

**MINUTES**  
**Goshen City Council Commission**  
**February 11, 2025 at 6:30PM**  
**Goshen Community Building, 244 Clark Street**

**A meeting of the Goshen City Council was held on February 11, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Goshen Community Center.**

**City Council**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Stroud @ 6:30pm

**Roll Call:** PRESENT - Paula Anderson, Sean Mayfield, Curtis Vaughn, Colton Martin, John Vaillancourt, Birch Wright, ABSENT - None. City Attorney and Recorder/Treasurer Gina Swanson were present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Re-ordered agenda based on input from John Vaillancourt regarding item not accounted for from last meeting - Item to be added into Agenda/Old Business/Item E/Third Signatory. Birch Wright motioned to accept as amended and Colton Martin seconded. All were in favor; None opposed

- 1-Call to Order;
- 2-Roll Call;
- 3-Approval of Agenda;
- 4-Public Input;
- 5-Approval of Minutes
- 6-Approval of Financial Reports
- 7-Reports for 01/2025

State of the City Address - Mayor Stroud (see attached)

- 8-Old Business (adding Item 'E' Third Signatory)
- 9-New Business
- 10-Reports/Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney & Recorder/Treasurer
- 11-Public Input
- 12-Adjournment

**Public Input (#4)** - Goshen Citizen, Carmen Johns, lives in apartment complex at the Twin Bridges (5 years m/l). Citizen reports that on Saturday, February 1st an elderly woman on the property was bit by a dog and Ms. Johns has been working with the officers that answered the call about the animal ordinance and how we might be able to adjust those to get them to would protect people in multi-family dwellings; possible smoother process understanding that animal control is new out in the Goshen area and just getting off the ground; she commended the response time for the woman's medical issues addressed and Ms. Johns is trying to advocate for this woman, who has no one else, as well as others from Goshen. She has made notes about the animal ordinance and offered potential changes:

Most important being the procedure for a dog going into quarantine; she has worked in dog clinics, etc., and it is required by dogs that have bitten someone to go into a 10-day rabies quarantine (if paperwork can not be provided by owner). She referenced 6.01.15 - Animal Bites - "any animal which has bitten a person is a rabies suspect and, as such, shall be immediately released for a quarantine confinement with a veterinarian of their choice for a period of 10 days. If the animal has up-to-date rabies records, the animal may be quarantined at home". Ms. Johns states that the owner of this particular dog was not able to provide rabies records (at the time of the attack) but the animal was allowed to stay at home in quarantine for 5 days. She states that there are 26 people that live on that property; she is proposing that multi-family dwellings not be allowed to quarantine dogs at home at all and if vaccination records can not be produced at the time of the incident, that the dog must go to a vet facility or a collaborative Animal Control Facility. Ms. Johns has spoken with Lacie Lawson (office staff) and Ms. Lawson stated that the City is already working on proposed changes. Ms. Johns pointed out an additional section that stipulates that the quarantining can also be up to the discretion of the animal control officer, but also that it takes 2 separate incidences to be able to deem an animal vicious but she doesn't see this portion in the ordinances stating it takes 2 occurrences; she suggested added those words to the ordinance(s). She does not see anything in the ordinance(s) that indicates who is responsible for ensuring the animal is in quarantine - suggested clarity be added.

Mayor Stroud responded that he is aware of the situation, although the council members had not been briefed (as of that time); it has been discussed at City Hall and no changes have been brought (as of yet) to the ordinance(s) but part of that is because City Hall is currently working on changes that they may want to propose with some of the same wording from Washington County Animal Shelter. And also, it is a new ordinance and is new that we have animal control officers that respond and City Hall is following their guidance (as in this situation) and City Hall is still discussing how they can make this better in the future and that there will most likely be changes brought forward but are looking at it in depth to be sure that they (City Hall) doesn't leave anything out when proposing the changes.

Birch Wright asked if the owner could not produce the proof of rabies vaccination, why was the dog allowed to stay at home to quarantine. Mayor Stroud responded that Abby (office) called the WA County Animal Shelter and they didn't have any room for the dog at the time and they recommended if the animal didn't appear to be vicious at the time, that they could stay with the owner until the vet clinic opened to take the dog into the clinic; the animal did get taken to the clinic and was quarantined for the remainder of time. There was no concern for rabies and did receive updated vaccines at that time at the clinic.

