

**City of Eudora
239 South Main Street
Eudora, Chicot County, Arkansas
71640**

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

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

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

**MINUTES OF THE EUDORA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2012**

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

Alderman Butler made the motion to adopt the minutes from the May 15, 2012 regular meeting and Alderman Serio seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes are adopted.

Mr. David Dempsey of Southeast Arkansas Rural Development did a presentation to the council and citizens to start implementing the railroad through Eudora. They are currently seeking funding and are starting in Lake Village and have plans to go to the Louisiana line replacing rocks and cross ties. Mr. Danny Roberts presented the council with pictures of the actual structure which has sustained damages due to recent impacts. This projects overall plan is to create twenty (20) jobs in this area and reopen the railway in Eudora. The estimated cost of this project will be a quarter of a million dollar. The railroad is asking permission to close this overpass. There will be hazardous materials that will be shipped through Eudora. Many question were asked by the council members such as: 1) is there a police report for accident to bridge; reply – yes, black mustang; 2) will there be an alarm system for shipping hazardous materials; reply – follow guidelines for hazardous materials, trained crews, emergency response and there are grants available for hazardous material training, 3) Will the road to Lee St eventually be put back in use; reply - no 4) can the person who caused the damage to railroad be responsible if they have insurance; their tracking it down; 5) Is the lane not adequate for two lane traffic; reply – no, trucks can't go under it.

It will be late next spring before transporting begins.

The city received a GIF Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 for rebuilding the chain goals. Thanks you Mr. Dempsey and Robert Moore for your assistance.

Mrs. Davis asked how much time would lapse before firemen arrive since our firemen are employed elsewhere. Aldermen Thomas responded with local fire department wouldn't touch it. The HAZMAT team would be called out.

To apply for a position go to the Workforce Ctr. In Lake Village. There are eighteen (18) jobs committed to Eudora and two (2) at corporate office. Applicants are to take a Career Readiness Evaluation.

Mayor Stanton introduced Mrs. Rosie Green to the council members and citizens. She is the new Water/Sewer Clerk. On June 14, 2012 the dedication service for the new Municipal Building was held in Lake Village. All offices and staff are under one roof. There was a luncheon at the Guachoya Cultural Art Ctr. following the dedication service.

The 2011 Audit has begun. There is good feedback. Mr. Terrell will be out for two (2) weeks. Travel expenses will be cut out at the end of the month. The travel budget has been exceeded by \$300.00. We will meet on July 10, 2012 @ 6:00 P.M. @ the Johns Campus to review budget for cutbacks. We will re-visit personnel policy book for areas needed to be updated.

Alderman Thomas questioned the statement that Mr. Terrell included on the budget pages. The mayor can't answer so that will have to be answered by Mr. Terrell.

Alderman Tisdale made the motion that we take disclaimer from the policy and make it an official policy language as to how department heads will reduce expenses and expenditures related to the budget. Alderman Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were several questions and concerns with the Mosquito & Sanitation. Mr. Terrell wasn't present to address the questions. Council will address at July 10, 2012 call meeting.

Alderman Turner made the motion to go into executive session. Purpose of executive session is for council members attending Municipal League meeting to receive mileage, hotel and meals paid for. Alderman Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried. Alderman Serio voted nay. The council did not enter into executive session at this time. The city attorney read purpose of executive session from the Municipal League Handbook 25-19-106.

Attorney Mazzanti informed the council that the Verizon five year contracts will end next year. He was asked if permits were needs to add to tower. The council suggested that he look into modifying the contract. To investigate what options to renew, how much other city charge and how many sub-contracts can you have.

Alderman Serio made the motion for the city attorney to investigate the Verizon contract for possible rate increase. Alderman Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Serio informed the council and citizens the police committee along with the sub-quorum court will meet later this week to see if the county will dispatch for the city of Eudora.

Mayor Stanton recommendation for the Sick Leave Pay was to pay the retired employee the accumulated sick leave and adopt a new policy stating what we will and won't pay. Alderman Serio made the motion to table Sick Leave pay for retired employee until speaking with Mr. Terrell. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll call vote – 6 yeas and 1 nay. Alderman Butler voted no.

Alderman Serio made the motion to purchase one hand held meter reading device with software @ \$2,499.00 with no additional fees and table purchasing a second until July 10th meeting unless we can get a better deal by buying two. Alderman Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll call vote – 6 yeas and 1 nay. Alderman Turner voted no.

During Ward Reports concerns were with fireworks during the dry weather. Alderman Serio asked that it be ran in the newspaper that is to be no fireworks in the city limits. Other concerns were overgrown lots and mosquitoes. Mr. Leon Thomas has contacted Alderman Thomas stating he is fenced in with overgrown lots. Mr. Stacy Toney, Charles and Cheryl Johnson and the swimming pool are all grown up. Alderman Taylor gave the name and number of Mrs. Bernadette Burl as the lot owner of 1508 King St. and the lot at 1739 N. Main St. Alderman Tisdale made the motion to go into executive session. He stated the reason for executive session as the position of Building Inspector. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After returning from executive session the recommendation was to hire a building inspector immediately.

During Audience Comments Mr. Drew asked if he could get a contract with the city to cut overgrown lots, the dog catcher needs more than two traps to catch the dogs and Mrs. Ida

Weston expressed concern about the overgrown lot next to her home and when will the city spray for mosquitoes. Alderman Turner suggested that the city utilize citizens who have tickets to clean overgrown lots.

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



William Stanton, Mayor



Alexis Risper, Clerk