

MINUTES
Goshen City Council
January 11, 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 and Birch Wright were present. Shawn Mayfield was absent. Attorney Brian Hogue and Recorder/Treasurer Marjorie Vaillancourt were present.

Approval of Agenda: Colton Martin added under New Business Item G: City Council Meeting Cancellation. Birch Wright motioned to approve the agenda as written with edits. Seconded by Colton Martin. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0). The motion carried.

Public Input: Betty Nichols stated thank you for cancelling Tuesday's meeting. I would not have come out and driven on the roads. Several people I talked to said the same thing. I know it is hard to reschedule and I appreciate it.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes for December 12, 2023. Colton Martin would like the thief Walnut Trees rewritten. Mayor: Under the minutes there was a section under year end. We had to go back and listen to it again because it was difficult to hear at times. So, we went back to YouTube, and we listened to audio recording. So, what was in the minutes listed Lacey as a part time employee and what was stated was that that Lacey is not a part time employee. She mentioned that she was not, Jerry said how many part time employees are there? Marjorie said Lacey. Mayor said Lacey is the only part of employee. Lacey said no. I am not a part time employee. Marjorie No. Mayor: Oh, that is right. JD me John was asked to abstain from making a motion to approve Colton motion to approve \$1000 full time bonus with the 500 part-time Birch Wright seconded. There was public comment. Do we need to play the minutes? Because there was no Lacey saying she was not full time, that she was part time, that she was full time. Marjorie: I am sorry I did not hear it. Mayor: You can YouTube. John YouTube is not good. Marjorie: YouTube in and out and I expressed that to City Hall after the first YouTube. Mayor: Lacie became full time in May, we have been paying her full-time benefits since then. After more discussion Council said leave the \$2000 bonus. Colton Martin motioned to approve minutes with walnut trees amended. Seconded by birch Wirght. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0). The motion carried.

Max Poye: Stated on the first State of the City Address and on the one last month, there are some things in there that are your opinion. You certainly have that right. I feel bad about them being stated. It sounds like it is fact, and it sounds like it is shifting the blame to past administrations. We have a confusing and disorganized budget, a lack of forward management, an office that was in chaos. We know about the office that was in chaos at the first of the year. So, my point is this, we have been left without gravel on some of these roads for years. I would invite anybody to go back and look at gravel and tree trimming over the road and all the things that is kind of like a nanny-nanny-boo-boo thing to me for myself, who was a past mayor, Kathy, who was before that, Joe Benson. So, I would like to ask you, if you do this State of the City again, dwell on the positive. A little bit of self-promotion is okay. But let us not run down things that were in the past. Now, we went through several audits. Our way of doing things in the past did not suit you or was not what you think is right. But we never got

deemed bad on any of the audits. You were going to have a request of special auditing early on in your administration. I never heard the results of that. I am willing to bet there were no major findings on it. So, I am just asking you, considering our code of conduct that we passed, not to say things in a negative way like the past couple of States of the City. Let us talk about what is good, and less negative, and what has happened in the past. And we will, too.

Approval of Financial Report: Mayor Stroud presented. Balances as December 310, 2023 are General Fund \$813,700.22. Street Fund \$280,273.98. 988 Act \$3,312.35. Certificates of Deposit \$989,313.66.

Paula Anderson motioned to approve the financial report for November 2023. Seconded by Max Poye.

All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed (0) The motion carried.

Reports for December 2023:

A. Police Department Report: Report is in Council's packet. Chief Travis reported.

There was an abduction attempt on Goshen Tuttle. We have a description of the vehicle. Max: Someone from the Knolls called, there child was out, and Goshen Police car drove through. The child could not make out it was the police vehicle, so she ran into the house. Mayor: we have discussed having the vehicles redone, we have had other citizens concerned also. John Vaillancourt motioned to have all police vehicles marked clearly. Seconded by Colton Martin. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0). The motion carried.

