

Town of Fifty Six  
Home of Blanchard Springs  
6564 Hwy. 14 Fifty Six, AR  
(870)757-2225

Mayor: Earnestine McDaniel

Recorder/Treasurer: Christina Byrd

Town Council Meeting  
February 10, 2025

Members present were Aaron Byrd, Rick VanEvera, and Eric Williams.  
Lisa VanEvera was absent.

Visitors present were Delvin Freeman, Larry Treat, Rebecca Ferguson, Marilyn Treat, Mike and Judy Balentine, Linda Baca, Kirby and Lora Curtis, Richard and Dove Wible, Billy Mitchell, Tim Hudspeth, and Tony Hudspeth.

Meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Mayor Earnestine McDaniel.

A motion to accept previous months minutes was made by Rick VanEvera and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR.

A motion to accept the financial statements was made by Aaron Byrd and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Williams. ALL IN FAVOR.

Council signed ordinance 124 for the millage.

Ordinance 125 was passed and signed. The ordinance states the town will open a maintenance savings account in accordance with ACT 605.

Phase 2B, for the generator and propane tank to be placed at the transfer station, has been approved for forgiveness money with the understanding if it is not complete by the end of the year it will be loan money.

Earnestine has re-sent the renewed plan to both lawyers. Esker Hudspeth's lawyer said he mailed the papers to her a month ago. Mrs. Hudspeth still has not received them. Eric Williams asked how the town can ensure the project is completed on time. Aaron Byrd wants Earnestine to check to see if there is a clause to get an extension if one is needed. Rick VanEvera read over the paperwork sent from ANRC and stated it says it will take 12 weeks to get generator in. Rick VanEvera wants Earnestine to call the lawyers and find out where we stand on the easement.

The Big Flat meeting has been moved to February 27 due to scheduling conflict. Big Flat recently took their engineer into the pump station to look at wiring to see about putting a generator in. Big Flat does not have town council's approval. Aaron Byrd stated he was against it them putting in a

generator. Rick VanEvera said he'd be for it if Big Flat would turn ownership of the generator over to Fifty Six.

Fire Department business:

Fire Chief Aaron Byrd informed council he recently had 7 members test for first responder and 6 passed. The department now has 8 certified first responders.

The fire department will be holding a raffle at the fireworks show. They will raffle off a gun, tv, and gift certificate, tickets are not available yet.

Chief Byrd has had contact with a food truck to potentially set up at the park the day of the fireworks. Instead of charging a fee to set up the fire department will ask for a donation.

Council to consider possible candidates to fill vacant council seat.

Candidates are Tim Hudspeth, Linda Baca, and Richard Wible. Candidates were asked why they want to be on council. They all answered to help the city. The candidates were asked what would the first change they'd like to see. Linda Baca stated she wants all council members to face residents during meetings. Richard Wible stated he'd like interaction with the residents. Tim Hudspeth would like to see better communication. Recorder Christina Byrd asked what change they'd like to make for the community. Linda Baca said she'd like to have a community event to bring residents together. Richard Wible said he'd like to look over financials before answering. Tim Hudspeth stated he'd like to improve the way the city looks. Richard Wible suggested having a community work day. Rick VanEvera stated he did not see the demand to fill the vacant seat. Aaron Byrd stated the town was founded on a 5 member council and it should be such. Rick VanEvera agreed.

Eric Williams put in his written resignation. He no longer wishes to be on council effective immediately.

Aaron Byrd made a motion to table the voting for a new council member until next months meeting. Rick VanEvera 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL IN FAVOR.

Rick VanEvera made a motion to adjourn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR.