



BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM

City Hall, 206 Van Buren NE, Camden, AR 71701

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. INVOCATION - Reverend Johnny L. Jackson, Associate Pastor, New Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church, 2417 Old Smackover Road, Camden, Arkansas

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Young swore in new Alderman Patric Flannigan

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Alderman Lawrence Askew
Alderman Gerald Castleberry
Alderman William McCoy
Alderman Edward Winters
Alderman Willie Cooper
Alderman Josh Steed
Alderman Patric Flannigan

ABSENT

Alderman Boyd Woody

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Cooper.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

F. ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion to accept made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Margaret Smith, 223 North, said she and her business are being bullied by Code Enforcement.

Brian Smith, 223 North, said the Mayor is hateful to his business because he is affiliated with a man who just announced his candidacy for Mayor. He also accused the Mayor of being racist.

Quita Robinson, 225 Agee, stated that she was unhappy with the way her boys were treated at the park and asked for a public apology to them.

Amorette Hawkins, 2814 Evergreen, asked for a public apology to the boys.

Antonio Robinson, 225 Agee, told the Mayor that she should have spoken to the boys herself and not asked the police to do it. He said all he wanted was an apology for the boys.

Larry Mitchell, 649 Magnolia Road, asked why the Council didn't discuss during the meeting the questions that are brought forward during audience participation.

H. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Young introduced Public Works Director, Earl Porchia, for an update. Mr. Porchia informed the Council that the commercial sanitation truck, ordered last year, has arrived. The bathroom remodel and repair has been completed at the landfill and they hope to start on the control room in July or August. The landfill passed the quarterly inspection. The Parks Department is currently hiring lifeguards for the pool which will open May 23. Hours for the Holiday weekend will be 4-7 on Friday, 10-7 on Saturday, and 1-7 on Sunday. The new chlorinator was given by a generous donor, and saved the city over \$50,000. Mr. Porchia informed the Council that the A&P Commission will be upgrading the lights in the parks to LED, and they started spraying for mosquitoes on May 5th.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 04-25**, an ordinance permitting an official of the Camden Airport commission to be interested in contracts with the City of Camden, Arkansas.

Alderman Castleberry introduced the ordinance, and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance for the third and final reading made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Cooper.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

Motion to accept the ordinance made by Alderman Winters, Seconded by Alderman Cooper.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 05-25**, an ordinance amending Section 9, **Electricity**, Section 9-1, Electrical Code adopted by the City of Camden, Arkansas, Code of Ordinances, adopting by reference the 2020 national Electrical Code.

Alderman Castleberry introduced the ordinance, and the City Clerk read the number and title.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance for the third and final reading made by Alderman Castleberry, Seconded by Alderman Winters.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

Motion to accept the ordinance made by Alderman Cooper, Seconded by Alderman Castleberry.

Voting Yea: Alderman Askew, Alderman Castleberry, Alderman McCoy, Alderman Winters, Alderman Cooper, Alderman Steed, Alderman Flannigan

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Young pointed out the article from ORVA Magazine that she left at everyone's spot. Dredging should start on the Ouachita River in a couple of months. They are trying to get the river designated as a Marine Highway, which would greatly benefit Camden and the Port. She also announced the passing of long time Port Authority board member Edwin Horton. The Mayor said that Frank Bateman with the Arkansas Black Mayors Association contacted her to let her know that the government has reinstated the funding for the Watershed Project and they are about to begin Phase II, design. Michael Baker Engineering has been selected for the design phase. Mayor Young announced that a Civic Arkansas Credential Workshop will be held Friday June 6 from 9:00 until Noon at OPED.

Alderman Flannigan asked how many phases there were for the Watershed Project. There are three: planning, design, and implementation.

Alderman Askew stated that the process for naming the police building needs to be sped along. He also said that some signs need to be posted at the playground, especially one reminding people to keep their dogs out of the play area.

Alderman Steed reminded everyone to keep the police department and Ms. Gwen's family in their prayers. Ms. Gwen had worked at the police department for 31 years.

Alderman Winters invited the Council and City employees to join the Memorial Day Parade. He said that the County Justices had been invited also. The parade will start at 10:00 on Saturday May 24.

Alderman Cooper announced that Ward 3 will have a meet and greet in July to welcome Alderman Flannigan.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Castleberry made the motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Mayor, Charlotte Young

City Clerk, Donna Stewart