconded

Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud: **"A resolution expressing the willingness of the city of Goshen Arkansas to apply for the Arkansas Community Assistant Grant Program"**

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the resolution expressing the willingness to apply for the Arkansas Community Assistant Grant Program with the amendment of amending the first statement, "whereas the city of Goshen understands the Arkansas Community Assistant Grant Program funds are available at 80% state participation and 20% local match to purchase a skid steer and/or excavator and/or accessories to those pieces of machinery to the city for various parks and city projects"; Birch Wright seconded

Comment: None

All in favor; None opposed

Councilmen Comments: None

Public Input: Mary Smith - She worked with the NW Arkansas audubon that arose because of a conference call with Cornell lab 2 years ago and it has come together in an article; being a birding hot spot is a big deal. The fact that we have the habitat to promote this as a nature hiking spot, we need to be very proud of this and thank everyone and hike out there and you'll be surprised about what is out there and what you'll find. Proud of the work in the park!

Chief Travis - We have two RAM trucks looking at possibly getting bumpers and winches for them due to storms, trees down, etc. Winches will help. The Police Dept may come ask for that/those (just a heads up).

John Vaillancourt made a motion to adjourn; Shawn Mayfield seconded

All in favor; None opposed

Adjournment at 8:25pm



Gina Swanson
Recorder/Treasurer



Russell Stroud
Mayor