

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

Town Council Meeting
July 13, 2026

Members present were Tim Hudspeth, Aaron Byrd, Rick VanEvera, Lisa VanEvera, and Richard Wible.

Visitors present were Kim Hudspeth, Becky Feregson, Larry Treat, Mike and Judy Balentine, Marilyn Treat, Dove Wible, Tony Hudspeth, Linda Baca, and Lora Curtis.

Prayer was said by Tim Hudspeth.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

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

Christina Byrd read the previous month's minutes. Lisa VanEvera made a motion to accept the minutes. 2nd by Rick VanEvera. ALL IN FAVOR.

Christina Byrd read the financial summary. A motion to accept the financial statements was made by Rick VanEvera and 2nd by Lisa VanEvera. ALL IN FAVOR.

Aaron Byrd talked to Brad Fulks with ARDOT about removing ORV signs in Fifty Six. Brad said he will check into the possibility of the signs being moved outside town limits.

Parts for the transfer station have not come in yet. Both Tim and Delvin have touched base with Travis Trammell and both were assured Travis would follow up with checking on status again.

Travis Trammell is supposed to start on the baseball field this week.

Only about half of the fire district have paid fire dues. Rick VanEvera asked if there was a way to force people to pay. There is not a way.

There is still a leak on Gaylor by the church that cannot be located. The leak is losing 23 gallons a minutes, which cost the town approximately \$2,000 a month. The line in the creek is a 2 inch and the line on the hill is a 4 inch. Delvin is still waiting on ARWA and Don Smith to coordinate a time to come help locate the leak. The idea of replacing that line was brought up. Delvin will gather information to see approximately what the cost would be. The website letters are going to cost \$500 to send out, council agree they want to proceed. Christina Byrd has asked the auxiliary for volunteers preparing envelopes and letters to be mailed.

Tony Chadwick has vacated the old school building. All his belongings have been removed and school is cleaner than it was when he moved in.

Tony Hudspeth was on the agenda. Tony was upset about the article in the paper referencing the possibility of a sales tax. Hudspeth Sawmill was referenced as "a sawmill" while other town businesses were listed by name. Hudspeth Sawmill has been part of the town for several generations and has been a large contributor to the town. Earnestine apologized and explained that the editor of the paper was responsible for the way it was worded.

Becky Feregson was on the agenda. She expressed concern about the article referencing the sales tax. The article stated that the tax would bring in \$50-\$600 a year revenue for the

town. She is concerned people will not vote in favor of the tax if that is all the revenue it will bring in. Earnestine said those are the figures she gave the newspaper after doing some figuring on income. Becky was also concerned that the article stated the old school building was in bad condition. She feels it will detour potential renters from being interested.

Earnestine explained that the editor of the paper requested several month's minutes. She was provided them as they are public information. The editor then created an article on her own.

Fire Chief, Aaron Byrd, gave a statement of a potential county wide fire department "tanker squad". All fire departments must be in agreeance in order for it to go into affect. The "tanker squad" would automatically send a tanker from each department to assist with the department that is attending to a fire.

All the parts for the repeater are in and ready to be put up. The fire department is currently awaiting the frequency to be issued. Glenn Crymes got parts for the receiver from different sources to save money. The Fifty Six Fire Department cost is approximately \$7,500. ACT 833 money will be used to fund the majority of the project. Having a repeater in place will help the department radios, by volunteers being able to communicate better.

Blanchard Springs met with Earnestine, Aaron, and Delvin. They are wanting the cave and park to connect to the Fifty Six Water System. The meter would be placed at the Highway 87 junction. Forestry will be responsible for the under the road boar that will be necessary for the hook up. Fire Chief, Aaron Byrd, requested they put in more fire hydrants and they agreed they would. Forestry will be responsible for maintaining the entirety of the line starting at Hwy. 87. This connection will not affect the pressure of the current Fifty Six residents.

The auxiliary will be holding a "back to school bash" on August 8th at the town park. They will be giving out school supplies.

There is no update on the induvial that expressed interest in renting the old school building. It was brought up again that Joe Forte has offered to donate items he acquires from estate sells to the town. There was discussion of utilizing part of the old school for a re-sale shop. There would need to be an accessible bathroom. It was brought up a possible mini split be put in to furnish heat and a/c. Rick VanEvera expressed concern about acquiring too many things and having an abundance of items that would need to be hauled off. Tim Hudspeth suggested not taking everything Joe wants to donate. Aaron Byrd is also concerned about what would be donated and how much. There would need to be volunteers to have the shop open.

The possibility of putting walls back up in the old school and renting it out as storage units. Earnestine will need to check into legality of this and insurance.

Tim Hudspeth made a motion to adjourn and 2nd by Richard Wible. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor, Earnestine McDaniel

Reorder/Treasurer, Christina Byrd