

**City of Eudora
239 S. Main St.
Eudora, Chicot County, AR 71640**

**WILLIAM STANTON, MAYOR
JOSEPH MAZZANTI, ATTORNEY
ALEXIS RISPER, CLERK/TREASURER**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MABEL ALLEN
FRANK FARRIS
CHARLENE TAYLOR
STEPHEN TISDALE**

**DENNIS BUTLER
BECKY SERIO
ROBERT THOMAS, JR.
DANITA TURNER**

**MINUTES OF THE EUDORA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Stanton. All aldermen were present at roll call.

Mayor Stanton called for the approval of the July 8, 2013 minutes. Alderman Thomas stated that a section of the lawsuit was not stated correctly. The minutes stand approved with the necessary correction.

Each alderman was given a financial statement on all city account funds for the month ending June 30, 2013. Alderman Serio asked that financial reports be e-mailed to the council members.

Alderman Allen asked if the general and police funds were in the red. She also stated that she see that a lot of the bills aren't being paid. Scott Petroleum was not paid. Mr. Terrell responded we don't pay bills until they are due. Some bills will show not paid all the time. She also questioned the IRS payment that wasn't showing. Mr. Terrell responded that the IRS has not sent a statement showing how much the city owes. The reason is that the amount of money hasn't been determined by the IRS yet. Mr. Stanton stated that the city has been sending a check each month for \$1,800.00. The check is listed on page 1 of the report. We will continue to pay on until an offer of compromise has been reached. Alderman Tisdale stated that he thinks Mrs. Allen is asking is to post the gross amount the IRS says we owe reflect on the statement. Mr. Terrell said it could be posted but it might not do any good. Alderman Tisdale said it might. It shows an obligation to the IRS. Alderman Turner asked if we knew how much we have paid. Alderman Tisdale questioned sanitation and mosquitoes revenue. It looks like \$81,854.23. If you look at the expenditures totaling \$88,030.92. If you compare the monies collected against the monies spent we're in trouble. Why should we pay the landfill company for something we never collected?

Mrs. Allen asked how much money was spent on the fire truck. \$130,000.00 was given through an organization. \$101,000.00 was actually spent on the fire truck.

The city received permission to purchase radios. Mrs. Allen asked if bids were received on the fire truck. Mayor Stanton replied "no". The state auditor said they didn't have to take bids. Bids are necessary for construction projects. Mrs. Allen questioned the monies Mr. Moore had given for an outdoor classroom. The monies were placed in the park fund. Mrs. Allen is still asking for a bookkeeper in the office.

Mr. Dant is in town for a book signing presentation at the library today. His book is entitled Finding Your Voice – How to Speak Your Heart's True Faith. He is a former student and resident of Eudora. He hasn't been to Eudora in thirty years. He cleaned up Eudora Baptist Church and the Eudora Bank as a student. Copies of his book are for sale.

Mrs. Conner of Healing Heart Project spoke to the council and citizens. Healing Hearts is a project that works with community members spreading the message about strokes, heart attacks and diabetes. The city will sign on as a city of Healing Hearts which is a community effort. First the city does a Proclamation. There is no cost. It consists of walking and getting fit. Alderman Thomas made the motion that the city formulate a resolution for the next meeting to show approval and support for Healing Hearts. Alderman Serio seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Stanton informed the council of the retirement of Mr. Willie Washington. He was employed by the city of Eudora for thirty-four years. He was employed from September, 1979 – July, 2013. He received a Certificate of Appreciation and luncheon was given in his honor.

Mr. Daniel Robbins of Arkansas Shoreline Railroad spoke to the council and citizens. Repairs have begun on the railroad. A \$3 million dollar rehabilitation project will begin next week between Lake Village and McGehee. Alderman Serio asked if the bridge at Chicot Junction was being rebuilt. They are rebuilding it. The trussel on Lee St. is a part of the big project. Their target date is 90 days. Alderman Turner asked if people from Eudora would be hired. Twenty-employees from Chicot County will be hired. Six people from Eudora are currently employed. You can apply at the Workforce Center in Lake Village.