Ms. Johns reiterated for multi family dwellings, that it not be 'discretionary'. She is away due to lack of management on this property as well as this incident. Mayor Stroud indicated that City Hall is in the process of building an animal control area so that we will have some kennels at City Hall that will help hold a quarantine animal for a short amount of time until they can get to a vet or WA County Animal Shelter.

**Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2025** - John Vaillancourt wants the Third Signatory (missed) issue added to last month's meeting; Paula Anderson wants her motion to approve the financial added in the approval of the financial reports in the minutes (missed). Birch Wright - under Resolution Authorizing Police Vehicle Purchase (change/update/strike) his input written that he did NOT say he was concerned about them making changes. Spelling correction - Vaughan should be Vaughn for Curtis Vaughn; Spelling correction from Sean to Shawn for Shawn Mayfield.

Motion to approve as amended by Birch Wright and seconded by Shawn Mayfield  
All in favor; None opposed

**Approval of Financial Report**

As of 01/31/25 the General Fund has \$706,307.60 and the Street Fund is \$254,287.48 and Police 988 Fund has \$9,722.13. HUD ARDOT State Park Funds \$3,061.76, CD Balance is \$1,054,209.44. Total \$2,027,588.41.

Birch Wright made a motion to approve; seconded by John Vaillancourt

Public Input? None

All in favor; None opposed

State of the City Address: See attached

**Police Report (7A) - Chief Travis**

30 Charges in total, 1 criminal citations, 0 PCP/PDP charge, 6 warrants, 29 Moving citations, 0 DWI, 77 Warning citations, 174 service calls - Warrants were traffic stops that were made that have warrants in other jurisdictions.

**Infrastructure & Facilities Report**

City Park - Spread and leveled gravel at Mills Branch Park;

Roads - Cleared snow and salted city streets during snowfall; Conducted culvert inspection, marking, and clearing; Spread and leveled gravel on the city streets (Spring Park Ln, Nimmo Ln, S Sharp Dr, Watson Cir, Community Bldg).

Future Projects - Continue installing new street signage for all streets in Goshen; Install a welcome stone at the north park entrance; Complete the stone flowerbed behind City Hall.

Mayor Stroud showed pictures of work that they’ve been doing (Dave and Ivan) culvert work. Projects are based on need; City Hall will prioritize those and decide which ones need to be replaced and in what order. The plan for 2025 is to replace the culverts that are caved in; we don’t want to re-surface streets when a culvert is caved in. A lot of the street budget will go to fix these culverts that are rusted through, etc. Any culvert that comes out will be replaced with concrete tile culvert because of durability and lifespan; cost decrease as they are ‘seconds’. Birch Wright asked about cost to replace culvert; Mayor Stroud indicates the one on Fire Tower that was the most recent replaced was \$14K to remove culvert, putting in new concrete tile, new gravel back in, and asphaltting back over it. Most should be around \$8K-\$10K. Mayor wants to have this put all together and get an overall bid from several companies.

Budget and street maintenance spend can be up to \$200K - capital expense - Per Mayor Stroud/Gerry Jackson.

Birch Wright asked about general estimate on re-surfacing to be about \$275K per mile; Mayor Stroud indicates we can usually get it to about \$150K-\$155K. If you rip up base and replace it, it’s a lot more than overlay.

Public inquired about ‘seconds’ and recognizing that they are cheaper but is there a difference in the life span?

Mayor Stroud - no, they are the same concrete culvert with minor chips on the edge with no significant change or detriment to the actual culvert itself (the tile). When we put this out for bid, they won’t use seconds.

**Goshen Fire District Report**

January, 2025 - 50 incidents total and 13 total types, 22 Medical Assist is the highest on those.

Birch Wright shared that his neighborhood resident decided to dump his firepit and started a significant grass fire; good response time, 2 trucks, approx 10 guys and extinguished quickly.

## **Planning Commission Report**

For Q1 2025, Total fees collected \$400 (2 different lot line adjustments)

**Building Inspection Report** - January, 2025, 22 field inspections. JD asked about the Master Plan Discussion for the evening and would we be discussing street or subdivision plans or just the park? Mayor confirmed it's the park master plan. Shawn Mayfield asked about the water moratorium. Mayor Stroud said most recent update is that if there's an existing lot in the City of Goshen, prior to the moratorium, a buildable existing lot, that they would honor putting a meter on that lot. Meter installed at north side of park. Birch Wright confirmed that until the new tower is put in and the new line is run, there will be no new taps.