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 Stroud: total fees collected for 2023 were \$3,600.00. None for December. The Planning Commission discussed the ordinance for gated entry, the request was to change the ordinance for allowing gated entrances in Goshen. Their recommendation was to not allow gated entrances in Goshen, because of connectivity and safety. That was the big concern they had. Birch: Mayor, if I recall, this went to the committee prior to planning, right? It you went to another committee, and it was voted unanimously not to allow. Mayor: Yes, The Board of Zoning Adjustment. Brian: Technically under out subdivision regulations the Planning Commission is the one to vote on that, they were in their board of zoning meeting. So, it came back to them just to vote once again that was the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission said unanimously, No reinstatement. Dan Padula: I brought the original attempt to have the ordinance amended. I was out of town on business for the first Board of Zoning Adjustment Meeting. I made the second one, I asked the Commission to explain as to why they voted it down. I do not want to speak for the Planning Commission. I would rather have them explain it to you themselves. We have 10 or 11 neighborhoods, communities, subdivisions in Goshen, seven of them are gated. The three that are not will never connect to each other. They will never connect to 45, they will never connect to anything. I understand the Planning Commission sole purpose is to plan. The City Council would like to hear from the Planning Commission as to why they voted no. John Vaillancourt motioned to go back to the Planning Commission, to readdress the gate issue in the subdivision. Ordinance and Zoning with the recommendation to bring to the council. Seconded Birch Wright. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0). The motion carried. Max Poye, stated I have a person who lives outside of city limits but in the planning area. She is concerned, as you go up Fire Tower, right after the city limits, it used to be called Chivo Lane, now it is Mill Lane. It goes down there, three-quarters of a mile and dead ends. So, that is a private road. Mayor, we have brought this up

several times now. Max: She sent me an email that says she had a couple of questions. One, can a resident file a grievance against a fellow neighbor for breaking the law? That is probably a lawsuit. They are not in the city, but they are in the planning area. Mayor: So, the only thing that we can do, this is what has come up, is that if they are in the planning area, the only thing we can do is either approve or not approve things that come to the planning commission that relates to people in the planning area. Max: She is on this road right now, me included, I have an easement down that road, and she said there are 13 residences. Russell has a copy of the legal document in question. I do not know what that is. Mayor: It is the deed and all the deed restrictions. Max: The problem is that there was an individual, one of these 13 people, that also just recently did a lot split or a minor subdivision. So, her concern being that there's no... I am not sure that that meets our subdivision rules, which apply in the planning area. Mayor: That is the problem, and I have brought that to the planning commission on two different occasions, that these tandem lot splits, the way that it is written in our subdivision regulations right now, we cannot deny them if they meet the regulations. And so, they continue to have tandem lot splits that we cannot deny because it meets all our regulations. Max: I am willing to bet that the road does not meet Appendix D. in the fire code. Mayor: They have driven fire trucks down there; they can turn around with no problem. The Planning Commission relies on whether a fire truck can drive in and turn the truck around. Currently, her only solution is to take legal action.

- E. Building Inspection Report:** Mayor Stroud presented. Report is in Councils packet.
- F. Parks and Recreation Report:** Mayor Stroud read Adam Walkers E-mail. So, Adam Walker is going to be our new Parks Chairman, and he just wanted to let everybody know that he is sincerely appreciated the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission for 2024. He is excited to set up Goshen parks over the next several years as, he works to seek public input in the Development Master Plan for the City Park system. He says that he has been privilege to work next to Ken Smith last three years and the leadership and development and establishment progression of Parks and Goshen have instrumental. Ken has overseen more than 1.3 million the grant revenue for our community since its inception in 2019 and all of this has led to the creation of our Community Center playground with its establishment in Mill branch park that will become a cornerstone for the city. He says that we have several important grants that should be fulfilled in 2024 that allows the parks to continue to advance and develop and if he is able to accomplish even a fraction of what Ken has accomplished during his tenure, he will call that a success. Thank you for your continued support to the council and the community. Look forward to another great year for the city.
- G. Arbor Board Report:** Mary Smith presented. Report is in Council's packet.

Old City Business:

- A. Resolution Adopting 2024 Budget:** Mayor Stroud presented.
Paula Anderson motion to read in title only. Seconded by Birch Wright. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed (0).

Hogue read: "RESOLUTON ADOPTING 2024 BUDGET."

All in favor. Yay (5). The motion carried.

B. Amending Ordinance 194: Brian Hogue/KaSeana Williams presented.

Colton Martin motioned to suspend the rules, waive 2nd and 3rd readings, read in title only. Birch Wright Seconded.

<u>Roll Call Vote Yay</u>	<u>Roll Call Vote Nay</u>
Birch Wright Yes	None
Paula Anderson Yes	
John Vaillancourt Yes	
Max Poye Yes	<u>Absent</u>
Colton Martin Yes	Shawn Mayfield

The motion carried.

Hogue read: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 194."

Colton Martin motioned to adopt. Birch Wright seconded.

<u>Roll Call Vote Yay</u>	<u>Roll Call Vote Nay</u>
Birch Wright Yes	None
John Vaillancourt Yes	
Paula Anderson Yes	
Max Poye Yes	<u>Absent</u>
Colton Martin Yes	Shawn Mayfield

The motion carried.

