

**MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MAUMELLE
APRIL 5, 2021
6:00 PM
CITY HALL**

Mayor Norris called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with seven Council Members present. Council Member Saunders attended virtually.

Council Member Gardner gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL GUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Norris named Pat Brown the August 2020 Employee of the Month. Pat Brown has worked for the Parks and Recreation Department since 2013. Brown ensures excellence, through the care and maintenance of many of the cities facilities. Mayor Norris proclaimed April 6, 2021 to be Pat Brown Day in the City of Maumelle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 15, 2021

Council Member Tierney motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Council Member Williams seconded the motion, and the motion passed by all in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Strahan, 127 River Valley Loop, spoke about a FOIA request.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Community and Economic Development Director, Judy Keller reported on the relationships that were developed, and how they grew stronger in the wake of the pandemic. Last year 50 business in Maumelle received around \$700,000 collectively in funding. Keller stated that the department is working with other entities (Chamber of Commerce, AEDC, and Metro Little Rock Alliance) to increase Maumelle competitiveness. Keller invited the council and planning commission to Maumelle Cypress Cold Storage for their expansion.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Council Member Tierney motioned to have all ordinances and resolutions read by title only. Council Member Mazzoni seconded the motion, and the motion passed by all in attendance.

ORDINANCE 1022 AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE MAUMELLE CITY CODE

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of Ordinance 1022 amending chapter 10 of the Maumelle City Code to revise enforcement procedures, eliminate the categories of “potentially dangerous animal,” and “hazardous animal,” to change the current definition of “dangerous animal” to remove the ban on certain breeds of dogs, and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Matt Dina, 111 Mohawk Drive. Dinah implored the council to keep the ban in place.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Patti Robinson, 120 Ridgeland Drive. Robinson implored the council to keep the ban in place.

Leslie Rush, Sierra Valley Loop, spoke about the difference between breed specific and breed neutral legislation. Rush stated that Ordinance 1022 is breed neutral legislation, and it is shown to be more effective.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Catherine Miller, 200 Millwood Circle. Miller asked the council to repeal the breed specific legislation. Miller says it is infective to constraining on Animal Control.

Veronica Palmer, 151 Pleasantwood Drive, stated that breed specific legislation presents a false sense of security and does not address irresponsible pet ownership.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Shane Pennington, 125 Lily Drive. Shane encouraged the council to vote on the matters and to pass the ordinance.

Jonathan Crafton (Animal Services Employee), 4 Par Circle Little Rock, spoke about how this ordinance is needed for the department.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Lauren Elliott, 1 Randall Cove. Elliott asked the council to vote in support of the ordinance because breed neutral ordinances are most effective.

April Thomas, 29 Belle River Circle, stated that the ordinance encompasses more than just breeds. It gives Animal Services more authority and control.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Karen Kersten, 113 Lily drive. Kersten supports the ordinance, due to treating dogs based on their behavior not looks.

Clerk Timmons read a public comment submitted by Dustin Hartung, 107 Lake Valley Drive. Hartung encouraged the council to pass the ordinance and to create an inclusive Maumelle community for all people and dogs.

Council Member Mosley stated that this was a very devise issue, he feels as if it alienates at least half of the Maumelle residents, and we need to see what the popular vote is.

Council Member Mosley motioned to send ordinance to a referendum by the people scheduled in May 2022, and request the City Attorney guide through the process. Council Member Holt seconded the motion. The motion failed 3/5. Council Members Mosley, Saunders, and Holt voted yes. Council Members Mazzoni, Gardner, Williams, Tierney, and Shinn voted no.

Council Member Holt reported on a call he received right before the council meeting about a pit bull incident that took place outside of Maumelle.

Council Member Tierney reported that he has been keeping a record of everyone that has emailed him regarding this issue. Tierney stated that more people are in support.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Ordinance 1022. Council Member Williams seconded the motion passed. The motion passed 5/3. Council Members Shinn, Tierney, Williams, Gardner, and Mazzoni voted yes. Council Members Holt, Saunders, and Mosley voted no.

ORDINANCE 1025 AMENDING MAUMELLE LAND USE PLAN

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of Ordinance 1025 an ordinance amending the Maumelle land use plan and map and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Ron Harris, 6309 South Wind Drive, NLR, stated he can provide specific numbers regarding MEMS.

Council Member Mosley asked, Director of Planning and Permits, Scott Grummer about the map entitled Exhibit A.

