

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

Town Council Meeting  
June 8, 2026

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

Visitors present were Billy Mitchell, Becky Ferguson, Larry Treat, Mike and Judy Balentine, Marilyn Treat, Lora Curtis, Scott Wible, Dove Wible, Eric Williams, and Kim Hudspeth.

Prayer was said by Tim Hudspeth.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Mayor Earnestine McDaniel. Recorder/Treasurer, Christina Byrd read minutes from previous month's meeting and special meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Tim Hudspeth and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR

Christina Byrd read the financial summary. A motion was made to accept the financial statements by Tim Hudspeth and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Wible. ALL IN FAVOR.

Tim Hudspeth asked all accounts be added to the financial summary. Earnestine McDaniel checked into mass communications and Text.Gov is \$1,500 a quarter and IRIS is \$1,500 a year. Christina Byrd informed council it would be money wise to use the past website, MyRuralWater.com, as alerts can also be sent out. The cost of the website is \$800 a year. Tim Hudspeth suggested the Town send letters to residents informing them about the website and instructions to register. After discussion the council agreed that would be best. Christina Byrd will ask for volunteers to label and stuff envelopes. Residents must register themselves on the website for alerts. Richard Wible asked that a notification be put in the paper and on the radio informing people of the website. Tim Hudspeth made a motion to restart the past website and utilize it for alerts. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Byrd. ALL IN FAVOR.

Aaron Byrd would like to check into getting a grant for NOAA weather radios for residents to ensure those without internet access would also be alerted of weather conditions.

The Town currently has 3 loans. 2 with ANRC and 1 with USDA. The USDA loan is projected to be paid off in 2040. 1 loan with ANRC has 2 payments of \$15,575 left to pay off. The other loan with ANRC had a payment of \$11,000 that was paid in April. An interest payment of \$1,400 has been being paid toward the interest since 2024. The check was returned for overpayment and a payment of \$2,500 was made. No more payments on that loan are scheduled. The Mayor is waiting to hear from ANRC on the next step. Council would like the money, that was being used for interest payment, to go toward the existing loan with ANRC. Tim Hudspeth made a motion that \$1,000 a month be paid toward principal and the other \$400 remain in O&M for emergency events. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Wible. ALL IN FAVOR. Earnestine will make sure there is no penalty for early pay off.

The county sanitation station will no longer be accepting used tires for disposal. All large tires (i.e. tractor tires) must be taken to Little Rock and smaller tires (i.e. vehicle tires) must be taken to Batesville.

Mayor McDaniel has completed all the paperwork to have the sales tax put on the November ballot. She was informed that she has to wait until at least 120 days before the election to file with the county clerk.

Water loss was at 47%. The scada system at the transfer station is still not working after being struck by lightning. Richard Wible suggested looking into a surge protector. Tim Hudspeth will contact Travis to see if it is an option and to check on status of parts. Travis Trammell has ordered parts and waiting for them to come in. Due to unforeseen circumstances the little tower overflowed last month and that is why water loss continues to be high. Since then Earnestine and Christina have been trained on how to operate the pump at the transfer station. The generator alarm recently went off and Travis will have to come inspect it to figure out why.

Richard Wible talked to Brayden Morrison and the DEF delete parts for the newer trash truck are in. The truck is scheduled to be at his shop this Wednesday after the trash route has been completed. Rick VanEvera has not had an opportunity to drive the old trash truck.

Ordinances 137 and 138, about rate increase for 2025 and 2026, were signed. The leak in the Gaylor creek was fixed. The line in the creek has been replaced. When pressure was built up the line above the creek split and the location is unknown. ARWA and Don Smith will coordinate a date with Delvin Freeman, for all parties to be present, and continue to look for the leak. ARWA will bring their correlator and Don will be ready to spot dig.

The water line on Highway 87 is approximately 26 years old.

Beck Ferguson was on the agenda. She asked that the auxiliary be given permission to have a key to the DAV so they are able to prepare for events and restock their supplies. President, Kim Hudspeth, will be the key holder. Lisa VanEvera made a motion to allow the auxiliary to have a key. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Byrd. Richard Wible yay, Rick VanEvera yay. Tim Hudspeth abstained. Lisa VanEvera stated she really appreciates all that the auxiliary is doing. At the last auxiliary event there were 41 people that attended. Becky Ferguson also asked that it be weeded under the play ground equipment before their event Saturday.

Earnestine has talked to Travis Trammell about the ball park. They agreed the project will wait to start until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

The condition of the tennis court was brought up. The weeds and brush growing in the fence will need to be removed and the leaves and pine needles will also need cleaned out. If this is not done the firework show will be cancelled. All of Stone Co. will be shooting off fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The auxiliary will be cooking for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

An add will be posted in the paper informing the public of all activities.

Aaron Byrd has been approached about the possibility of someone leasing the old school building. The person is potentially looking for a place to lease to store products for chicken houses (no food). Council agreed they would consider a proposal from him. Tony Chadwick was supposed to have all his belongings cleaned out by June 1 and still has not got them all out. The council agreed, Earnestine must give him a written notice that the school will be secured and possession of all items in school will be taken as of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Aaron Byrd will check to see if getting prisoners from the Calico Prison is an option. Earnestine will check into how much a roll off dumpster rental will be. Aaron has made it known no big trucks will be allowed access. Linda Baca suggested that Tony be charged for cleanup. Christina Byrd informed council that the burn pile Tony has on the backside of the building has gotten bigger, he was previously asked not to burn anymore. Richard Wible suggested putting roll up doors at the entrances of the building to secure it. Tim Hudspeth made a motion to take action on eviction. Aaron Byrd 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL IN FAVOR.

The council passed an ordinance, allowing off road vehicles, to utilize all roads inside Town limits. It was brought to council's attention there are State

Highway signs inside town limits that are still up. Aaron will contact Brad Fulks with the highway department to request signs be removed.  
The auxiliary asked that a new mop, dust mop, and broom be purchased for the DAV.  
Tim Hudspeth asked that the yield sign on Mitchell be moved to Gaylor.  
Joe Forte reached out, via Facebook, with a proposal to help the town with getting a resale shop started in Fifty Six. Council tabled the matter.  
Aaron Byrd made a motion to adjourn and Rick VanEvera 2<sup>nd</sup>. ALL IN FAVOR.

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Mayor, Earnestine McDaniel

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Recorder/Treasurer, Christina Byrd