Town of Fifty Six
6564 Highway 14 Fifty Six, AR. 72533
(870)757-2225

Town Council Meeting
August 10, 2026

Members present were Richard Wible, Rick VanEvera, Tim Hudspeth, and Aaron Byrd.
Members absent were Lisa VanEvera.
Visitors present were Billy Mitchell, Becky Fergeson, Larry Treat, Marilyn Treat, Scott Wible, Matt and Lisa Linn, Linda Baca, Kirby and Lora Curtis, Tony Hudspeth, Rich Hiter, Barbra Strickland, Michael Benson, Joe and Leslie Forte, and Chris Tisdale.
Water Superintendent, Delvin Freeman, attended the meeting.
Prayer was said by Tim Hudspeth.
Pledge of Allegiance was said.
Meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Mayor Earnestine McDaniel.
Previous month's minutes were read by Christina Byrd. Tim Hudspeth made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR.
Christina Byrd read the financial summary. A motion to accept the financial statements was made by Rick VanEvera and 2nd by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR.
Aaron Byrd has not heard back from Brad Folks, with ARDOT, about the ORV signs being moved.
Delvin Freeman left a message for Travis Trammell inquiring about the parts for the transfer station.
Earnestine has not heard back from the Municipal League about how insurance for a resale shop or storage units, owned by the town, would work.
Aaron Byrd said the fire department is still waiting for the frequency for the radios to be issued. The repeater project has come in under budget and Fifty Six Fire Department portion will be $5,500. The money will come from ACT 833. The "tanker squad" that has been discussed would not be a contract but rather written acknowledgement of agreed upon mutual aid between fire departments. Mutual aid will be reported to the state for ACT 833 and will help lower ISO ratings which will in turn lower homeowner insurance.
Water loss is at 52%. Delvin is waiting for ARWA to bring correlator out to help find the leak. ARWA is currently assisting West Stone County Water and when they will be available is unknown. Keith Johnson, Mtn. View Water Super., has suggested replacing the pipe in 500 foot sections to save on expense of hiring an engineer. Delvin talked to Don Smith and the cost of the pipe to replace the line would cost approximately $23,000. The health department would need to be involved with replacing the line as well. Don will give Delvin a quote on labor to do the work. It was asked about putting valves in on the line. There are currently 2 valves on the line. Valves cost approximately $2.300.
There has been concern expressed about a child riding on the town riding mower with an employee. Earnestine said the situation has been resolved. There was also discussion

about a child riding in the trash truck. Earnestine advised as long as the child is in a car seat it was allowable.
The letter regarding the website was mailed out. Currently there is approximately 60 people signed up for alerts.
Travis Trammell has started dirt work at the city park. Earnestine will check with White River Planning to see if there will be enough money to get a set of bleachers put in.
The town and fire department have now set up a charge account with the Big Flat store for the ability to get fuel. This was done due to talk of the Fifty Six store closing, the store is not closing, but should they run out of fuel we can get it from Big Flat.
The Town received Honorable Mention certificate from the Municipal League for completing the project of putting the new water line in earlier than expected and under budget.
Larry Treat has asked about putting a burn ban sign on the City Limit sign. (the "welcome to" sign) Rick VanEvera made a motion giving permission for a burn ban sign to be placed on the welcome signs. Tim Hudspeth 2nd. ALL IN FAVOR. The state highway department no longer wants the town to use their post for the burn ban signs.
Earnestine has talked to forestry about getting a waiver to cover the annual rent the town currently pays for the forestry property the water line lays on. They will be sending her some forms to fill out.
Earnestine got the paperwork filed to put the tax on the ballot. Council asked for a copy of the wordage. Earnestine explained she did not have it. Council would like it available at the next meeting.
Christina Byrd has reached out to Dollar General again and explained the store may be closing. She did not talk to the same contact she spoke with before. This person said the town would not need a tax for a store to be put in. Christina was previously told that Dollar General had reached out to a land owner but has recently learned that they have not. Earnestine said she calls Dollar General once a year and never received a call back.
Tony Hudspeth was on the agenda. Tony questioned the decision for the town to pay someone to do tractor clean up work when the residents are continuously told the town has no money. Tony had previously offered to do the work for free. Christina Byrd said the town had a need for tractor work and Jennifer Nations had a means to meet that need. Jennifer was having financial hardship with some of her bills so Christina took it upon herself to hire her. Jennifer used the money the town paid her to pay her water bill. She did so on her own will. Jennifer had a water leak and her bill was approximately $2,000. Since she used the money to pay her bill, the money came back to the town just in a different account. Tony also expressed concern that the town has an employee on payroll to keep the town grounds looking good and feels at some points they fall short. Some of the employees responsibilities are also preforming maintenance for the fire department and he does maintain fire equipment.
Michael Benson was on the agenda. He spoke about the talk that an ordinance was being discussed about mandating how residents should keep their property maintained. He voiced that he is against the idea. He stated that some people "just live that way".
Larry treat would like to see an ordinance in place for residents to maintain their property. Tim Hudspeth said initially the ordinance could be for the Highway 14 residents only. It was expressed that is not possible. Leslie Forte, owner of Iron Horn Outfitters, expressed great

concern about the ordinance. She stated she is not for it either. Christina Byrd informed the council there was once a similar ordinance in place and that administration had sent out letters to residents. After that administration was threatened with a law suit the ordinance was repealed. Tim mentioned that he was simply suggesting a proposal to discuss the option of this ordinance. Council weighed their opinions. Rick VanEvera made a motion to consider the idea of the ordinance. The motion was dead. Tim repealed his suggestion. Aaron, Richard, and Rick would like to talk to residents to see where the community stands with the idea.

Leslie Forte asked if the town would benefit from any of Blanchard profits. The town would not. Even if the sales tax passed they are not inside town limits.

Joe Forte brought up that it is his opinion that the town try to push for tourism to bring money into the town. Currently him and Leslie's business is the only tourist destination in Fifty Six and they stay busy so it is possible.

Tim Hudspeth made a motion to adjourn and 2nd by Rick VanEvera. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor, Earnestine McDaniel

Recorder/Treasurer, Christina Byrd