**Parks and Recreation Report** - Danielle Edwards - Tree removed from north entrance of the park and ever since then, Mike Nimmo and Ivan have been there every day cleaning up that tree.

Going to Little Rock on March 6 to accept check for the outdoor Parks and Rec.

Master Plan from January has been agreed upon. Because of all of the project that have been completed and a lot of the information that had been updated, there were not one word changes but items removed/added in entirety.

Also voted on Ordinance for ensuring the master plan adherence. As a condition, the committee was against this; felt that since there is an ordinance (204) that establishes and sets forth the park rules, it's in place for everyone to follow (citizens, city officials, parks commissions) are already set forth in 204. Birch Wright asked for clarity that the recommendation was NOT to support the adherence but that they do support the ordinance establishing the process; Danielle Edwards confirmed that they unanimously voted against the adherence but in support of the ordinance establishing it. The master plan is a living, breathing document and can be updated/change as necessary. Due diligence was done by commission of updating that park master plan and then giving it to Council to (hopefully) pass.

Mayor Stroud acknowledged a letter written thanking Dave and Ivan for all that they did in snow removal, etc.

## **Old City Business**

Review of Master Plan - Concerns from commission that they did not have time to review this (length of 31 pages). Would like to see it tabled so that they can review it in depth. Paula Anderson made a motion to table the review of the master plan and seconded by John Vaillancourt.

Public Comment? Max Poye is glad that it is being tabled so that everyone can review it in much more detail and he'd like to be able to see the ordinance (as a member of the public) and agrees that the commission needs time to review it. Paula Anderson asked for it to be published on the web page so that the public can view it. Birch Wright suggested amending Paula Anderson's previous motion to table and make a motion to table A, B, and C (Review of Parks Master Plan, Ordinance Establishing Master Plan Process, Ordinance Ensuring Master Plan Adherence). Paula Anderson and John Vaillancourt agree.

Paula Anderson made a motion to table A, B, and C that all have to do with the Master Plan for the Parks; John Vaillancourt seconded

All in favor; None opposed

Max Poye asked for clarity that it would be published on the website - Mayor Stroud confirmed draft will be posted. Mr. Poye asked if all ordinances would be posted as issue is how to get public input - Mayor Stroud indicates Ordinances are not posted until they are voted on and approved. Mayor Stroud encouraged the public to attend the meetings and once Council has had a chance to discuss the ordinance then the public can make their comment(s). Brian Hogue added that ordinances come, we try to pass them, we waive second and third

readings, the purpose is so that it comes before the body multiple times, and the public have time to voice opinions, and changes made. He pointed this out to address Mr. Poye's concern(s) and although it takes time, it is beneficial. Mayor Stroud stated that once there is a meeting and it's already been heard, then City Hall can provide that information to you and the public can email or send comments. City Hall can't send information to you before a meeting is ever had about items that are going to be discussed by Planning Commission or City Council. Mr. Poye is concerned that by waiving the second and third readings perhaps it is being cut short. Birch Wright says that's fair and that the Council (unless it's truly an emergency and a 40-page document) probably doesn't need to waive second and third readings so everyone has time to review it.

Public Comment?

All in favor on tabling; None opposed

### **Project Updates**

Mayor Stroud took Paula Anderson's recommendation (from previous meeting) and they reached out to a pre-fab metal building company, after he spoke with an architect who indicated a build cost of \$16K; Ozark Ag does pre-fab metal buildings and he thinks we are on target of \$250K-\$350K depending on steel costs and said we would be able to get that as a pre-fab building, even with the design that we currently have, because they can make those minor adjustments. We may have to make adjustments on our side (very minor) and we can work with them to make this project work. Mayor Stroud will meet with him next week.

