

CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS

CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY

MARCH 22, 2021

Mayor Robert “Butch” Berry called the regular meeting of the Eureka Springs City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Monday, March 22, 2021 in the Auditorium at 36 S. Main St.

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

ABSENT: Autumn Slane (with notice)

ATTENDING REMOTELY: City Attorney Tim Weaver

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Berry called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. McClung said he so moved. Ms. Smole seconded.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: March 8, 2021

Ms. Greene moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021. Ms. Smole seconded.

Motion carried 5/0/0.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AUTHORITY REPORTS AND EXPIRED TERMS:

Planning – It was noted Mickey Schneider submitted an application for position 4. Ms. Greene moved to appoint her. Following Mr. McClung’s inquiry as to why it was not for a position with a longer term, Ms. Greene amended the motion to put (Ms. Schneider in) position 3. Mr. McClung seconded.

Motion carried 5/0/0. One position remains open.

CAPC – No report

Hospital – No report

Parks – One seat remains open.

HDC – No report

Cemetery – No report

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by University of Arkansas School of Social Work members

Ms. Greene moved to discuss. Mr. Meyer seconded.

Dr. Kimberly Strauss, Chair of the School of Social Work, and Mark Plassmeyer were present to describe several models being developed to aid people in need and Police and Fire Departments, with responses in crisis situations.

Dr. Strauss has been working with the Fayetteville Police Department and contact has also been established with other communities with outreach programs for homeless people.

Mr. Plassmeyer addressed best practices, outcomes, and funding sources. Developing relationships with service providers, triage by Social Workers in call centers, training of selected Officers, and methods for follow up were identified as key. He emphasized that understanding each other's roles can be difficult and that "buy in" by Officers is essential.

A model used in Oregon involves response by a team made up of an EMT or Paramedic, a Social Worker and a mental health professional. An Officer is called when necessary, so those skills can often be diverted where they're needed at the time.

Dr. Strauss spoke about follow up by Social Workers to ensure that participants get into see a doctor and get referrals to substance abuse clinics. She noted having someone on the crisis team who has struggled with substance abuse and/or homelessness is helpful. With these approaches, collectively, a decrease in chronic calls tends to result.

A news report from Longmont, Colorado, summarized improvements resulting from their Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE) approach. An Officer, a Social Worker and a Paramedic work through barriers between Police and those with mental health issues. Through the building of relationships, suicide rates have declined and some members of the community thrive.

Following discussion of other developing models, and reduction in economic costs and stresses on hospitals and mental health facilities, Police Chief Brian Young spoke about the two Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers in Eureka Springs now. He said Eureka 911 calls are transferred directly to our 24-hour dispatch.

If the decision to add other alternatives were made to involve peer support, the School of Social Work team at the University would be willing to offer assistance in bringing members of the community trained in mental health into the process.

AGENDA SETTING:

Mayor Berry added discussion of the Vision Plan update provided by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Smole added discussion of having only one alderman suggest an agenda item rather than two. Mr. Ott seconded.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Meyer expressed thanks for the presentation, and said it's always good to see what other people are doing.

Ms. Smole said it's really good to see ideas from other sources and she found the presentation very motivating.

Mr. Ott said it was really nice to see people come here for Spring break.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:


Mayor Berry thanked Dr. Strauss and Mr. Plassmeyer for their presentation. He said he was happy Spring is here.

ADJOURNMENT:


The Mayor said he'd take a motion to adjourn. Mr. McClung said he so moved. Mr. Meyer seconded.

Motion carried 5/0/0. The meeting ended at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:


City Clerk Treasurer Ann Armstrong

APPROVED:


Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry
City Council 3/22/21 2

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofeurekasprings/live>

**CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 22, 2021
6 p.m.
AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL, ESTABLISH QUORUM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: March 8, 2021**

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AUTHORITY REPORTS AND EXPIRED TERMS:

Planning – Pos. 3 – **vacant** – expires 7/1/23. Position 4 – **vacant** – expires 7/1/21

CAPC

Hospital

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

HDC

Cemetery

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 3 minutes per speaker

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by University of Arkansas School of Social Work member – Mr. Meyer and Ms. Greene

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