

MINUTES
FESENTHAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
2-14-2017
3:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL

A quorum being established, Mayor Newbury called the meeting to order. At roll call the following members were present: Mr. Clawson, Mr. Eads, Mr. Holland and Mr. Newbury. Mrs. Harris was not present.

Mr. Clawson moved, seconded by Mr. Newbury, to accept the minutes for the previous meeting, (1-10-17). The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Newbury revisited the issue of paying off a loan with Berkadia. She stated that if this loan were paid off in full by the town's reserves that the town could free up the annual payment of \$6,000.00 to replenish the reserves and to spend on other items needed to be done in town. She explained that the Town is currently paying \$1,600+ of interest per year as well. The procedure for paying the loan off would be to e-mail Berkadia as soon as the decision to pay off the loan was in the minutes, and let them know how many days it would take them to get the payment, or to wire the payment from the bank. This would be so they could estimate the percentage per day for interest. The council voted to pay off the loan. Mr. Holland moved, seconded by Mr. Newbury, to pay Berkadia off in full in the amount of \$27,365.31. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Representatives from Simmons Bank came to Town Hall to discuss with us what could be done about the matter of being charged \$3.00 if we received a NFS check in our Water/Sewer revenue fund, we are to end the month in this fund with a zero balance. We were told that an executive of the bank authorized the waiver the \$3.00 charge on this account if this were to happen in the future.

Mayor Newbury had a conversation with Judge Loftin about having prisoners come to Felsenthal and clean the ditches out. He said he would as soon as possible, but with having the whole County to do that he couldn't give her a time line for the clean-up. Also, she asked about having the County inspect the CRP valves at the park. This is a mandate by the Health Department. If not done they will hold the Town of Felsenthal responsible. Judge Loftin said they would have it done as soon as possible.

Ryan Eads, Council Member, brought up getting new welcome to Felsenthal signs at each entrance into town. These would be to replace the missing city limits signs. The discussion was about signs being stolen every time they were put up. Mr. Eads stated that "we could not govern in fear of this." He also stated that bigger signs could be made so it would be harder to steal. He said he hoped to have this done by Breamfest. The mayor asked him if he would look into the cost and logistics of this, and he said he would.

Mr. Eads also talked about condemnation and cleaning up property. Mayor Newbury said that this has been an on-going discussion and that with us being an incorporated town, the laws limited our authority. She also stated that in the current Legislative session, there was a bill being voted on that would change things for the incorporated towns in this matter. The Mayor wanted the council to know

that she wanted to get things right from the beginning, so there wouldn't be any negative feedback about the process.

Mayor Newbury received a notice from Arkansas State Aid Street Department about our application for a grant to finish overlay of our town's streets. Our current request was denied--due to lack of funds. Mayor Newbury talked about some of the streets in bad need of repairs and that we may have to get the county to help us out until those monies from the state would be available again--probably not until 2019-2020.

In a letter from The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Dept., Mayor Newbury informed the council, that there was some grant money available for various types of projects that they sponsor. Alderman Eads suggested maybe some good gravel on the tram road would be something we could apply for. The emergency exit aspects of the tram road were discussed and the Mayor is to look into a grant for some gravel to upgrade and maintain this road.

Mrs. Newbury talked to Mr. David Dempsey, SEAEDD director, about grant money we were supposed to receive. Our former state senator, Bobby Pierce had arranged for about \$5000.00 to help us with our paint project on our water tower. Mr. Dempsey told Mayor Newbury that the grant had been denied. He was not sure when, or if, GIF money would be available again.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff Ricky Roberts was invited to speak to the council. He said that he has been in law enforcement for thirty two years and that most of it has been with the El Dorado Police Department and of those years, thirteen was as the Police Chief. He stated that he was glad to see the councils' discussion and having pride in their community. He said that starting in March he hoped to restart the prisoners cleaning up ditches. Also, he wanted us to know that we had not been forgotten down here and that in the future he hoped to have more deputies checking on speeders and keeping their eyes on our community. He said that he has an open door and if we need anything just call him.

Some new Regulations concerning fishing tournaments on the Felsenthal NWR were presented to the council by Alderman Eads. Bass Tournaments will not be allowed to leave from the County Ramp any more. There is not enough oxygen in the channel to keep stressed bass alive, and so all tournaments will have to use the primary ramp in the refuge. The officials decided to exempt the Breamfest from these regulations. That tournament can continue to be held as it has in the past.

There will be a lot auctioned off on 1st street on June 7, 2017. This is block 10, lot 13 and it is a 25 x 120 foot lot close to Front Street between I and J Avenues. The owner is James Ponders.

We received an ANRC questionnaire about flood plain administration in Felsenthal, which the Mayor stayed she had completed and returned.

The Mayor passed along to the coordinators of the Breamfest some information about grants for advertising the Breamfest. The grant would be for next year's festival, and if the town--rather than the Breamfest Committee--needs to submit the grant, the Mayor assured them that we would do so.

Mickey Parker, Public Works Supt., brought up that someone has been dumping along the tram road and that it could cause the main culvert in town to stop up. They talked about putting cameras up to catch the person dumping litter on the tram road.

The Mayor told the council that the 2016 end of year financial statements are posted in our office and at the park. This is a requirement by law.

The January, 2017 financials were presented and examined by the Council. Mr. Newbury moved, and Mr. Holland seconded the motion, to accept the January 2017 financial reports as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Mr. Clawson moved to adjourn, and it was seconded by Mr. Eads. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Recorder/Treasurer