

MINUTES
Goshen City Council
December 10, 2024 at 6:30PM
Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street

Call to Order: Mayor Stroud called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Roll Call: Paula Anderson, Colton Martin, Max Poye, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright were present. City Attorney and Recorder/Treasurer Marjorie Vaillancourt were present. Shawn Mayfield was absent.

Approval of Agenda: Birch Wright motion to approve agenda with addition of Arbor Board Report, CD discussion and bonus for employees. Seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.

Public Input: None offered.

Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2024 minutes. Colton Martin motioned to approve November minutes as amended. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: Mayor Stroud presented. Balances as November 30, 2024 are General Fund \$817,892.29. Street Fund \$233,003.18. 988 Act \$3,466.68. Certificates of Deposit \$1,041,438.08. Paula Anderson motioned to approve the financial report for November 2024. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0) The motion carried.

Reports for November 2024:

- A. **Police Department Report:** Report is in Council's packet. Chief Travis: Birch Wright thanked the Goshen Police for their help in his fraud case.
- B. **Street Report:** Report is in Council's packet. Mayor Stroud presented.
- C. **Goshen Fire District:** Report is in Council's packet. Mayor Stroud presented.
- D. **Planning Commission:** Mayor presented. Fees collected Jacob, Christina Geurin and David Allen Edwards. Property Line Adjustment. \$200.00. Totaling \$200.00 for the month of November, with a total of \$3,400.00 for the year.
- E. **Building Inspection Report:** J.D. DeMotte presented. Report is in Council's packet.
- F. **Parks and Recreation Report:** Danielle Edwards presented. Not a whole lot going on. Like you said, Mayor said, this spring house has been cleared up by Mike. It looks great. You can see the area. There is a fence that's going to be going up in the next month between Debbie McDonald's house and the south entrance to block that. That should be done in about a month. About a month. Mayor: By the end of the month. We are not meeting until January. We just don't have enough quorum to meet in November or December. But we are going over the maintenance plans and looking at that. Everyone has turned in the reports or what their master plan updates were back in October. So that's been done. Hopefully that will come

around the first of the year of getting some, I guess, an established plan by then. And then it will be in front of you guys after we meet with the Arbor Board and everything else. And then the north entrance is done and the parking lot has been marked. So that's nice with the ADA compliance with the disability spots marked. Other than that, we hope to meet on the 28th of January and start the new year. John: What type of fence is going up there? Danielle: It's a wood fence. It's 8 feet by 150 feet long. It's a nice wooden fence at the lateral boards and vertical boards on the post and then the vertical in between. Mayor: I went and met with Debbie and Linda to make sure that they were happy with the fence and to make sure that they were okay with the design. And this was the cheaper of any of the other estimates that we received. Max: I'm sure it will be fine, but doesn't that violate our fence ordinance? By 2 feet. I was just going to say, did you and they were okay with 8? Mayor: They requested it be taller than 6. That's one thing that will be coming to the Planning Commission in January. It was supposed to come before the Planning Commission in December. It's a change to that ordinance to bring it to 8 feet. So, the plan is to adjust that in the ordinances that we currently have to adjust it to 8 feet for everyone. Brian: It's six feet in max, right now, as far as where you start measuring. I don't think there's a variance option. That's what I'm confirming. And if that's the case. Mayor: I thought we did bring that we could have a variance on any of those when we established that about the entrances. I mean, the gated entrances. But we did provide a process by which you could go from. Brian: I don't think that's ever been updated. I think that's been part of the conversation. Mayor: But we never actually passed anything to allow for that? Brian: I don't believe so. Colton: I think recreational uses are exempted. The park is recreational. Birch: We need to be consistent, can't have tell someone to cut down their 8 ft fence and allow someone else to have one. Mayor: We'll clarify. If we have to, we'll bring it forward to 2025. And if it needs to go back on the agenda for us to do some sort of variance, if it's allowed, we can bring that in January. So, we'll plan on holding on this.

G. Arbor Board Report: Mayor Stroud presented. Report is in Council's packet.

Old City Business:

A. Arbor Board Ordinance: Mayor Stroud presented. Two minor corrections, add Arboretum signage, Strike sentence quorum shall consist of 4. Paula Anderson motioned to suspend the rules & waive the 2nd & 3rd readings. Read in title only. Seconded by Colton Martin.

