

Tuesday May 28, 2024

Location and Time: Little Flock City Hall at 6:00 pm

The City Council of Little Flock, Arkansas met in emergency special session on Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM outside the Little Flock City Hall.

1. Meeting called to Order:

Mayor Jeff Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Alderman Rob Phillips gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Council Members present were Donny Barton, Robert Phillips, Wes Waddell, Sherry Moncrief, and Chris Cantwell. Debb Formanek was absent.

Others in attendance: Recorder/Treasurer Richard Crow, Street Superintendent Wes Usrey, City Attorney Shane Perry

4. Announcements

- As of this date, Mayor Van Sickler declared the City of Little Flock in a state of emergency due to the destruction of private and public property resulting from a large storm on May 26, 2024. A state of emergency has been declared by both Benton County and the State of Arkansas.
- Mayor Van Sickler made the following announcements:
 - We are thankful there were no fatalities or injuries as a result of the storm which devastated our city.
 - We are proud of the city employees and citizens of Little Flock who are managing through the May 26 tornado/storm recovery efforts.
 - Thank you to the Salinas family for providing food for the citizens of Little Flock in the City Park on May 28. Also thank you to First Security Bank who will provide food for the citizens of Little Flock on May 30.
 - As with any disaster, there will be scammers seeking to take advantage of the situation. Be mindful of who you do business with. No Peddlers Permits will be issued during this period.
 - The City offices and Police Departments will be temporarily located in the Fire Department building until a temporary structure can be procured and placed on property.
- Tree debris:
 - There are two options for debris removal.
 - Debris may be burned onsite. However, citizens will need to apply for a free burn permit from Benton County.
 - Debris may also be pushed to the edge of the road. Benton County will come by to pick it up but there is no timeline on when that might be done.
 - All debris on private roads or private property must be either removed or contracted by the property owner.
- Utilities:
 - SWEPCO – all electric services provided by SWEPCO within the city has been restored.
 - Carroll Electric – They are still working to restore electrical power to several residents. Power down the main thoroughfares should be restored today. They will begin working on secondary roads and restore all residential customers as soon as possible.
 - Benton County Water – conservation of water has been requested. Do not water lawns or fill pools.
- Insurance – claims have been filed for the city to the Municipal League for buildings, contents, and vehicles for all damage.
- FEMA will be assessing storm damage.

5. New Business:

Resolution 2024-003 Authorizing Funds to Address the State of Emergency in Little Flock, Arkansas

Mayor Van Sickler read Resolution 2024-003 in full declaring a state of emergency and to authorize \$150,000 in funding to establish administrative offices, clean up storm damage, and take additional actions for restoration of the city. This is the first estimate needed to begin storm cleanup. Additional resources will be needed in the future but will be presented when more information becomes available.

A motion was made by Council Member Rob Phillips to adopt Resolution 2024-003. A second was made by Council Member Chris Cantwell.

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Vote:

Robert Phillips – Yes
Chris Cantwell – Yes
Donny Barton – Yes
Motion passed.

Debb Formanek – Absent
Wes Waddell – Yes
Sherry Moncrief – Yes

A motion was made by Chris Cantwell to ratify expenses and contracts entered into for storm damage prior to the emergency meeting. A second motion was by Council Member Donny Barton.

Vote:

Robert Phillips – Yes
Chris Cantwell – Yes
Donny Barton – Yes
Motion passed.

Debb Formanek – Absent
Wes Waddell – Yes
Sherry Moncrief – Yes

7. Public Comments:

- Wes Usrey noted that the backhoe was out of commission due to a damaged radiator at a cost of approximately \$2500. It should be back in service this week.
- Adams & ARKMO have both been contracted to assist with debris removal in the city.
- It is noted that some public information may have been compromised due to the storm damage to City Hall. Employees have tried to get as much as possible out of the building but was unable to access the planning desk which have current building permit information.
- All checks, financial data, historical files have all been retrieved and accounted for.


8. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by the mayor at 6:28 pm.
Motion passed unanimously.

Passed and approved this 15th Day of July, 2024

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved by:



Richard Crow, Recorder/Treasurer
City of Little Flock, Arkansas



Jeff Van Sickler, Mayor
City of Little Flock, Arkansas



