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**CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 12, 2021
6 p.m.
AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL, ESTABLISH QUORUM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: June 28, 2021**

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AUTHORITY REPORTS AND EXPIRED TERMS:

Planning – Pos. 7 – **vacant** – expires 1/1/24

CAPC – application to renew from **Jeff Carter** for Pos. 1. *Postponed until July 26 meeting*

Hospital -- Pos. 4 – **vacant** – expires 6/1/21

Parks – Pos. 7 – **vacant** – expires 5/1/25

HDC – Pos. 3 – **vacant** – expires 11/30/23

Cemetery

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 minutes per speaker

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Flint/Douglas intersection – Ms. Greene

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance for repairing sidewalks with a limit on exterior building repairs or new construction in the Historic District – Ms. Greene and Mr. Meyer
2. Recommendation for definition of Bed and Breakfast – Planning Commission
3. Ordinance for Board of Zoning Adjustment appeals to be heard by City Council – per HB 1660
4. Broadband update – Planning Commission
5. Ordinance for Juneteenth holiday – Mayor Berry
6. Ordinance re: procedure for removing City commission members – Mayor Berry
7. CAPC update – Ms. Greene and Ms. Slane

**AGENDA SETTING
CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS
MAYOR'S COMMENTS
ADJOURNMENT**

CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY

JULY 12, 2021

Mayor Robert “Butch” Berry called the regular meeting of the Eureka Springs City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 12, 2021, in the Auditorium at 36 S. Main St.

PRESENT: Mayor Berry, Council members Terry McClung, Autumn Slane, Melissa Greene, Harry Meyer, Bill Ott, LauraJo Smole, City Attorney Tim Weaver, and City Clerk Treasurer Ann Armstrong

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Berry called for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Smole said she so moved. Mr. McClung seconded. Mayor Berry deferred New Business items #1, 2 and 6. Mr. Ott moved to accept as amended. Ms. Smole seconded.

Motion carried 6/0/0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: June 28, 2021

Mayor Berry called for a motion to approve minutes for June 28. Ms. Greene moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ott seconded.

Motion carried 6/0/0.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AUTHORITY REPORTS AND EXPIRED TERMS:

- Planning** – One seat remains open.
- CAPC** – A report was added later in the meeting.
- Hospital** – One seat remains open.
- Parks** – One seat is open.
- HDC** – There is one seat open.
- Cemetery** – No report

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ethan Avanzino, co-owner of Wanderoo, spoke about keeping the business viable during the pandemic while keeping the complete staff employed. He noted a 300% increase in revenues at The Gravel Bar and asked for clarification of (amplified sound) rules for all involved.

David Avanzino, co-owner of Wanderoo, referenced ongoing efforts to keep sound within the required 65dB range and complaints calls made even when there is no music. He spoke about providing excellent food and entertainment for all, including for guests of those who make calls.

Jack Byrne said it had been about a month since discussion about speed cushions. He called for an update on placement and signs, and said there will need to be 10-12 cushions up to (Hwy 62.) Mr. Byrne said he’d be glad to meet with any Council member at the busy intersection on a Saturday.

Rodd Gray, Gravel Bar employee, requested that careful consideration be given to a rumored petition seeking to change the (amplified sound ordinance) and the effect that might have on any venue with outside music.

Leigh Valens, Local and a Gravel Bar customer, considered the recent changes in the property to be a boon to our community. She favored fair and respectful enforcement of rules to keep the clientele and what the business has to offer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

1. Discussion of the Flint/Douglas intersection

Ms. Greene moved to discuss. Mr. Meyer seconded. Mayor Berry noted the Police Chief had been away and decisions had not been finalized. Surveys are being collected and Mr. Byrne's (written suggestions) have been provided to the (Public Works Director and Police Chief.) Mr. McClung agreed to find surveys of properties his brother purchased near the intersection.

Some recommendations for signage and five speed ramps have been provided to Council members.

Mayor Berry said he will bring more information to the next meeting.

Ms. Greene moved to amend the agenda and add (discussion of the CAPC). Ms. Slane seconded.