Roll Call Vote Yay

Roll Call Cote Nay

Birch Wright yes

John Vaillancourt yes

Paula Anderson yes

Max Poye yes

Colton Martin yes

Absent

Shawn Mayfield

Hogue read: "AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 127 AND FURTHER ORGANIZING THE CITY OF GOSHEN ARKANSAS'S COMMUNITY PLAN WHICH ADDRESSES THE PLANTING, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF PUBLIC TREES WITHIN THE CITY

OF GOSHEN IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Paula Anderson motioned to adopt the ordinance. Seconded by John Vaillancourt.

Roll Call Vote Yay

Roll Call Vote Nay

Birch Wright yes

John Vaillancourt yes

Paula Anderson yes

Max Poye yes

Colton Martin yes

Absent

Shawn Mayfield

The motion carried.

- B. Ordinance Establishing Master Plan Process:** Mayor Stroud. Paula Anderson motioned to table. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.
- C. Ordinance Ensuring Master Plan Adherence:** Mayor Stroud presented. Paula Anderson motioned to table. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.
- D. 2025 Budget Proposals:** Finance Committee presented. Birch: I think it's very well done. The salaries. It's budgeted at 24 of those. Instead of the 24 proposed for 2025, it's about a 13% increase. You all know I support salaries. I also look at how you pay. It looks like, to me, most of the increases are retirement insurance. Jerry: Actually, most of that increase is for the new employee that was mentioned in there. Mayor: Went from a part-time position to a full-time position. Birch: OK, so that makes up for almost \$100,000. Jerry: The last page of the individual salary and liability appendix, all departments projected 2024 were \$781,000. And then the proposed 25 is \$883,000. So, we're looking at an 11.55% increase. And that's with the increase in benefits, plus taking it from part-time to full-time. And that's just within the salary part of it. But if you look at the overall budget, normally we were hitting 60, 65% of our total of salaries. Now we're at 55. So, we reduced that number down by reallocating money that we spent on other sources for 24 that we don't need to. So that's bringing down the overall cost of salaries to the overall revenue picture. So even though it's going up 11, salaries went down a percentage based on our total revenue to 55, 60. John: Stated he does not agree an elected official should get a raise every year. He feels it should be the salary should stay the same during their term. Mayor: John Vaillancourt motioned to not approve the raises for the elected officials as presented in the budget at this time. Does anybody want to second that? Without a second, it does not move forward. Jerry continued with explanation of the 2025 budget. John Vaillancourt brought up exempt and nonexempt employees' email from Caleb Alexander of the Municipal League's office. Brian will look into it. John also asked that all employees wages be put on the budget as hourly and not salary.
- E. Resolution Adopting 2025 Budget:** Brian Hogue presented. Birch Wright motioned to adopt the resolution with John's adding hourly instead of salary to budget, to read in title only. Seconded by Paula Anderson. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0).

Hogue read: "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 BUDGET."

Birch Wright motioned to adopt the 2025 Budget. Seconded by Paula Anderson. All in favor? Yay (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried.

New City Business:

- A. Resolution Appointing Depository Board Member:** Mayor Stroud presented. John Vaillancourt motioned to appoint Paula Anderson to the Depository Board. Read in title only. Seconded by Colton Martin. All in favor? (5). Opposed? (0).

Hogue read: "RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF PAULA ANDERSON TO MUNICIPAL DEPOSITROY BOARD."

Colton Martin motioned to adopt. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? (5). Opposed? (0). The motioned carried.


- B. Projects and Grants Updates:** Mayor Stroud presented. We did not get the ARDOT Phase 2. grant. We are waiting to hear back on the Arkansas State Park Grant. We will proceed with Forestry Grant in February. Were working on getting the rock sign for the park. We did meet with Crafton and Tull and expressed our expectations.
- C. Certificate of Deposits:** Marjorie Vaillancourt presented. Presented CD rates. Currently City Council didn't not want to open any new CD's.
- D. Year End Bonus:** Mayor Stroud presented. John Vaillancourt motioned Bonus for full time employees \$1,000. And part time employees and elected officials \$500.00. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor? (5). Opposed? (0). The motion carried

Public Input: Paula Anderson: I wanted to thank Max and Marjorie for serving. Birch Wright I second that. Birch: we have a residence in Waterford that has put a pool in. POA gave them permission to use the green space. They a have torn it up and POA has told them they are calculable for the damage. This may become an issue. I know there is a green space agreement with the city and the POA. Mike Nimmo: I wanted to thank you Mr. Mayor for all the time you put forth and using your own equipment. Mayor Stroud: I would like to thank the Council for a good year. Chief Tavis: I would like to thank the council for all they do for us.

Adjournment: John Vaillancourt motioned to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Colton Martin. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.


Marjorie Vaillancourt
Recorder/Treasurer




Russell Stroud
Mayor