

**CARAWAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**THURSDAY**

**November 11, 2021**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM**

**Meeting opened: 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>MEMBERS:</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>MAYOR: BO JAMES</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>RECORDER: RICK STEVENS</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: JEFF REA</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: MITCHELL TIPTON</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: CHRIS KELEMS</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: JERRY VAUGHN</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: MARVIN BROWNING</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ALDERMAN: JERRY MARTIN</b>	<b>X</b>	

The group said the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Prayer was led by Rick Stevens.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bo James.

The roll was called with the mayor, recorder and all alderman present.

Minutes of the October 14th meeting was presented.

Jeff Rea made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Jerry Martin.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

October Financial Statements for Water & Sewer, Street and General Fund were presented.

Jerry Vaughn made a motion to approve the financial statements,

second by Chris Kelems.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

The meeting opened up with Mayor James introducing David Schweitzer of River City hydraulics. Mr. Schweitzer presented to the council options on the purchase/lease of a trash truck to be used by the city to collect garbage. Various options were presented as to the financing and opportunities to buy the truck outright and the end of two years of leasing. Estimates were given regarding monthly payments, trash can cost and other expenses. The Mayor said the city taking over trash pickup would require hiring a full-time employee. The employee would pickup trash one day and do other job work as needed. Mayor James ask the council to consider all the options and take it up at next month's meeting.

Mayor James gave the council the proposed budgets for the General, Street and Water & Sewer dept.'s 2022 budgets.

It was cited that last year all city employees raised a one dollar an hour raise. In addition the employees will receive \$1,500.00 from the American Recovery Funds if approved by the council. Mayor James said he would go back and look at the proposed budgets to see about possible raises in answer to a question about employee raises for the 2022 year.

Chris Kelems made a motion to accept the proposed 2022 department budgets, second by Jerry Vaughn.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

The council approved the \$1,500.00 amount from the American Recovery fund to those who have been hired by the city before March 3. One city employee hired in after that date and will receive half of the amount. In addition it was noted employees will receive their budgeted Christmas bonus checks also.

Chris Kelems made a motion to pay city employees the \$ 1,500.00 amount from the A.R.P. funds, second by Marvin Browning.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Abstain

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 5-0, 1 abstain.

Marvin Browning made a motion to pay Air Evac memberships for all city employees and firemen. The cost has increased from \$40.00 to \$65.00 per person. Second by Jerry Vaughn.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

Mayor James informed the council of the closing of the Arvest banks located at Monette and Manila which will result in two trips a week to the Jonesboro location to do city business. The council can look into this further next year for possible changes of banks.

Marvin Browning made a motion for the city to continue using Arvest Bank for the time being, second by Chris Kelems.

Jeff Rea made a motion to add the Caraway fire Department to the meeting agenda, second by Mitchell Tipton.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

Caraway Fire Department Chief Curtis Taylor informed the council of the new A-Win radio system used by the department. The department will receive 19 hand-held and 6 mobile radios with F.E.M.A. funds being used for part of the cost. The fire department will pay \$6,200.00 out of the Act 833 funds to cover part of the cost.

Mitchell Tipton made a motion for the AWIN radios to be purchased with Acts 833 money, second by Chris Kelems.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

The Caraway Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. followed by the city Christmas in the Park event.



Jerry Vaughn made a motion for city part-time employee Cliff Kramer to receive a \$200.00 Christmas bonus, second by Chris Kelems.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

Mayor James commended Park Director Justin Clay for the good work he has done this year in the park programs. Soccer was a very well supported program and Justin looks to build on this years success.

Jerry Vaughn made a motion for the city to pay Justin Clay \$1,000.00 for his work this year, second by Jerry Martin.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - abstain

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 5-0, 1 abstain

Mitchell Tipton made a motion to add the Park Director to the meeting agenda, second by Marvin Browning.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

Park Director Justin Clay gave the council a report on park activities this year.

Chris Kelems made a motion to have L.E.D. lights installed at the city tennis courts at a cost of \$3,450.00 plus tax, second by Mitchell Tipton.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

Mayor James was asked about progress on the eviction notice on the old factory building. The court date has been continued and the attorneys are continuing to work on the case. The city has a smaller building they can offer for the moving of the few pieces of equipment still there.

Discussion about the moving of a camper onto a lot at the west end of Kentucky Street was covered. The Caraway Police Department has contacted the owner about city ordinance regulations.

Other items discussed included: The Caraway Entertainment Committee, a city backhoe and a tornado siren.

Chris Kelems made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Jerry Vaughn.

Vote: Jerry Vaughn- Yes

Vote: Mitchell Tipton- Yes

Vote: Jerry Martin- Yes

Vote: Jeff Rea - Yes

Vote: Marvin Browning- Yes

Vote: Chris Kelems - Yes

Motion carries on vote of 6-0.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

MAYOR

RECORDER

