**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WARREN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 11, 2020**

**5:30 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Helen Boswell, City Clerk, gave the invocation.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pennington led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order. Due to COVID-19, the meeting with a voice-vote, was held by phone in the courtroom of the municipal building and only items that needed immediate attention were on the agenda.

**ROLL CALL:** On roll call by City Clerk Helen Boswell, the following aldermen were present: Ward 1 – Angela Marshall and Joel Tolefree; Ward 2 – Emily Moseley and Memory Frazer; Ward 3 – Dorothy Henderson and Zachary Burks.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** On a motion by Alderman Henderson and second by Alderman Frazer, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of the meeting for April 16, 2020 and the Called Meeting for April 28, 2020 as emailed and received. Aye votes: Aldermen Marshall, Tolefree, Moseley, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

**CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

**Statement of Revenue & Expenditures:** City Clerk Helen Boswell presented the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Cash Balances for the month of April 2020.

On a motion by Alderman Henderson and second by Alderman Moseley, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the Statement. Aye votes: Aldermen Marshall, Tolefree, Moseley, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**Street Closings:** The Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival Committee had presented a request to the City of Warren for street closings for the tomato festival and parade. Mayor Pennington stated that she had received a call from the chairman of the committee to not put forth this request, due to COVID-19.

**Roll-Off Truck Purchase:** Mayor Pennington presented to the Council three quotes for a used roll-off truck for its consideration to purchase.

Mike May, Sanitation/Building Codes Manager explained to the Council that the roll-off truck to be considered is a waste management truck and has been well kept. There was some discussion about the age of the truck and the mileage. Mr. May explained that this type truck is not meant for road travel and can last for many years.

On a motion by Alderman Henderson and second by Alderman Frazer, the vote was 6-0 to go with the recommendation of Mr. May and accept the low bid from AAA Truck Parts for a 2005 Mack in the amount of $42,849.33, which included freight in the amount of $1,250.00. Aye votes: Aldermen Moseley, Marshall, Tolefree, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

Mayor Pennington explained to the Council that the sanitation department has a sanitation depreciation account with a balance of $19,296.54 that will be used to make payments on a loan for the roll-off truck; therefore, the budget would not be affected at this time. She stated that the bank needed a resolution to set up the loan.

**Resolution #A-645:** Mayor Pennington read proposed Resolution A-645 to the Council for its consideration, a resolution authorizing the mayor to borrow monies from Warren Bank and Trust Company of Warren, Arkansas to purchase the roll-off truck.

On a motion by Alderman Henderson and second by Alderman Marshall, the Council voted 6-0 to adopt Resolution A-645 to go with the lowest interest rate from Warren Bank of 1.49% for 60 months. Aye votes: Aldermen Moseley, Marshall, Tolefree, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

**Arkansas Game and Fish Grant:** Mayor Pennington informed the Council that the City of Warren has been offered a $400,000.00 grant from AGFC for the addition of a rifle/pistol range at the Warren Shooting Sports Complex, which will include in-kind work from the City. She stated that this will be a revenue stream for the City of Warren and that she would have more information on this at a later date.

**USDA Grant for Ladder Truck:** Mayor Pennington stated that the City has applied for a $50,000.00 grant to USDA to help with the purchase of a used ladder truck for the Warren Fire Department.

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:** Alderman Henderson, Chairman.

Alderman Henderson stated that the Ways and Means Committee met on May 7, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom to discuss the budget. She mentioned articles received from National League of Cities and the Arkansas Municipal League concerning gas consumption being down and turnback funds.

Alderman Henderson also went over the spreadsheet of budget cuts by department prepared by the City of Warren Treasurer, Bob Milton. She said that the budget looks good at the present but may change in two months; the City needs to keep a close eye on all purchases and do what is best for the City and its employees and citizens.

There was considerable discussion concerning not reducing the budget for law enforcement, fire and sanitation departments; they also discussed payments made to the Chamber of Commerce and BCEDC.

Mayor Pennington stated that the city pool cost the City of Warren well over $20,000.00 each season and Warren Water and Sewer about the same amount of money; she said that was one of the budget cuts and that she had reached out to the YMCA and they are willing to work with the City to assure that any child that attended the Westside pool will be welcome there at a minimal rate; they will not have to purchase a membership.

Aldermen Burks and Marshall would like to keep the Westside pool open for the children in their respective wards. Alderman Frazer said that she and Kyle Wagnon, Parks & Recreation Director, could get the pool ready by installing the pump that has been purchased. She stated that depending on what the Council decides, maybe the pool can be open 3 days a week on a staggered schedule instead of the full week. Alderman Tolefree asked for a schedule of open times for at-risk groups.

Alderman Tolefree asked if the City can donate the use of land that the City acquired from the Land Commissioner on West Central and accept monies from a non-profit organization to build a sprinkle park/splash pad? Mayor Pennington suggested referring this matter to Mr. Murray Claycomb, City Attorney, for his legal opinion. Alderman Frazer stated that she has looked for grants for something of that nature, with no success.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Signed in or called:** No one signed in.

**Aldermen Recognized:** No one was recognized.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Alderman Tolefree announced that the Warren School District has received $7 million for the Eastside School.

He also announced that there is a site for the Coronavirus inoculation to see who would receive the inoculation first and he hopes that the City can do one testing instead of several around the County. Mayor Pennington stated that City of Warren employees have filled out the paperwork.

Mayor Pennington announced that the municipal building would be closed on Monday, May 25, 2020 in observance of Memorial Day. She said that the City parks would be opening with limited use as soon as mobile testing results are in, and all guidelines have to followed as set forth by the governor.

She also expressed the importance of filling out the 2020 census; Bradley County’s percentages are low at the present.

Alderman Burks asked that the administration prepare a resolution honoring the life of Beverly Reep, a long time resident and teacher in Warren. Mayor Pennington said she would do so.

**PAY BILLS FOR APRIL 2020:** On a motion by Alderman Marshall and second by Alderman Burks, the Council voted 6-0 to pay the bills for April. Aye votes: Aldermen Marshall, Tolefree, Moseley, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

**SET MEETING:** Mayor Pennington said that the agenda meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. and the next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., in the Municipal Courtroom.

**ADJOURN:** On a motion by Alderman Burks and second by Alderman Henderson, the Council voted 6-0 to adjourn. Aye votes: Aldermen Marshall, Tolefree, Moseley, Henderson, Frazer and Burks. Nay votes: none.

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Denisa Pennington, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Helen Boswell, City Clerk