Council Member Mazzoni and Mosley both stated that there are concerns about rezoning and losing commercial property.

Scott Grummer talked about our current commercial spaces.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1025 will be on third reading at the next council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1026 AMENDING MAUMELLE ZONING MAP

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of Ordinance 1026 an ordinance amending the Maumelle zoning map and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1026 will be on third reading at the next council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1027 ENACTING SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS OF CITY CODE

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the second reading of Ordinance 1026 an ordinance adopting and enacting supplemental provisions of the city code for the City of Maumelle, Arkansas; providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective. The City Clerk gave the reading.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1027 will be on third reading at the next council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1028 AMEDNING MAUMELLE ZONING MAP

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the first reading of Ordinance 1028 an ordinance amending the Maumelle zoning map and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Mayor Norris stated the City is asking for the zoning request.

Scott Grummer stated the particular area would create conflicts with the current C3 zoning.

Council Member Mazzoni questioned if the city is being reactive rather than proactive.

Council Member Mosley spoke about the value of residential spaces in relation to their output.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1028 will be on second reading at the next city council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1029 AMENDING MAUMELLE ZONING MAP

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the first reading of Ordinance 1029 an ordinance amending multiple sections of the Maumelle city code to define short term rental, require business registration, and an accessory use permit for short term rental properties, and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Council Member Tierney stated that this would allow the city to regulate and collect what is due.

Council Member Mosley asked what neighboring cities are doing.

Council Member Shinn stated that those cities already have legislation on short term rental properties.

Council Member Gardner asked Attorney Krebs about section 1A, section 1D, and section 4E. Council Member Gardner stated the he is unsure about the requirement of only eight guest.

Attorney Krebs stated that she spoke with the City of Sherwood to see how they mitigate. Sherwood does not allow short term rentals.

Council Member Williams stated that maximum capacity should be based on square footage. Council Member Williams asked Chief Pickard if the city has had any disturbance incidents.

Chief of Police, Corey Pickard, confirmed that there has been one incident during the pandemic.

Council Member Mosley inquired about the number of rentals in Maumelle.

Council Member Shinn stated about 10 rentals across all platforms. Council Member Shinn also spoke about the issue of young adults and alcohol.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1029 will be on second reading at the next city council meeting.

ORDINANCE 1030 AMEDNING MAUMELLE ZONING MAP

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the first reading of Ordinance 1028 an ordinance amending a section of the Maumelle City code to expand the allowance for private city streets and for other purposes. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Mayor Norris said this ordinance allows private streets to exist even where they are not a cul-de-sac or short loop street.

Council Member Mazzoni asked what precipitated this.

Mayor Norris stated that a preliminary plat went through the Planning Commission. Also, there is an increase in demand for gated communities.

Council Member Mosley questioned about maintaining these private streets. He asked if there is a mechanism to ensure they are maintained.

With no further discussion, Ordinance 1030 will be on second reading at the next city council meeting.

RESOLUTION 2021-8 LEASE AGREEMENT STATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the reading of Resolution 2021-8 approving a lease agreement between the City of Maumelle and the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration- Revenue Division. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Council Member Mosley felt it is a one sided deal. Mosley also stated we need to think of a better way to accommodate the revenue offices customers.

Mayor Norris said he is grateful that the city has a Revenue Office but open to suggestions.

Council Member Tierney motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-8. Council Member Shinn seconded the motion. The motion passed by all in unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2021-9 APPROVING THE DISPOSAL OF CITY SURPLUS PROPERTY

With no objections, Mayor Norris called for the reading of Resolution 2021-9 a resolution to approve the disposal of city surplus property. The City Clerk gave the reading.

Council Member Mosley asked how the vehicles would be replaced.

Chief Pickard stated that the vehicles have already been replaced with leased vehicles.

Council Member Gardner motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-9. Council Member Williams seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Norris reminded all that vaccines are now available for individuals over 16 years of age. Mayor Norris stated the he is now fully vaccinated.

Mayor Norris stated that there is no city wide mask mandate but, masks are required in city buildings. Businesses may adopt and implement their own mask mandate.

Mayor Norris briefly spoke about the FYI's: 2020 census, Tree City designation and bikeability.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Gardner seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Norris adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

MAYOR CALEB NORRIS

TINA TIMMONS CITY CLERK/TREASURER

APPROVED

April 19, 2021