City of Eudora

239 S Main Street

Eudora, Chicot County, Arkansas 71640

STEPHEN TISDALE, MAYOR **BOARD OF ALDERMAN**

JOSEPH MAZZANTI, ATTORNEY HOWARD BROWN DEBORAH SCOTT

JUANITA BURTON, CLERK TRAVI S COLLINS CHARLENE TAYLOR

FRANK FARRIS ROBERT THOMAS, JR.

BEULAH MAIDEN MARCO TONEY

MINUTES OF THE EUDORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Called Meeting

October 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephen Tisdale at 6:25 p.m. There were 7 aldermen present at roll call. Alderman Howard Brown was absent.

After Mayor Tisdale called the meeting to order, he relinquished the meeting to Alderman Debra Scott to explain purpose of the meeting. Alderman Scott stated she requested the meeting for two purposes: (1) Police Incident involving Glenn Williams and (2) Requirement that Police live within 7 miles radius of City limits.

Following Alderman Scott’s statement, Alderman Beulah Maiden addressed audience explaining that the role of the City Council was to oversee the development and implementation of the City’s Budget and finances as well as establishment of policy and procedures but not one of personnel management which includes hiring, firing and disciplinary actions involving employees.

Additionally, several citizens made comments and or had questions concerning the operation of the Police Department. Statements and questions by citizens included:

* Officer out of uniform during a traffic stop (not related to Police Incident on Agenda involving Mr. Williams and Police Officer)
* Rudeness (according to individuals making statements) by officer (not related to Police Incident on Agenda to be discussed {Mr. Williams and Police Officer})
* Lack of response by Chief to respond to citizens request to meet with him (not related to Police Incident involving Mr. Williams and Police Officer)

Citizen, Rev. David Green, Sr., addressed the audience after requesting and receiving permission to speak. He asked the citizens present to please allow Due Process to proceed rather than jumping the gun and then come back after an orderly and legal investigation by an outside authorized entity/court process to ascertain what the facts are and the rendering of a decision based on the evidence presented to discuss ways in which things could be done more efficiently, effectively and fairly to better serve the community. He further stated that it was his hope that a suit would not be brought against the City but rather that each side admit their mistakes and move toward making Eudora better for everyone which hopefully included the hiring of more Police officers from Eudora.

Sheriff Ron Nichols followed up Rev. Green’s remarks with remarks of his own that supported Rev. Green statements and additionally informed those present that Eudora Chief of Police had requested an investigation by his office on the day of the incident and that the process was ongoing and if the findings required additional investigations and or actions he would do so.

Mayor Tisdale and Chief El-Amin addressed concerns of the audience with the following statements: Mayor Tisdale stated he had personally tried to recruit people from Eudora to become employees of the Police Dept. and that the effort to establish a rapport between the citizens and the Eudora Police Department, “Coffee with the Chief” was well received. Chief El Amin asked that citizens with concerns and or complaints should contact his office and he would put forth every effort to address them. He further stated he could not address concerns he was not made aware of. He also requested that they give him more time to build a professional and caring Police force. He was attempting to hire people he could train to become a skilled, professional and caring Police Department while attempting to address law and order effectively in the community.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Travis Collins, seconded by Alderman Charlene Taylor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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Stephen Tisdale, Mayor Juanita Burton, Clerk