

**Town of Felsenthal
December 11, 2012
Council Meeting**

MINUTES, DECEMBER 11 2012

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Mayor Newbury called the meeting to order. At roll call the following members were present: James Holland, Troy Clawson, Margurite Neal, Jack Newbury, and Virginia Harris.

Minutes were read. Mr. Newbury made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harris, to accept minutes as read. At roll call, vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Old Business

Tony Franks the engineer presented a proposal, including costs, to upgrade the sewer system for the Town of Felsenthal. The proposal included both emergency needs for our sewer lift stations and a list of things that will need to be addressed in the near future. Mr. Franks recommended trying to get a loan from Arkansas Natural Resources and stated that he would need our approval for that course of action. No grant money being available for this project, Mr. Clawson moved, and it was seconded by Mrs. Harris, to approve Mr. Franks's proposal and authorize him to send it to the WACC board for their approval. After this step, Mr. Franks will send the loan application to Arkansas Natural Recourses. The time frame was discussed and the earliest we would be able to get the money approved would be during the March meeting of the ANRC. At roll call the vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Mr. Hartsell gave his report and update on animal control.

Mayor Newbury reported that the new floor covering has been completed in the council chamber. New chairs were also purchased to go around the conference table. The old chairs will be sold to defray the costs.

Mayor Newbury reported on the research done by the Community Resource Group concerning the proposed sewer rate increase to help pay for the work on the sewer system. During the discussion that ensued, Mayor Newbury stated that Mr. Franks had told her that each sewer bill would have to be raised at least \$6.00 to cover just the cost of the 20 year loan. Mr. King, from the Community Resource Group, had already stated that a raise in the regular rate would be necessary just to keep the system running. It was noted that for several years that the system was running a deficit, which was increasing each year. Since there had not been a raise in the rates in over 25 years, and since so much work needed to be done to upgrade and maintain our system, Mrs. Harris made a motion to increase the sewer rate by ten dollars a month. It was seconded by Mr. Clawson. During the discussion, it was noted that only one citizen had

responded concerning the October mailing sent to all local permanent residents about the possible rate hike. That citizen was very much in favor of getting the system fixed and was not opposed to whatever hike was necessary. Not one citizen had expressed any disapproval of a rate hike, nor had any citizen proposed alternatives. One council member expressed concern that the citizens would not be happy about a rate increase. At roll call the votes were four yes and one no. The motion passed. The total sewer bill will be twenty dollars (\$20.00) beginning with the December billing.

Mayor Newbury presented the proposed budget for 2013. She requested the council to examine her proposal for the meeting next month, when they will be asked to vote their approval of the budget for the year.

New Business

Mayor Newbury reported the council members will be receiving the agendas, minutes, and financial reports beginning in January 2013 by emails only. This will cut the cost of paper, ink, postage, and time.

Mayor Newbury read the ordinance on the franchise for Bayou Cable by Title only for the second reading. Mr. Holland made a motion seconded by Mrs. Harris to accept the reading by Title only. At roll call the votes were unanimous. Motion passed.

Mayor Newbury presented the financial reports, which the council had received earlier by email from our accountant. Mrs. Harris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newbury, to accept reports as presented. At roll call votes were unanimous. The motion passed.

Mrs. Harris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clawson, to adjourn meeting. At roll call votes were unanimous. The meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR

RECORDER