

**CITY OF EUDORA
239 S. MAIN ST.
EUDORA, CHICOT COUNTY, ARKANSAS
71640**

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

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
DENNIS BUTLER
BECKY SERIO
CHARLENE TAYLOR
STEPHEN TISDALE**

**PHILLIP JONES
LOUIS SCOTT
ROBERT THOMAS, JR.
DANITA TURNER**

**MINUTES OF THE EUDORA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 17, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stanton at 6:00 P.M. There were seven aldermen present for roll call. Alderman Thomas arrived shortly after.

The mayor called for the approval of the June 19, 2012 minutes. Alderman Turner asked that a correction be made on Pg. 2 last paragraph. There a misprint in the motion. Alderman

Mayor Stanton informed the council that he had spoken with Reynolds Meyers concerning the Work Release Program (ankle bracelets) for inmates. Cell phones are more expensive than land line. It will cost \$10.00 per day for the ankle bracelets. There is a \$50.00 hook-up fee for short term. Alderman Serio asked was the inmates responsible for the cost of the ankle bracelets. Mayor Stanton responded by saying Mr. Meyers said there is no cost to the city. Chief Watkins said the Home Bound Program for inmates was great. Alderman Tisdale stated the council would need to adopt an ordinance.

Mayor Stanton stated that the city would enter into a mosquito contract soon. The mayor also told the council of a federal program that would employ an individual for six months with no cost to the city @ a rate of pay of \$7.25 per hour. After the six months end, the city would be responsible for this person's salary. The mayor also asked that the Personnel Policy Committee revisit the current policies. He also stated that department heads answer directly to the mayor. He will not have employees degraded in any manner. Lil Jacobs Learning Ctr. will host a luncheon on Friday, July 27, 2012 from 11:00 – 1:00 P.M. Please try and attend. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by July 20, 2012. The Legislative Audit cited will cite the city for not adopting a wage salary. Mayor Stanton also asked if all council members were living in the ward in which they represent.

Each alderman was given financial statements on all city accounts for the month ending June 30, 2012. Mr. Terrell explained the disclaimer posted on each financial statement to the council. Alderman Tisdale asked the city attorney to draft a resolution adopting ankle bracelets. The attorney was also asked to draft a resolution to close Lee St. by the railroad (underpass).

Mrs. Ethel Ellis addressed the council on an issue with debris piled in front of her home. The way it was left she can't even mow the grass. The mayor stated he would work on this. Mrs. Pauline Davis also asked if the city would run an article in the newspaper to let the citizens know that a portion of Lee St. will close. Mayor Stanton recommended that this item be placed on hold until he can get the railroad company back in to talk with the citizens.

Attorney report to the council and citizens that the amount of \$300.00 in which the city is receiving from Verizon is low. Actual fee should range between \$500.00-\$1000.00 for the use of the tower if the company is about to upgrade. Alderman Serio made the motion to authorize Attorney Mazzanti to

enter into renegotiations with Verizon on the contract. Alderman Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Thomas asked the mayor if he was aware that the cable rates have increased. Mayor Stanton said he would check on that tomorrow.

The city clerk read a resolution Creating Policy for Expenditures and Budget Compliance. Alderman Thomas made the motion to adopt the resolution and Alderman Tisdale seconded the motion. Roll call vote – 8 yeas and 0 nays

Alderman Serio made the motion to take the sick leave pay from the table and Alderman Thomas seconded the motion. Alderman Mazzanti state regarding the sick leave pay we would have to pay the retired employee. Mr. Terrell had no opinion. After discussion, Alderman Thomas made the motion to pay the retired employee the accrued sick leave time. Alderman Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll call vote – 1-abstains, Jones, 5 yeas and 2 nays. Aldermen Seri and Turner voted no.

Chief Watkins presented the council with a letter in reference to vacation time for the Eudora Police Department. He began working in 1996 and the previous chief received holiday pay. The Municipal League Handbook states that the officers should receive holiday pay. Holiday pay includes all holidays that the officers work. A salaried person does not receive holiday pay. Mayor Stanton stated that policies are different for non-uniform and uniform employees. All law enforcement officers of a city of the first class shall be compensated by the governing body at a daily rate of pay. Attorney Mazzanti stated he would check into it.

Ms. Shawanda Pride came before the council asking the alley (road) from Pine St. to Academy St. be closed in order to place a mobile home on the land. After discussion, Alderman Turner made the motion if Ms. Pride gets a signature from Mrs. Gant giving her ride-a-way to place her mobile home on the property. Alderman Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

During ward reports, Alderman Jones resigned his position in Ward 1. He is no longer living on Mabry St. After the death of his mother he was no longer able to live on Mabry St. He stated he has lived there since 1959. He still wants to good things happen in the city.

Alderman Scott asked if the mayor had anyone in mind for the city inspector position. Mrs. Beulah Maiden asked if the city employees could cut the Russell lot on Front St. She has been cutting it for years.

Alderman Turner made the motion to go into executive session. She stated disciplinary actions for an employee. Alderman Tisdale seconded the motion.

Mrs. Moye asked if the city was responsible for replacing her pipe. Her neighbor stated that she saw the city employee cutting her pipe. The mayor stated he would check into replacing her pipe.

After returning from executive session, Alderman Thomas made the motion that police officer take vacation time ASAP. Alderman Serio seconded the motion.

During audience comments, Mrs. Pauline Davis stated that she was threatened wit a lawsuit for cutting down a city tree during Hurricane Katrina. The power company can take the tree down. There's a tree at 356 Arch St. that has to come down.

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

William Stanton
William Stanton, Mayor

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Alexis Risper
Alexis Risper, Clerk

