

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE OZARK CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 8, 2025
OZARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Roxie Hall. Upon a roll call, a quorum was declared. Present were Council Members Argest Hyler, Loren Maier, Charlie Meeker, Summer Miner, Randy Melton and Angela Harris. Also present were Mayor Hall, City Attorney Kevin Barham, City Clerk Susan Stevens, and City Treasurer/Deputy City Clerk Marla Ward. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of former Mayor Vernon McDaniel followed by the invocation given by Mayor Hall. Main Street Director Justin McCormick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Randy Melton to approve the minutes of the November meeting and was seconded by Loren Maier. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the minutes were approved. Randy Melton then made a motion to approve the financial reports and was seconded by Argest Hyler. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the financial reports were approved.

The Water Department reports 33 locates for Arkansas One Call. Repairing several small leaks and jetting several sewers. The plans to upgrade the Helberg and Butterball Vaults were approved by the Health Department and we will begin bidding that out beginning December 4th. Radio read meters are continuing to die and being replaced as we can with new meters. We are working to get quotes on rebuilding the clarifier at the sewer plant. One quote came in for a partial rebuild. There were 2 water main breaks. Paperwork was sent to Arkansas Rural Water for the rate study. Water Department Superintendent Roy Sampley stated that Matt Phillips submitted the lowest bid (\$208,000.00) for the Helberg Vault project. Randy Melton made a motion to accept this bid and was seconded by Angela Harris. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

The Community Center reports that space rental is free for now for Food Trucks to possibly bring in more trucks. Various specials throughout the month will be posted on Facebook. A reminder to all Employees/Council Members – all employee memberships are Free; the family is 50% off. Rentals are 50% off. This only includes family members living in your household. Christmas Time is here. We have a 20% OFF membership special for the month of December. Also, buy 5 Day Passes, get 1 FREE. Buy 10 Day Passes, get 2 free. Great for stocking stuffers. Hoping to do some kind of drawing or contest for memberships. Letters to

Santa information has been sent out and posted online and on Facebook! *Don't forget to bring letters to Santa by with included return address to receive a letter from Santa!

Community Center Holiday Hours: Tuesday, December 23 – Close at 5pm. Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day) CLOSED, Wednesday, December 31 – (New Year's Eve) – close at 5pm, Thursday, January 1 – (New Year's Day) – CLOSED

The Street Department reports setting up Christmas lights downtown. They replaced two culverts on 15th Street and one on College Street. Our Paving is complete. We paved South 34th, the road at West Side Park to the pavilion, the road in the cemetery by the new section, 15th Street, 9th Street, Tucker Street, and Gar Creek Lane.

The Fire Department reports 67 calls for November with 106 hours, 33 minutes on-scene time. All inspections on Casey's remodel were completed. There are continued inspections on the new Mexican Restaurant, 36th Street additions, River Street remodel, Lou Thompson building and rezone requests.

The Ozark Police Department reports 40 arrests, 45 reports, 19 accidents, 59 subpoenas served, 4 City ordinance warnings, 0 City ordinance tickets, 1 motorist assist, 1 dog/cat picked up. 53 traffic tickets, and 424 traffic warnings. They hosted a monthly SRT training, the Arkansas Probation and Parole used our training facility, the FBI Regional SWAT used our training facility, the Conway SWAT used our training facility, and a monthly DHS MDT county meeting was held. Brayden English went to work at the Crawford County Sheriff's office. Brody Bowles moved to patrol officer. We hired Patrick Hardy as a Code Enforcement Office. Patrick started his law enforcement career in 1992 as a Louisiana Sheriff's Deputy. He left law enforcement in 2011 to work in the oil fields. Patrick's dad retired from law enforcement and Patrick's six brothers and his sons are in law enforcement. Shop With a Cop is December 8th and 9th at the Ozark Walmart at 9:00am each day.

Parks & Recreation met on November 18th. They are looking to add more party rooms at the Community Center. West Side Park is in good shape. Billy McChristian presented an idea of possibly adding an archery range at the East End of the park where the horseshoe pits are located currently. There are some grants available from the state and private companies. It was brought up again about some land possibly being donated to the City to extend the walking trail from West Park to near the ATU Campus. New Playground equipment has been purchased and should be installed around the first of the new year. The Splash Pad is closed for the season. There was discussion regarding possible plans for new restrooms at the East Side Park. Also discussion of turning one of the tennis courts into a pickle ball court. The Overlook Park is looking good. The local Scouts of America are interested in used some of the land that is included in the City's lease of the park for Scout functions. We will have more information at the next meeting.

December 15, 2025 will be the next working budget meeting. There was no Policy & Personnel Committee meeting due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Old Business:

January 6, 2026 at 10:30 is the scheduled closing date on The Model Café

Kimbrough Building – The heirs to the property have voted to cede the property to the City of Ozark.

The paperwork regarding the CARDS, Inc rate increase was left out of the council packets, so will be discussed next month.

Mayor Roxie Hall: The city attorney contract should be under old business since it was discussed last month. It was sent out to each council member. I waited three days before signing for any input and received none so the contract was signed.

Charlie Meeker: We tabled that last month.

RH: Not according to the minutes.

