**CITY OF GUTHRIE**

 **COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 10, 2025, 7:00pm**

 Present Absent

Council Members Zollie Rose

 Harry Green

 Norma Williams

 Russ Longhurst

 Andrea Milkowski

 Chad Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hours. There was a quorum present.

**Public Comments:** Joanie Fendler had some concerns she wanted to share with the council regarding the concession stand/bathroom park bids and the police raise. She asked why the council tabled the vote to accept the bid at last meeting. She said the citizens, especially the children need this park to grow, so it can be enjoyed by all. It is looking to bring in North Clarksville kids who will visit and spend money in our city. She wondered why there were any question as to accepting the low bid as it made no financial sense to accept one $45,000 higher just because they were friends with certain council members. Councilman Longhurst spoke up and said they tabled it as a courtesy to the council member who is absent from the meeting tonight. She needed more time to look it over and compare and they extended her that time. Ms. Fendler said she can understand courtesies, but it was silly to entertain a bid that was $45,000 higher in the first place when the funds weren’t even there for the higher bid to begin with. Regarding police wages, she mentioned hearing rumors that it was proposed to give the police huge increases that were way out of line with surrounding agencies, so she decided to look into it. She was given the actual amount that the officers would make if the budget was approved, and she felt they were definitely deserving of that raise. She mentioned that they work hard, and they risk their lives for less pay than she made as a teacher. She asked if anyone else would be willing to risk their lives and do their jobs and if not, they need to appreciate them. She also mentioned the incident that happened at hi road and informed that she was caring for her brother who suffers from dementia and that she has to watch him like a hawk. She stated he can get mean and violent, and it is hard for other people to know what’s wrong, so we can’t fault our officer for anything he did that

night.

Laquita Talley mentioned that Juneteenth was Saturday the 14th and she welcomed all to attend. She, too, has been upset at all the drama and negativity surrounding the police wages. She says this town should stand together in unity and not be so divided. This is her hometown, and she appreciates the police, the mayor and all the city employees and the drama surrounding everyone needs to stop.

Shane Quarles said that he loves working for the city and everyone he works with. He said they are in the trenches working hard every day for this town. He mentioned that Guthrie has come a long way since he moved here 17 years ago, and he will never put up a 2x4 or a piece of metal on anything he does here without taking the utmost pride in it. He will never gouge the city and would like there to be no division in this place he calls home.

**Reading Minutes:** The minutes were read by the City Council Members for the meeting on May 13, 2025. A motion to accept was made by Russ Longhurst and seconded by Zollie Rose. This motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:** The May 2025 financial reports were read by the City Council members and approved as read. A motion to approve was made by Russ Longhurst and seconded by Harry Green. This motion carried unanimously.

**Fire Report:** Chief Clinard gave the report stating that the fire department was good. He mentioned that everyone now has new boots.

**Utility Report:** Benn Stahl gave the report, and it is attached.

**Police Report:** Chief Blumel gave no verbal report but attached is the written one.

**Engineering Report-** Mike McGhee gave the report and it is attached. There was one item presented to the council for a vote. This is the May engineering invoice for the work on the wastewater treatment plant expansion in the amount of $66,125. This will be drawn out of the $2.8 million already received for the project. A motion to approve was made by Harry Green and seconded by Chad Johnson. This motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

1. **2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-2- An Ordinance Relating To The Annual Budget And Appropriations For The City Of Guthrie, Kentucky, For The Fiscal Year Beginning On July 1, 2025-** Zollie Rose mentioned after speaking with Dean, looking at financials from surrounding agencies and completing a ride along with the police department he was comfortable with this year’s budget in particular the police wage increase. He said he would like to see some positive community involvement if there is left over money in the budget. Russ Longhurst said that he was comfortable with this budget after looking at it from a high level and comparing with other cities. This passed with a role call majority of yeas. Voting opposed was Chad Johnson.
2. **Bathroom/Concession Stand Bid Selection-** a motion to accept the low bid from Shane O’s Metal Roofing and Home Repairs in the amount of $113,749.99 was made by Zollie Rose and seconded by Russ Longhurst. This motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

1. **Appointment of Monica Sears to Guthrie Planning Commission-** a motion to accept was made by Chad Johnson and seconded by Harry Green. This motion carried unanimously.
2. **1st Reading Ordinance 2025-5 An Ordinance Establishing Procurement Standards of the City of Guthrie, Kentucky-**reading was held
3. **1st Reading Ordinance 2025-6 An Ordinance of the City of Guthrie, Kentucky Relating to Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles-**reading was held
4. **Chad Johnson -Executive Session- KRS 61.810 *(c) Discussions of proposed* *pending litigation****-*a motion to enter executive session at 19:41 hours because discussions in public could hinder decisions, was made by Harry Green and seconded by Russ Longhurst. This motion carried unanimously. They exited executive session with no action taken.

**Mayor’s FYI-** Russ Longhurst mentioned the new ice cream store that opened up in Guthrie at the Abshire Building. Zollie asked how the meeting with Senator Wilson and Novelis went, and Russ Longhurst responded that it went well.

**Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn at 19:57 hours was made by Harry Green and seconded by

Norma Williams. This motion carried unanimously.

0 hours 57 minutes

Minutes by Alison Blumel, City Clerk Jimmy Covington, Mayor