Paula Anderson added that our lot around city hall is getting crowded and wondering if we need to consider putting that large of a building on that lot or should we utilize the 5 acre by the community center instead, going ahead and putting bathrooms and septic system because the shop will be more useful with water in it. Mayor Stroud says this building will mainly house equipment only and we don't need water for that; it has been looked at. Paula says looking long-term/future are we wise in trying to cram that building in or do we put in where we have room to expand better, more effectively, more efficiently in the future. Mayor Stroud stands by the building being put where initially planned by City Hall; however, if something should be moved, he'd like to see the new City Hall on the larger acreage; he understands Paula's concern but says what we are using it for, the intended location is best and the equipment should be in one central location. Gerry Jackson supports Paula's opinion on adding water and bathrooms to the building and limited bathrooms currently. Mayor Stroud confirmed that there are 3 bathrooms in City Hall and one in the Fire Department. Shawn Mayfield asked about any concern for the capacity of the current septic system; Mayor Stroud says the way our septic system is set up there is no way to tie into it where this new building will be - we would have to put in a new septic tank and lateral lines; we could do it but it would add \$12K of expense. Paula Anderson asked about an eye-wash station; as far as safety goes, it should be considered - Mayor Stroud says when the bathroom in the shop was redone, there was a sink put in that has a hose-type faucet (kitchen sink faucet) and that is the only station that we have for eye-wash. Mayor Stroud says he'd want to try and put an eye-wash in the fire station for decontamination and we can look at that.

Linda Moore (public) asked if a pre-fab building could be moved after the fact? Mayor Stroud says, no.

Ms. Johns (public) asked about working with concentrated herbicides or concentrated salt solutions b/c she believes that OSHA requires it (she works at University in lab(s) frequently) and they are required to have an eye-wash station that is free-standing and has to be checked every so often and signed off on just to be in compliance. Is this anything you are doing independently? Mayor Stroud says some at City Hall have received training/certification in order to purchase some chemicals but we don't have any caustic chemicals at City Hall (bleach would be the most caustic chemical that they have). Birch Wright confirmed that it is usually based on what you have and how much of it. Mayor Stroud says it's a very good thought for some of our other or future

buildings. Once cost estimates are received, we can look at putting in a septic system. Paula suggested shopping around to get the best cost/estimate.

**Signatory** - John Vaillancourt the previous meeting and that Shawn Mayfield that he thought he'd like to step down because of not being in town due to travel schedule. Everyone seemed to think that was fine and it was discussed a small amount and that was all. Shawn Mayfield indicated that he will do whatever the city wants him to do. Mayor Stroud gave additional information that recently we had to get all new signatory cards due to the change in recorder/treasurer position. At that time it came to light that there was still an old commissioner position person still on those signatory cards (possibly a year or more old) and that Shawn Mayfield had never been added to the signatory card(s). We now have all signed the signatory cards and they are completed (Mayor, Recorder/Treasurer, and Shawn Mayfield) and it took quite a bit of time. Mayor Stroud does not want to go back and redo it. If Shawn wants to come off the signatory, the Mayor would be supportive of that. Shawn Mayfield said that if the need exists, a change would need to be made and we can cross that bridge at that time.

### **New City Business**

Resolution for 2025 TAP Grant Application- Mayor Stroud says that every year we apply for the grant, we have to have a resolution for that TAP grant and we plan to apply for exactly what we applied for last year. We did not get the grant last year, probably because we haven't started our TAP grant that was allocated in 2023. We are at the point right now for getting that project (2023) out for bid within the next month and hopeful to have the project completed so that we have a better chance of getting the TAP grant again in 2025.

Shawn Mayfield asked for a reminder on what the application would be for the one last year - Mayor Stroud says that the one we have now (2023) will take us from the parking lot, over across the bridge, and up to the chicken house pad. The second phase of that (applied for in 2024) takes us from the chicken house pad up to where we are building the new pavilion (phase ii). We will be putting that same exact application in this year - if we get it, we get it; if we don't, we don't (80/20 match).

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve the resolution in read and title only; seconded by Birch Wright

Public Comment? None

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read aloud - "A resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Goshen, Arkansas, to utilize federal aid, transportation alternatives, program or recreational trails program funds".

Paula Anderson made a motion to approve and seconded by John Vaillancourt

Public Comment? None

All in favor; None opposed

### **Resolutions Reappointing Planning Commission Members**

We have reappointments of all the planning commissioners and 2 new planning commissioners to appoint.

