

HECTOR CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:30pm
Hector City Hall

Meeting called to order by/time: Mayor Randy Smith at 6:30pm

Council Members:	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
	Alderman 1	Mike Geurian	Present
	Alderman 2	John Mosley	Present
	Alderman 3	Peggy Gregory	Present
	Alderman 4	Phillip D'Amato	Present
	Alderman 5	Hannah D'Amato	Present

Attorney:	Clay McCall	Present
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Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting opened with prayer by: Peggy Gregory

03-17-25 Council Meeting Minutes	Reviewed & Accepted	Motion made by: Peggy Gregory Motion 2 nd by: John Mosley Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)
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March 2025 Financial Report:	Reviewed & Accepted	Motion made by: Hannah D'Amato Motion 2 nd by: John Mosley Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)
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Police Department Report:	Police Chief Phillip Hubbard	Present
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- Police Chief Hubbard stated the auditor is not complete with fire department for the first investigation.
- Police officer Aaron Culwell made a felony drug related arrest.
- Internal investigation is complete for incident in January 2025, and the police chief has been asked not to release the information but if someone had questions, he might respond if they would not hinder the investigation being conducted by county.
- Public questions asked related to January incident include if statements from 911 call were correct, if alcohol beverage was at the fire station, and if the fire chief at the time notified the mayor or police chief of the incident at the fire station, if a current council member was called to the fire station, if cameras were installed at the fire station who had access to the footage and has it been reviewed to help with the internal investigation. If the fire chief at the time was currently staying at the fire station and if so, was the city paying for the utilities. The Arkansas Code 14-42-108 was stated that it is unlawful for any official or employee of the municipal to receive or accept utilities service without paying for it in the same rate or same manner.
- The Arkansas Code 14-42-109 was sent to the council for consideration of removal of a council member, the attorney suggested that this might apply but is not sure if this is a criminal investigation or not. The city attorney suggested this should wait until the criminal investigation is complete.
- A question asked if the statement of one of the witnesses was credible in the opinion of the police chief and if one of the council members went in search of an individual. Council member Mike Geurian stated he would not make any comments until the investigation is complete.
- Council member John Mosley asked the timeline of when the incident was reported.
- A public question asked if alcohol beverages had been witnessed being used before at the fire station.

Streets/Parks Report: HectorFest June 14th, 2025

- The additional area located in the treelined area at Cecil Riley Park is being cleaned out for HectorFest.
- If city streetlights are out the city will need to be notified, so repair request tickets can be made to Entergy.
- Mayor Smith stated there may be additional areas that will need to be fixed on Oak Street.
- Mayor Smith asked Zar Zamora with Zar Construction to explain the issue, he stated that three additional culverts will need to be replaced on this street.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Kenny Bowden

Present

- Fire Chief Bowden discussed there were five burn ban violations, three gas fires, one vehicle fire, one structure fire (mutual aid to Appleton) call cancelled and three road obstructions.
- The fire chief also stated the training room and hallways have been painted; one new member, Seth Rudder, has joined the fire department. SOGs will be updated and finalized for the May council meeting.
- The fire chief stated ANO maintenance crew came and evaluated the fire department vehicles, they will make repairs later. The maintenance/repair labor will be free of charge, the fire department will provide parts for vehicles.
- The fire chief stated Hector fire department hosted the Pope County Fire Chief meeting and thanked the First Assembly of God Church for letting them use the fellowship hall for the meeting due to the fire department being painted and still needed to dry.
- The fire chief stated an in-house hose training with Hunter Hall instructing and an in-house pump training has been conducted. A personal protective equipment class is scheduled for April 26th and 27th with Jared Patterson instructing the class at Hector Volunteer Fire Department.
- The fire chief stated the fire department has applied for a grant to help offset the cost of repairs to the new brush truck coming from Greenbrier.
- Council member Mike Geurian asked if the orange balls on the power lines have been replaced and if not then asked the fire chief to contact Bill Teeter and he could assist with this issue.
- Mayor Smith discussed whether helicopter service is available for citizens in the city.

Public Comment

- Phil Morley asked if Hector had a dog ordinance, he stated he is having issues with dogs.
- A copy of the Dog Ordinance could be provided to Mr. Morley after the conclusion of the city council meeting.
- Jennifer Morley had a comment on people that do not live in the city but are in the fire district. She asked if council decisions on policy and considerations for the fire department impacted those outside the city limits but are still in the same fire district. City attorney thought that generally it would effect those individuals. She also asked if the council would take advice from members of the fire department to help with decisions that affected the fire department, and work in more of a partnership instead of a mandate process.

Old Business:

Agenda Item A: Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Sidewalk Project

- a. Project start: April 15th
 - b. Meet with Bank to secure the loan
- The sidewalk project is currently in progress. Current plan is from The Store to last parking lot at the Hector School and Maple Street from the Hector School to parking lot at football field.

- Mayor Smith has contacted the loan officer, and the loan should be finalized by the end of the week.
- A comment made on whether a bridge will be installed over the creek area located by The Store. Mayor Smith was not aware of any bridge to be installed but that it may be a big culvert in that area.

Agenda Item B: HVFD Standard Operating Guidelines

- Fire Chief Kenny stated that the fire department is reviewing and providing input to the SOGs and should be ready for council review at May council meeting.
- Council member Hannah D'Amato asked if SOGs could be available to review before the May meeting.
- **Motion made by Mike Geurian, motion 2nd by Hannah D'Amato to table item to discuss at next regular meeting.**
- **VOTE: Motion passed 100% (5/5).**

Agenda Item C: Resolution R2025-08 Procedures of the city council. Review propose Amendments.