Max Poye motioned to adopt the Emergency Clause. Birch Wright seconded.

<u>Roll Call Vote Yay</u>	<u>Roll Call Vote Nay</u>
Birch Wright Yes	None
John Vaillancourt Yes	
Paula Anderson Yes	
Max Poye Yes	<u>Absent</u>
Colton Martin Yes	Shawn Mayfield

The motion carried

New City Business

- A. Resolution Appointing Parks Chairperson:** Mayor Stroud presented. John Vaillancourt motioned to read in title only to appoint Adam Walker as Parks Chairperson. Paula Anderson seconded. All in favor. Yay. (5). Opposed. (0).

Hogue read: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ADAM WALKER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN ARKANSAS."

Max Poye motioned to adopt. Seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0)
The motion carried.

- B. Resolution Appointing Parks Commissioner:** Mayor Stroud presented. John Vaillancourt motioned to read in title only to appoint Mike Nimmo as Parks Commissioner. Seconded by Colton Martin. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0).

Hogue read: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MIKE NIMMO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GOSHEN, ARKANSAS."

Colton Martin motioned to adopt. John Vaillancourt seconded. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0) The motion carried.

- C. Resolution Appointing Parks Secretary:** Mayor Stroud presented. John Vaillancourt motioned to read in title only to appoint Danielle Edwards to the Parks as Secretary. Colton Martin seconded. All in favor. Yay (5) Opposed. (0).

Hogue read: "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DANIELLE EDWARDS AS SECREATRY TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO THE CITY OF GOSHEN, ARKANSAS."

Colton motioned to adopt. Seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0) The motion carried.

- D. Review of Current I.T. Contract/Revised Proposal:** Mayor Stroud presented. I brought to you that our IT was subpar, we were trying to be very patient, we have been through construction, and we realized that, there was a little bit of a delay from us, but when it got to the full month after construction and we are still not getting up to speed. We requested a meeting with our current provider, Professional Business Systems, and it was very apparent that they had not fulfilled all the obligations that they had set forth. Their president of their company and CEO said, we are willing to let you out of the 3-year contract. We need to purchase a server. We need a server to back up the police and city hall. We will have to pay outright for those. The payout on that is \$11,700. I will say that with the new contract with this other company that we chose. Network Services Group, there is no commitment other than the one year to which we are committed. Also, we will save a total of \$6,732 because of the decrease in monthly service charges that we will incur. And I can tell you that personally, the person that comes from their company has been much more available to us. Anytime we call, he answers the phone, he comes out, looks at everything. This is going to be a much better option for us at City. Paula: They meet the requirements needed. Jason: Yes. Colton Martin motioned to read in title only. Seconded by Max Poye. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0).

Hogue read: "A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL NETWORK SERVICES GROUP FOR IT TO BE PROVIDED TO CITY OF GOSHEN, ARKANSAS."

Colton Martin motioned to adopt. Seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor. Yay (5). Opposed. (0) The motion carried.

- E. Discussion of Solicitors Permits:** Chief Travis presented. Discussion of permits for solicitors in Goshen

No one was in favor.

- F. Discussion of Unified Trash Service:** Mayor Stroud presented. Mayor Stroud offered to investigate unified trash service. He does not want to go down this path if the council is not interested. Citizens and City Council were not in favor.
- G. Council Meeting Cancellations:** Colton Martin presented. In the future, whether cancellations should occur, whether it was right or wrong to cancel Tuesday, I think that maybe if the mayor gets three requests from council members to cancel, then the mayor can make the decision.

Brian: We have Ordinance No. 181 on the books. You all recently revised that. I would suggest that somebody make a motion to continue following Ordinance No. 181 as revised. Birch Wright motioned to approve revised Ordinance 181. Seconded by Paula Anderson. All in favor Yay (5). Opposed (0). The motion carried.

Public Input:

Chief Travis stated, a lot of cities cancel Council meetings and close city hall if there is no school. Birch: asked are we going to base it on Springdale or Fayetteville schools? John Vaillancourt stated Fayetteville. Paula Anderson stated yes were in the Fayetteville district. Mayor Stroud: we have purchased the ATV; purchase price was \$37,382.19. Max stated when there is to be a cancellation again, he would like the Council's email to be shared so all members can see who can attend and who cannot. Brian stated that is fine it does not go against FOIA. Nothing is being voted on.

Adjournment:

Birch Wright motioned to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Seconded by John Vaillancourt. All in favor. Yay (5)

The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.



Marjorie Vaillancourt
Recorder/Treasurer

Russell Stroud
Mayor