During the Mayor's Report he informed the council and citizens that the Street Project is underway. Work is being done on Armstrong St. The highway dept. included more streets than expected. The city is up to \$220,000.00 for re-surfacing. The highway department is in charge from start to finish. The entrance to the park, York Williams Development Ctr. and the Senior Citizens Bldg will also be re-surfaced. Some streets didn't qualify for re-surfacing. Streets must be 18 ft. in width. The highway department measured the streets. The lower end of Prospect

did not qualify. Eudora will receive \$40,000.00 in state aid this year. The city was going to seek a mileage increase of one cent. The city will decline. The city is receiving additional monies from the highway department for repairs. We will submit an additional application for streets. Sales tax revenues have increased.

Notices have been sent out for clearing of lots and condemnation. People are requesting additional time with council approval. Chief Watkins was given a list of names to present with tickets for non-compliance. A gentlemen entered the mayor's office irate because he was issued a ticket. Mayor Stanton interviewed three people today and five interviews are scheduled for tomorrow. The response to the ad has been good. One of the questions for the interview is conflict resolution. Mayor Stanton informed the council there are some bills over \$1,000.00 that needs council approval.

Alderman Farris made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss the mayoral assistant position and a job description for police chief and bookkeeper. Alderman Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Upon returning from executive session, Alderman Serio made the motion to hire a new police chief with a salary of \$29,500.00 with holiday pay included. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Farris made the motion that the mayor assistant /clerk be changed to bookkeeper/clerk and water clerk. Alderman Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Attorney Mazzanti mentioned that he was trying to ascertain if the \$3,000.00 paid to the Municipal League could be used to represent Chief Watkins in a lawsuit that he was named as a defendant in. He doesn't have an answer yet from the Municipal League. He will try to get an answer this week.

The city clerk was reading a State Aid Resolution when questions came about. The resolution was not read in completion.

Alderman Thomas reported for the Budget Committee. They were looking into the total number of garbage pick up; further discussion to see if number of houses had decreased; in June there were 781 pick-ups; the fire truck was delivered on August 1, 2013, talk with department heads to see if they could cut cost; re-connect charges should be paid before the premises shall be entitled to be reconnected to the system; a shut off list should be generated each month and holiday pay for the police chief. The past city attorney recommended that it shouldn't be paid.

During Ward Reports concerns were with citizens being issued tickets for abandoned cars in their yards and there are two broken cars at the police station, the 4-way stop can't be seen on Mabry and Main St., city truck dump leaves on private property, lights out on Main St., overgrown trees on Front St., King St. and Pine St., water tank out on Baker St. and College St., the dumpster is overfilled – someone needs to oversee the dumpster. Alderman Tisdale also asked about the selling process of the old police cars and Mathis Field is an eye sore. Alderman Serio recommended that the burned out cafeteria building donate land to a none profit organization or try to get a grant to demolish or renovate building. Other concerns were with when will fly-by-night begin spraying and there are two lots on King and Peebles with old houses on them and a lot on Baker and Peebles. Someone mowed the corner of the lot.

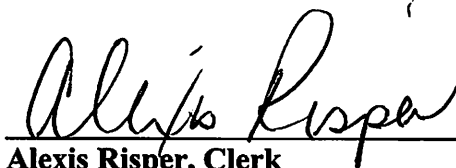
During Audience comments, Mr. Karl Caldwell addressed the council concerning when his home was broken into twice. The chief had the suspect in the police car but went home to take a nap. He out of \$1,600.00 plus he received a fine for jumping on one of the suspects. He was thinking of the safety of his sons when their at his home. Mrs. Margree Roy and Mrs. Tequila Fields were on the agenda to speak and both were a no show. Mrs. LaQuinda Toney informed the council of an unauthorized illegal policy that is currently being enforced by city hall. The water department is attempting to make property owners responsible for abandoned water bills. Services are not being terminated if bill are not paid by the 20th of the month. Bills are being allowed to continue for 3 or 4 months. When tenants leave the property they normally leave owing rent and utilities. Property owners are trying to be forced to pay this debt. Mrs. Toney contacted Donald Zimmerman at the Municipal League. He stated that to his knowledge this act is unlawful. She also contacted the attorney general, he also agrees that it is unlawful to hold anyone that is not a party to an account responsible for that debt. It is unlawful and unfair. She has not been able to collect rent on some of her rental properties because of past due accounts. The city refuses to allow water to current account holder who has paid their debt. She recommends that when their \$150.00 water deposit has been depleted, terminated their service. Lock the meters.

Alderman Allen made the motion to suspend collections from the landlords until city attorney gets a clear understanding of the policy. Alderman Farris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Serio made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Alderman Butler seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting is adjourned.



William Stanton, Mayor



Alexis Risper, Clerk