Motion carried 6/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. CAPC report

Mr. Meyer offered comparative figures from 2019 and 2021 in food and beverage taxes, and lodging. He said total year-to-date collections were up 21.65% and noted 489,800 Instagram impressions were reported by the ad agency, Paradise, along with increased Facebook activity. Mr. Meyer spoke of the funding earmarked for May Festival of the Arts, Drumming in the Park, concerts, 2022 Mardi Gras, fireworks and the Folk Festival. Intern Molly Horton and Nancy Paddock have been hired to assist.

Ms. Greene gave a recap of (2021) Commission meetings and workshops. She noted there will be reductions in the budget for staffing and expense accounts, and a new Tourism Director will probably be chosen within the following ten days. Plans for events in and maintenance of the Auditorium were noted.

Discussion of quantifying overnight stays and of increasing mid-week activities followed.

It was clarified the Commission members nominate candidates for open commission seats.

1. Ordinance for repairing sidewalks with a limit on exterior building repairs or new construction in the Historic District

Postponed during approval of the agenda

2. Recommendation for definition of Bed and Breakfast

Postponed during approval of the agenda

3. Ordinance for Board of Zoning Adjustment appeals to be heard by City Council – per HB 1660

Ms. Greene moved to discuss. Mr. Meyer seconded. Mayor Berry noted the ordinance would eliminate court costs for the applicant unless Council denied the appeal, in which case it would go on to Circuit Court.

Following discussion of the current requirement to take appeals to court, trusting commissions, and the Bill as only a suggestion, Ms. Smole moved to defer until the next meeting. Ms. Greene seconded.

Motion carried 5/1/0 with Mr. Meyer voting "No."

4. Broadband update

Ferguson Stewart described cellphones as internet appliances that use voice over internet protocol. He spoke of broadband being important in a tourist town and also for hospitals, Police, Emergency Services, and students. Mr. Stewart said there is no signal at Lake Leatherwood.

He noted the grant program administered with (Executive Broadband Manager for the Department of Commerce Rural Connect Program) Steven Porch, and said there are over \$500 million waiting for applications. An evaluation is underway to identify areas of shortfall.

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Berryville.

Mayor Berry said Carroll County Internet is writing a grant for Eureka Springs as they did for

5. Ordinance for Juneteenth holiday

Mr. Meyer moved to discuss. Ms. Greene seconded. Ms. Greene moved to assign the ordinance a number and read for the first reading. Ms. Smole seconded.

Motion carried 5/1/0 with Mr. McClung voting "No." The Clerk Treasurer read **ORDINANCE NO. 2308 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS DECLARING JUNE 19TH OF EACH YEAR TO BE A RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY IN EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, KNOWN AS JUNETEENTH.**

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the first reading. Mr. Ott seconded.

Motion carried 6/0/0.

Following discussion of the value/absence of value in passing the Ordinance, Mr. Ott called for the question. (There was no second or vote on ending discussion.) A vote on approving the first reading was taken.

6. Ordinance re: procedure for removing City commission members

Postponed during approval of the agenda

AGENDA SETTING: No new items were added.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Ott considered the July 4 festivities a wonderful success and said the new CAPC intern has a good work ethic.

Ms. Greene spoke about the life and contributions of Virgil Fowler and wishes for him to Rest in Peace.

Ms. Slane spoke about the discouraging effect of battling between businesses and residents.

Mr. Meyer asked why Council does not approve new hires at the Police Department and expressed displeasure for the Chief being on vacation during tourist season.

Mr. McClung spoke about the great crowds having fun in town over the 4th.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Berry spoke about the increasing numbers in COVID cases and again emphasized the need for vaccines. He expressed great sorry for the loss of Virgil Fowler and wished for him to Rest in Peace.

ADJOURNMENT:

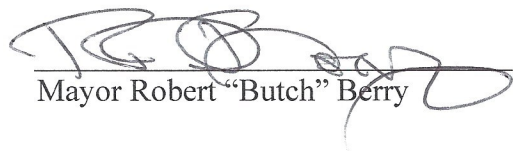
Mr. Ott moved to adjourn. Ms. Greene seconded.

Motion carried 6/0/0. The meeting ended at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk Treasurer Ann Armstrong

APPROVED:


Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry

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