

MINUTES
FELSENTHAL CITY COUNCIL • 10/11/22
4:30 PM • Town Hall

Call to order

At Roll Call the following members were present: Mr. Holland, Ms. Linder, Mr. Manning and Ms. Seymore. Mr. Newbury was not present.

The Minutes of previous meeting (September, 2022) were presented. Ms. Linder moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Holland, to approve the minutes. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Old Business

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 8th (Voting Day), so it will be changed to November 15th.

A Representative with Barton Library, was at the meeting, promoting an increase in the County Library Tax. He supports voting for item 1 on the ballot on November 8th.

Mr. Kopke, with Communities Unlimited, was at the Council Meeting last night to inform the Council members about the results of his rate studies. The State of Arkansas requires water systems to provide an adequate capital repair and replacement reserve and provide for the efficient operation and maintenance of the system. The study was funded through a technical assistance grant through the US Department of Health and Human Services and provided at no cost to the City. The water and sewer should maintain operating reserves of at least \$15,100.00 (1/8 of annual operating expense). The town reported \$14,004.00 in unrestricted cash and savings at the end of the previous fiscal year. Arkansas passed Act 605, which requires water providers to have a rate study every five (5) years. Also, Act 605 requires the funding of a repair and refurbishment revenue at least 5% of total system revenues. The water system is currently operating with a net operating income but is projected to begin operating losses beginning in 2023. The sewer system is currently operating with a net loss and is projected to experience increasing losses with increases in the cost of sewer treatment. This project is ongoing so more information will be provided in the near future.

Council members are patrolling for light outages on our street light poles. These noted outages will be reported to Entergy for repair or replacement as needed.

Mayor Newbury talked about it was time for the 2023 New Budget items. Some of the things the Mayor suggested were: The big tree by Town Hall would have to be cut down, the mayor will need a new computer, a town sign to welcome folks to our town is needed, a 5% raise for employees and a 3% raise for elected officials is to be included in new budget. She asked the Council to let her know if they came up with anything else that needed to be addressed in the new budget. Ms. Linder suggested that we delete our monthly payment for cable, since it is rarely if at all used. The mayor agreed and stated that she would see to that immediately.

New Business

The Mayor told the Council about the grant money that would fund the Water system improvements. Mr. Gaunt was here to answer questions from the Council. He is working to get a grant that would pay 100% of the project. Our town has been designated eligible for the 100% grant. This process to fund the improvements is ongoing, so the public will get more information in the near future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Mayor Newbury told the Council that she was going to move the account with First National Bank to Simmons Bank with our other accounts.

The Financial Statements for September, 2022 were presented for approval. Ms. Seymore moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Linder, to approve the financial reports. The roll call was unanimous. The motion passed.

Ms. Linder moved, and it was seconded by Ms. Seymore, to adjourn the meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous. The motion passed.