

February 1, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Regular Monthly Meeting
Ripley City Courtroom

Mayor Fitzhugh called the meeting to order and requested Recorder Buckner issue roll call.

Board members present: Alston, Chipman, Davis, Fitzhugh, Hankins, Thompson, Treadway and Fitzhugh

Board members absent: none

Also present: Donna Buckner, Attorney Jackson, Chief Mitchell Turner, Superintendent Johnie Ford, Director Randy Danley, Chief Tracey Worlds and Superintendent Scott Nelson

Visitors: Ron Goforth, Beverly Hutcherson, Joseph Jones, Dorisha Wright and Jay Heath

Invocation: Alderman Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Motion by Alderman Hankins and second by Alderman Alston to approve January 4, 2021 minutes as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye
2. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Treadway to approve January 2021 financial statement as printed and delivered in agenda package. All aye

Correspondence:

- Thank you card – Bob White Family
- Letter regarding Bank of Ripley and Lauderdale Community Hospital – Linda Love

Mayor Fitzhugh stated generally speaking this would be a private business matter but as the hospital has come into bankruptcy and is out of it now he would explain the exact connection between the Bank of Ripley and the hospital and the Mayor and the hospital. The connection between the Mayor and the hospital is that the Mayor is a resident of Ripley and believes Ripley and Lauderdale County needs their hospital. He has never been on any type of board of the hospital. He has only supported it through the years. The connection between the Bank of Ripley and the Lauderdale Community Hospital is that the bank was approached by the prior ownership group to assist in the possibility of a new hospital and the bank is ready to do that. In addition the bank has made a substantial loan with the hospital concerning its operations. This went into bankruptcy and is still in bankruptcy right now although we think it will be favorable because the bankruptcy is now completed with one last claim to be considered. In addition during the ongoing of the bankruptcy and the receivership the bank made some additional loans to the hospital when it didn't have the funds for payroll and other expenses. These were called debtor possession loans and it was necessary for a financial institution to step up. That is the only connection except for the fact, we again, for the benefit of our community felt that our hospital was certainly something we want to keep.

Mayor Fitzhugh stated due to COVID-19 the city will be accessing the method in which future meetings are held.

Mayor Fitzhugh recognized our local health department for their fine job of taking care of citizens getting both of their inoculations.

Department Reports

Alderman Hankins questioned zero tickets the last month in the police department.

Chief Turner stated the low ticket/no ticket numbers is due COVID-19. The department has had 3 or 4 officers contract COVID-19. The courts are also not in session until April.

Superintendent Scott Nelson stated the drilling for the new well is complete. In the process of encasing the 800' well. Will be demobilizing this month. Pump bowl and pump motors are on order. Will probably be the end of April before completely installed. Hopefully by summer we will have a new well.

3. Motion by Alderman Davis and second by Alderman Alston to approve Mayor Fitzhugh's recommendation to appoint Dr. Claudia Joplin to fill unexpired term of Ripley Housing Board member Laquita Campbell due to resignation. Term expiring August 2025. All aye
4. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Treadway to approve off premises beer permit application for Alpesh Patel, PARTH 1335 LLC, d.b.a. BP Food Mart, 1335 Hwy. 51 N., Ripley, TN 38063 All aye
5. Motion by Alderman Chipman and second by Alderman Alston to approve 1st reading proposed ordinance on city court cost increasing from \$69 per case to \$100 per case. All aye

Chief Worlds requested the Board to consider change to sick time policy giving fire department 24 hours of sick time per month versus 12 hours.

Attorney Jackson to review policy, discuss with MTAS and prepare resolution for March meeting.

Mayor Fitzhugh recognized Dorisha Wright to address the board.

Ms. Wright expressed her appreciation that the lights are back on in Rice Park. Park is much safer. Would like the Board to finish the investigation into why the 501 C3 has not been in place.

Mayor Fitzhugh thanked Ms. Wright and stated the parks are very important to our city. We have some understanding through working with the attorneys and is looking forward to better use for all citizens of the community at Cleveland Park and Rice Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Donna Buckner, Recorder

Craig Fitzhugh, Mayor