

**TOWN OF FELSENTHAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2013  
CITY HALL**

Mayor Newbury called the meeting to order. At roll call, the following council members were present: Mr. Holland, Mr. Clawson, Ms. Neal, Mr. Newbury, and Mrs. Harris. Minutes were read. Mrs. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. Newbury, to accept the minutes as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

Mayor Newbury reported that she received a phone call on Monday of this week about the loan application. ANRC was asking for some explanations about the discrepancy between our population of 152 and the number of monthly water bills of 258. Explanations were given and we are still waiting to hear about the loan.

No unusual animal control issues to report

The Mayor reminded everyone to check out our website for pictures and commentary about the Breamfest.

At the request of the council last month, the Mayor called the Small Claims Court to find out about collecting overdue water/sewer bills. She reported that they told her that each claim would cost up front \$110.00, and if we received a judgment, that we could add that into the claim. However, we would be required to find a current address, and since we don't know the current addresses of most of the people who owe us large sums, this route seems futile. Discussion led to the consensus that we would not pursue this avenue of collection at this time.

The Mayor then brought up again the idea of a communication tree of some sort for the town. Recently, she had to try to communicate the possible shut down of Dollar Junction Road for 24 hours. The few local emails that she has, plus the one person signed up for the phone tree, were the only persons notified. She urged the local citizens and the council members to add their numbers and email addresses to the lists so that future notifications, such as water shut-offs or road closings, can quickly and easily be made. Mr. Newbury suggested that a message about the call list be put on the next water bill, and it was agreed to do so.

The Mayor presented a new ordinance, #01-2013, as requested by the Council last month. This ordinance consolidates several previously used regulatory policies concerning the providing of new water/sewer services for the Town of Felsenthal. Changes were made in the methods to be used and the fees to be charged. The town was losing money by providing new water and sewer mains according to the old policies. It was moved by Mr. Holland to have the 1st reading of this ordinance. It was

seconded by Mr. Clawson. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed. Then the ordinance was read in its entirety.

Since the council wanted to expedite the passing, Mr. Holland then moved, and it was seconded by Mrs. Harris, to declare this ordinance an emergency and to have its 2nd and 3rd readings by title only during this meeting. Roll Call vote was unanimous, and the motion passed. Then the ordinance title was read for the 2nd and 3rd time.

The motion was then made by Mr. Clawson to accept "Ordinance #01-2013: Ordinance for the Town of Felsenthal, Arkansas, providing water and/or sewer services." Mrs. Harris seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed, and this ordinance is now in effect.

The Mayor presented to the council a revised job description for the Public Works Superintendent. The major revision has to do with a specific statement about reading of water meters and a summary statement that recommends that one person be hired to be responsible for the water and sewer systems as well as general maintenance for the town and its properties. Discussion about part time help, especially in the summer, concluded that the Public Works Superintendent would still be responsible for and manage any part time person(s) hired to help him accomplish his job. Mr. Clawson moved, and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Harris, that the revisions to the job description were accepted. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

### **New Business**

Mayor Newbury announced that Mickey Parker had been hired to replace Joe Harris, Jr. as the Public Works Superintendent. She stated that Mr. Parker was currently in Mt. Home beginning his training to achieve full certification in both water and sewer system management. He will attend another training session in July. In the interim, he is looking at some possible online courses. Mr. Larry Norwood has been mentoring Mr. Parker and overseeing some of the work he has been doing. While Mr. Parker is away for training, Mr. Kevin Osgood has agreed to be on call for public emergencies.

The Mayor told the council that until we can purchase a proper mower that Mr. Arthur Clark has agreed to mow the area around the Town Hall.

The Mayor brought up the possibility of leasing or purchasing a new truck for the town. The current truck is showing its age at 355,000+ miles. The upkeep and the cost of diesel fuel make looking at options wise. The Mayor presented to the council a bid from Teague Ford in El Dorado for a specific F-250 truck, gas engine, single bed truck, which includes a tow package, a tool box, and a spray in liner. The ensuing discussion led the council to decide that considering the age and condition of the current truck and the deal offered by Teague, that we should purchase this new vehicle. Mrs. Harris moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Clawson to purchase the vehicle, using their option #1, which was a lump sum payment.

Mrs. Harris moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Clawson, that the truck be paid for in full from the general fund Money Market account.

Mayor Newbury asked the council to look at the proposed personnel policy changes, which she had for them. She requested that they peruse them during the next month and be ready to discuss and possibly vote on the changes for the next meeting in July. The major changes had to do with a few legally mandated updates and additions, the addition of medical benefits (which the council approved earlier but which had not been included in the policy manual), a delineation of how personal and vacation days may and may not be used (which was not spelled out in the old policy manual), and a clarification of the termination policy for employees of the town.

May financial reports were reviewed. Mr. Clawson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newbury, to accept the reports . The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

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

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Mayor

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Recorder