

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
September 11, 2023
5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Brening
Mayor Pro Tem Judy Foster Pike
Councilmember Jimmy Dyer
Councilmember Quardez Warrior

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Mark Pullium
City Attorney Nathan Lee
Police Chief Gray Couch
Utility Director Sam Summers
Fire Chief Ben Williams
Recreational Director Tangela Cummings

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

City Manager Pullium gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike made the motion to approve the September Agenda, with changing number 8, millage rate to 13-a after Public Safety plan, Councilmember Warrior seconded, all approved.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to Approve the July 5, 2023, work session minutes, Mayor Brening seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Pike approved, Councilmember Dyer abstained.

Councilmember Dyer made the motion to approve the August 9, 2023, Work Session Minutes, Mayor Brening seconded, Mayor Pro Tem Pike approved, Councilmember Warrior abstained.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike made the motion to approve the August 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, Councilmember Warrior seconded the motion, Councilmember Dyer approved, Mayor Brening abstained.

No Appearances or Public Comments:

Mayor Brening read the Proclamation proclaiming September 27, 2023 Exie Mae King Day, Ms. King will turn 100 on September 27, 2023.

Mayor Brening made the motion to adopt the amended Alcohol Ordinance, Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded the motion, all approved.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to adopt the Amended Chapter 22 Occupational Tax & Regulatory fees for Residential Rental Dwelling Businesses. Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved.

Mayor Brening made the motion to adopt the amendment of Chapter 22 VIII Residential Rental Dwelling Business, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved.

After lengthy discussion in work session and council meeting concerning water & sewer rates, Mayor Brening made a motion to adopt the 2024-2028 water & sewer rates, Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded, all approved.

Mayor Brening made a motion to eliminate banked time that was approved back in 2010. This banked time was supposed to go toward retirement of employees but was paid out instead. All employees deserve to take their time. Mayor Brening also wants to implement biometric time clocks in all departments. Councilmember Warrior seconded the motion, all approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Pike made a motion to approve the elimination of paying health insurance on employees who work less than 30 hours per week or who are eligible for Medicare, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved.

After lengthy discussion at work session and council meeting about the closing of the city jail, by closing the jail the estimated saving is approximately \$270,000+. The citizens are being double taxed because they are already paying for the Meriwether County Jail and E-911 system plus the city jail. Mayor Brening advised this is not an easy decision to make, Councilmember Warrior, I am worried about employees that will be losing their jobs. Mayor Brening made the motion to close the jail on December 11, 2023 and to pay the 4 dispatchers their banked time, 3 months' severance pay and retire if eligible, even if they find a job before December 11, 2023 they will be paid their severance pay. Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded the motion, Councilmember Dyer agreed, Councilmember Warrior opposed.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to approve the Public Safety pay increases, Councilmember Dyer second the motion, all approved. All firemen who are not an EMT at the present time will be mandated to become an EMT.

Mayor Brening made the motion to approve the amendments to the Mountain Springs Development Ordinance, Councilmember Warrior seconded, all approved.

Mayor Brening made the motion to approve the 2023 millage rate, Councilmember Dyer seconded, all approved.

Mayor Brening made the motion to approve the Bow Hunting Lease to Thomas Calk, Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded, all approved.

No old business

No new business

Mayor Comments:

September 23rd is the annual cleanup day.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Warrior thanked Recreational Director Tangee Cummings for helping with the 9U and 11U Football Teams dinner before opening football season on Saturday.

City Manager Report:

Submitted a \$600,000 grant application to Community Affairs for the renovation of the Community Building that was built in the 1930's, if awarded the city will match \$120,000. City Manager Pullium went over the upcoming city events, Christmas parade, Christmas lunch, Halloween Trick or Treat and Railroad Days.

All employees will be required to take a Sexual Harassment & Bullying Class.

No City Attorney comments:**City Department Supervisors:**

Fire Chief thanked the council for the pay raises.

Recreational Director Tangela Cumming, Seniors had fish fry on Grandparents Day, went on shopping trip and had lunch in the month September.

Flag football & soccer will start soon, 4 footballs this Saturday.

Utility Director Sam Summers, all the locates have been done for the Judson Bulloch project.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Potential Ligation and Personnel. Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved at 7:54 pm

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to come out of Executive Session and go back into Regular Session, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved. 8:53 pm.

Mayor Brening made the motion to agree to the terms and conditions of the Employment Contract with the City Manager beginning September 1, 2023, Councilmember Dyer seconded the motion, all approved.

Councilmember Warrior made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Pike seconded the motion, all approved. 8:54 pm.