

CITY OF ELECTRIC CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 19, 2011

Mayor Gerald Sands called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Council members: Mark Borden, John Nordine, Birdie Hensley and Bob Rupe  
**Absent:** Council member Willie Bott

**Also Present:** Jacqueline Perman/City Clerk, Roger Lucas/The Star, Carol Rupe, Ken Dexter/PWD, Lynda Dexter, Marie Chuinard, Lowell Hensley, Vicki Logan, and Erin Husom.

**November 22, 2011, Council Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the November 22, 2011, minutes as written.

m/s (Hensley/Borden)CU

**Police Report:**

The Police report is delayed until January 10, 2012, meeting.

**Public Discussion:**

There was no public discussion.

**Erin Husom/Tree Pruning:**

The city crew cut/pruned trees on her property located on Hillcrest Avenue. She heard a chain saw and saw someone in a bucket of the back hoe cutting branches on her walnut tree. She went back into the house thinking it was PUD cutting the branches for the power lines. The crew picked up the branches and left. Later, she again heard the chain saw, went out side to see one of the crew pruning 1/3 of her wisteria tree off right at the fence line. When she protested, Ken Dexter told her to call the mayor if she had a problem with what they were doing. Mayor Sands had apologized for the pruning but that Fred Nichols who lives at the end of the alley had asked if the city would clean and fix up the alley leading to his house. The city crew had worked on a water leak in the alley this past November, when they were done they coned it off, left a mess to clean up after the ground had dried. The mayor admitted to her that he instructed the employees to prune the tree since it was within ten feet from the ground level and also within the city's right-of-way. Erin Husom stated the wisteria tree is only chest high. She does not believe that Fred said for the city to cut her flowering shrub. She asked if the city has a policy in place to notify property owners of possible tree/brush trimming. If she would have known about the needed pruning she would have done the pruning herself. Now she has a third of her tree missing, the shape of it is ruined and she will have to severely prune it so the tree will look better. She presented pictures, before and after. Erin wants more than an apology; she has tried to get a price for a tree that size but could not get one. The city had at one time sent a letter for the Husom's to cut/prune a tree in her front yard several years ago, but did not mention the back yard. She asked the council to please discuss this at a later time and come up with a solution. Mayor Sands explained that it is a twenty foot wide alley and maintained by the city. Fred had told the mayor every time he drove by the wisteria tree it did hit the window bar of his pick up. The part of the tree that was pruned by the city crew was over reaching the city right of way so he made the decision that the branch should be cut. Council member Borden asked if Fred signed a written request to have the tree trimmed. The mayor said no. Council member Borden said the city does have an obligation to maintain the alley's but the city also has an obligation to inform the residents ahead of time of any maintenance issues. Council member Borden asked if the mayor knew if the fence is on the property line or whether surveying has been done. Mayor Sands said he doesn't even know if his fence is on the property line and asked Borden if he knows whether his fence is on the property line. Borden said that was not the question. Mayor Sands said we always assume the property lines are where the fence is located, the city does not survey before cutting down shrubbery. Council member Borden asked Mrs. Husom to draft a policy for the city to follow. She admitted that normally she would love to but not now that she got screwed by the city. Council member Borden said the city clerk would do research and write up a policy so this does not happen again. Kenneth Dexter, PWD, apologize for the pruning but said he has been doing this exact thing for years and has never come up with any one that has been displeased.

From now on he will make sure the property owners will know ahead of time in case they want to prune the shrubbery or trees themselves.

**Ordinance No. 451-2011/Amending Chapter 18.18 Entitled "Suburban Residential District":**

Motion was made and seconded to pass Ordinance No. 451-2011 as written.

m/s (Nordine/Borden)CU

**Interlocal Agreement between Electric City and Grant County for Cooperative Shoreline Master Programs Update:**

Council member Borden took objection to the shoreline master program saying it should be the Bureau of Reclamation's responsibility to do the program. He maintains that the shoreline has nothing to do with the city. Mayor Sands asked council member Borden if would take it on to see if he would can get us out of it? Mayor Sands said you work at the Bureau and maybe he can pull some strings. Council member Borden declined. Motion was made and seconded to direct the mayor to sign the interlocal agreement with Grant County for Cooperative Shoreline master Programs Update. Council members, Hensley, Nordine, and Rupe voted in favor, Council member Borden voted against.

m/s (Hensley/Nordine)

**TIB Grant:**

Mayor Sands reported the city received notice from Washington State Transportation Improvement Board that our Seal Coat Project will be funded for \$50,302. Motion was given and seconded authorizing the mayor to sign the grant agreement.

m/s (Hensley/Rupe) CU

**Fourth Addendum to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement: naming the City of Electric City as the Administrative city; Creating an Audit Committee; and Requiring Separate Bank Accounts:**

Council member Rupe asked if the council members can sit in on the audit meetings. The answer was in the affirmative. Motion was made and seconded authorizing the mayor to sign the Fourth Addendum to the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement.

m/s (Hensley/Rupe) CU

**Ordinance No. 449-2011/Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012:**

Mayor Sands opened the floor for Public Discussion/Comments at 7:57 p.m. There was no public discussion. Mayor Sands closed the public Discussion/Comments at 7:58 p.m. Motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 449-2011 as written.

m/s (Hensley/Nordine)CU

**Ordinance No. 450-2011/Salaries and Wages for Employees of the City for 2012:**

Mayor Sands is not involved in the cost of living raise. Council member Borden asked if the 3% raise is included and how can he tell. Council member Hensley said he can always come into the office and look over the paperwork. Motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 450-2011 as written.

m/s (Borden/Hensley) CU

**Unfinished Business:**

There was no unfinished business discussed.

**Reports/Misc:**

- The audit exit meeting will be December 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Sands and Council members Hensley and Rupe will be attending the exit.
- As of January 1, 2012 the City of Electric City will be taking over the transfer station accounting along with managing
- Council member Rupe would like to be on the GTA board for the 2012. Clerk Perman said we will be deciding on committees the first meeting in January.
- Council member Hensley explained to Mrs. Francis the cost of a park will be much less than what the paper reported. The biggest share of the cost will be grant money.
- Council member Borden would like to see better signage at the transfer station. He thinks the way the signs are now can be very confusing.

**Council Received:**

- Letter dated 12/05/2011 from Myna Francis regarding the building of a city park.

**Voucher Approval:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve expenditures for following vouchers.

- Payroll Vouchers #8907-#8921 in the amount of \$26,799.22 dated 11/30/2011.
- EFT's and Vouchers #8922-#8954 Claims amount of \$47,745.71 and Payroll amount of \$15,722.99 dated 12/02/2011-12/20/2011.

m/s (Nordine/Borden) CU

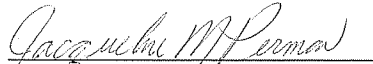
**Swearing in new Council members:**

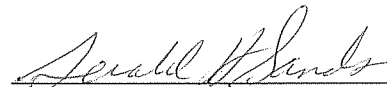
Birdie Hensley and Corrine Chuinard gave the oath of office. Council member Borden received a plaque thanking him for his years of service.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

m/s (Rupe/Borden)CU

  
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Jacqueline M. Perman, City Clerk

  
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Gerald H. Sands, Mayor