Michael Thompson decided to not seek reappointment (work); in his place will be Greg Langham CIO for United Built Homes and a life long resident of Goshen

Lisa Skiles who has been on the planning commission for 11 years and will lead our Growth and Development Committee; in her place will be Marcie McClamroch who is eager to start working with the City to see it grow.

Everyone else will be reappointed to their positions. Birch Wright confirmed that the terms are staggered so that we don't have a mass exodus. Mayor Stroud confirmed, yes, they are staggered.

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the appointment of Greg Langham; seconded by Paula Anderson for Greg Langham, Planning Commission

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read resolution confirming appointment of Greg Langham to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt; seconded by John Vaillancourt

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the appointment of Marcie McClamroch and seconded by John Vaillancourt

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Birch Wright will abstain

Brian Hogue read resolution confirming appointment of Marci McClamroch to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt and seconded by John Vaillancourt

Public Comment? No

All in favor; Birch Wright abstain; None opposed

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the reappointment of Liz Mashie and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read resolution of reappointment of Liz Mashie to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the reappointment of Loren Shackelford and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read resolution of reappointment of Loren Shackelford to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the reappointment of Scott Stokenbury and seconded by Birch Wright

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read resolution of reappointment of Scott Stokenbury to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt and seconded by Birch Wright

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

Colton Martin made a motion to read and title only the reappointment of James Gardner and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

All in favor; None opposed

Brian Hogue read resolution of reappointment of James Gardner to Planning Commission

Colton Martin made a motion to adopt and seconded by Shawn Mayfield

Public Comment? No

All in favor; None opposed

#### **Reports/Comments by Mayor, Aldermen, City Attorney & Recorder/Treasurer**

Shawn Mayfield asked about a past culvert work done and a balance due - Brian says we are not doing anything until we hear from the company. The money is being held in a contingency. Birch Wright asked about a statute of limitations but Brian believes it's 3-5 years.

Shawn Mayfield asked about work being done at the veterinarian clinic; dirt work being done at the moment; large and small animal clinic; they currently have a mobile service; the City is excited to have them.

Birch Wright asked about another food truck going in. Mayor Stroud says the plan is a total of 4 and there have been discussions at the planning commissions regarding grading because there is no ordinance that establishes anything to do with grading in the City. Birch Wright asked about ownership of the lot (it is John Coger). He wants to put in 4 food trucks and call it 'the picnic' and changing the drainage ditch to make it look like a stream and more aesthetically pleasing. Mayor Stroud confirmed that it is a commercially zoned lot and they are working with him to make sure that all works with code (parking, ingress, egress). Birch Wright asked about do we have code now that addresses temporary food trucks - Mayor Stroud says, no, for temporary food trucks; it just has to do with Commercial zoning.

Public Comment? Max Poye - before he got off the council there was discussion about ordinance 52 and he's had occasion to think that there is too much opinion about aesthetics. Can we look at that somewhere down the line for perspective/clarity on aesthetics? Mayor Stroud had that subject matter pulled from the meeting for tonight so that he, Lacie (office), and Brian (attorney) can look at it closer and come up with better details of what they want to change before they bring it to Council. He agrees that more clarification is needed but needs to figure out how to best word it and how to best put that into an ordinance that can be brought in for discussion. The City is trying to figure out how to appropriately address it.

Birch Wright asked about police presence in Riverside subdivision - police said that there has been an unintended positive result of the effort in that making this agreement allowed them to put communication out to the neighborhood and the communication alone was the solution we didn't realize we needed. It couldn't have had a better result. Radar enforcement signs have helped.

Mayor Stroud asked about jake-brakes - is there anything we can do prohibit that on Highway 45? Is there a certain sign we have to have? Is it just in that area that there is a problem? John Vaillancourt says it's there, and coming down off slaughter mountain and across the flat. Mayor Stroud will talk to Chief Travis about

enforcement because it's very bad. John Vaillancourt says that if you start issuing tickets, then the word will spread and we will see a reduction with the issue.

Mayor Stroud says the other complaint is the grooves that have been installed on each side of the road and how loud they are especially those that live on highway 45 and also an issue for Waterford residents. ARDOT says it's a safety issue.

Birch Wright motioned to adjourn; John Vaillancourt seconded  
All in favor; None opposed

Adjournment: 8:00pm



**Gina Swanson**  
Recorder/Treasurer



**Russell Stroud**  
Mayor