- Mayor Smith asked City Attorney Clay McCall to discuss the proposed amendments for Resolution 2025-08.
- City attorney McCall discussed with council the items proposed, he stated some items did not apply to incorporated towns and some items proposed contradicted current Arkansas code. He discussed the proposed item to define special meetings; this needs to be a catch all due to this may cover a broad range of items. Providing agenda items within 5 days, sometimes this may be hard to submit within this timeframe, it may need to be worded as best effort, or another reasonable timeframe will need to be discussed. The city attorney did not understand the reason for proposed amendment for section 6, this was to include all individuals that had a function in the council meeting. The city attorney discussed Roberts' Rule of order being proposed only listed selective items from the rule, he stated the reference to Municipal Handbook could be referenced for this section.
- City Attorney asked council if he could do more review on the proposed amendments and draft the changes the council would like and bring back to the next scheduled council meeting.
- Council member John Mosley stated that he thought some of the items were not needed and that the city has been operating well to this point.
- **Motion made by Peggy Gregory, motion 2nd by Phillip D'Amato to table item to discuss at next regular meeting.**
- **VOTE: Motion passed 100% (5/5).**
- Public comment on discussion made by a council member to strike sections 7 and 8, which discussed if council missed council meetings, special, emergency, etc. then compensation would not be made to council members that missed. Tim Morley thought this should remain in Resolution 2025-08.

Agenda Item D: Amendment of Ordinance 24-1 to conform with state law, A.C.A. 14-42-110

"Mayors in cities of the first class and second class and incorporated towns shall have the power to appoint and remove all department heads..." and to amend section 3.1, amend 3.2; strike section 4 in entirety "and the Hector Volunteer Fire Department Advisory Board.

- The city attorney asked if the item could be tabled and discussed at the next scheduled meeting.
- Public comment made on how many times this will be tabled before a decision is made on this amendment to Ordinance 24-1.
- City Attorney Clay McCall stated he needed to find a precedent for this and reminded everyone that State Law controls and will supersede this ordinance. Is the advisory board state law or not.

What is the constitutional law for this, the city attorney is reviewing and trying to find answers to these questions.

- **Motion made by Phillip D'Amato, motion 2nd by Mike Geurian to table item to discuss at next regular meeting.**
- **VOTE: Motion passed 100% (5/5).**
- Council member Phillip D'Amato asked what is being done to include input from individuals that live outside the city but are in the fire district. If some type of board could be developed, the city attorney stated that input could be solicited but those individuals are not paying millage as those inside the city limits. The city attorney stated he could not make a recommendation at this point.
- Public comment asking about the fire department advisory board, it would give the advisory board the voting power to vote whoever they wanted to be fire chief and fire members. Council member Hannah D'Amato stated it was advised against the ordinance, and she would be in favor for whatever the mayor or fire department wanted to do that would be in the best interest for the fire department.

New Business:

Agenda Item A: Consideration Fire Ordinance (Fire Dues).

- City Attorney Clay McCall stated he has been reviewing this ordinance and is consulting with other municipalities that are like this situation, and he has contacted the municipal league but has not heard back from them. He asked the council if this could be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.
- **Motion made by Mike Geurian, motion 2nd by Phillip D'Amato to table item to discuss at next regular meeting.**
- **VOTE: Motion passed 100% (5/5).**

Agenda Item B: Consideration 2025-10 Contract IT Service Renewal

- Mayor Smith passed proposed Resolution 2025-10 to council members to review.
- Proposed Resolution 2025-10 is to continue the service contract with Jacob Coffman for IT services.
- **Motion made by Peggy Gregory, motion 2nd by Phillip D'Amato to hereby: Resolution 2025-10: authorizes the City of Hector to enter a service contract with Jacob Coffman for IT Services.**
- **VOTE: Resolution 2025-10 passed. 100% (5/5).**

Agenda Item C: Council consider renaming the entertainment pavilion at Cecil Riley Park to MAC's Pavilion in honor of Ellis and Angel McCuin

- Public comment from John Riley that City of Hector has been incorporated for 60 years, and Ellis and Angel McCuin had a grocery store in Hector for around 43 years.
- No specific date or time for dedication to this event.
- **Motion made by Phillip D'Amato, motion 2nd by Peggy Gregory to rename the entertainment pavilion at Cecil Riley Park to MACs Pavilion.**
- **VOTE: Motion passed 100% (5/5).**

City Council members review and approval of financial transactions.

The treasurer discussed an issue with the Entergy utility statement in the amount of \$704.37 for the Street Account. A check (1276) was written and mailed but did not reach the Entergy offices. The city received notice that the payment had not been received. A stop payment was requested to Chamber's Bank for check number 1276. The bank fulfilled the stop payment request. The amount of \$704.37 was paid electronically from the Street Account to Entergy, so the payment could be received in a timely manner.

Meeting adjourned:

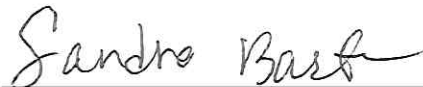
Time: 8:21pm

Motion made by: Mike Guerian

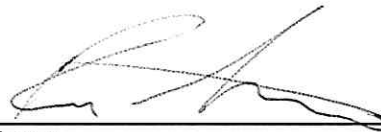
Motion 2nd by: Phillip D'Amato

Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on May 19th, 2025, at 6:30pm.



Recorder/Treasurer



Mayor

By signing, I agree that pages 1-5 are true and correct copy of the meeting held by the Hector City Council on April 21, 2025.