Kevin Barham: The contract was discussed.

CM: We tabled it.

KB: The Council instructed that the contract be put in writing.

CM: And we tabled it.

KB: We tabled the issue of whether the A&P representation would be included in the job duties of the city attorney.

CM: That was not my...

KB: I have minutes.

CM: You're telling me that it is legal for the Mayor to sign a contract that the Council didn't approve?

KB: The contract was authorized in 2019.

CM: This contract wasn't.

KB: This contract was approved in 2019 as an oral agreement with the Mayor. The Council wanted it in writing and it was reduced to writing per the authorization of Resolution 2019-3. The issue being discussed under old business was the representation of the A&P. That was the motion that was tabled. You made the motion to table the discussion and had a second

CM: ...the discussion of the contract...

KB: Kevie Haberer spoke regarding the request that the city attorney also represent the A&P. The issue of the contract—I didn't know it was an issue---is that you guys said it needed to be in writing.

CM: Yeah, this contract is garbage, I'll just tell you.

KB: Is there a problem with the contract?

CM: Yes, I do have a problem with this contract. I don't think it's lawful that Roxie signed it without our agreement. But you're saying it is so we'll go from there.

KB: I'm saying that it was authorized in 2019 by Resolution for her to enter into a contract. The Resolution is included in the agenda/packet.

CM: I think you're using some fancy legal terms here and I will be investigating this further. I do have it on record that you said it was legal and that's what I wanted.

KB: I'm sorry?

CM: I do have it on record that you said it was legal and that's what I wanted.

New Business:

Shari Grigsby will be rotating off the A&P Commission. There were two individuals discussed –Tina Lewis and Emily McCraw. Angela Harris made a motion to appoint Emily McCraw (ABC Brewing Co) to the open position. She was seconded by Loren Maier. Upon a roll call vote all council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Director of Main Street Ozark Justin McCormick gave information on a \$50,000.00 grant they have received from T-Mobile. It will go toward an interactive water feature on the east side of town. This location needs to be close to downtown, the stages (Bank OZK and Gar Creek) etc. This would put it either by the Depot Museum or the Post Office. Renderings of the project will be available soon. They would like any overages to be covered by donations or private sponsors through Main Street Ozark. September 19, 2026 is the deadline for completion.

Resolution 2025-8 "A Resolution Making Note of the Defeat of Ordinance 2025-3 Upon Referendum and for Other Purposes." Loren Maier made a motion for the resolution to be read and was seconded by Angela Harris. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and Mr. Barham read the resolution. Randy Melton then made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Summer Miner. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and Resolution 2025-8 was approved.

A motion was made by Argest Hyler and seconded by Angela Harris to add Resolution 2025-7 "A Resolution in Support of Reviving the State-Run Federal Surplus Property Program Administered by the State of Arkansas" to the agenda and have it read aloud. Upon a roll call

vote, all council members voted aye and the resolution was added. Mr. Barham then read the resolution. Randy Melton made a motion to approve and was seconded by Summer Miner. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and Resolution 2025-7 was approved.

A motion was made by Angela Harris and seconded by Loren Maier to add Ordinance 2025-16 “An Ordinance Evidencing the Intent of the City of Ozark, Arkansas to elect its Council Members by Ward; Declaring an Emergency for Other Purposes; and for an Emergency” to the agenda and have it read aloud.. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the ordinance was added. Mr. Barham then read the ordinance. A motion was made by Randy Melton and seconded by Loren Maier to dispense with the 2nd and 3rd readings and proceed by title only. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and Mr. Barham read the title two times. A request for an approval motion was made. Charlie Meeker requested discussion. He would rather stay with our current at-large process but would like to table the ordinance for further discussion and clarification. A motion was made by Charlie Meeker to table the ordinance until a Special Meeting to be held Monday, December 15th at 5:30pm ahead of the scheduled Budget Meeting. This motion was seconded by Argest Hyler and upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Public Input:

Kevie Haberer from the A&P: First, I want to ask the council...I see how other commissions give a report each month and I think it is a good idea for the A&P to report. Like tonight's vote replacing Shari Grigsby since y'all actually control who is on the board, so y'all do have control. The second thing is that the way that Roxie and Kevin Barham handled the contract deal tonight was very disrespectful to the city council and I'm sorry that happened to y'all because my understanding from Phillip at the ARML was that the council dictates the contract. So I'm sorry that happened to y'all and hope it will resolve in the future.

Announcements:

*The Christmas Parade and Christmas on the Square will be this Saturday, December 13th, 2025 beginning at 5:00pm. The parade is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm.

*On December 15th, organizations that will be requesting money from the city will meet at the City Hall Meeting Room immediately following the Special City Council meeting.

*City Offices and the Community Center will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24th, and Christmas Day, December 25th.

*They will also be closed New Year's Day, January 1, 2026.

*All 2026 business license renewal letters will be going out the last week of December and are \$25.00 if paid by January 31, 2026

A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Melton and seconded by Loren Maier. Upon a roll call vote, all council members voted aye and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes for the Ozark City Council Meeting held Monday, December 8, 2025 were approved and passed this ~~12th~~ day of ~~January~~, 2026.

9th February -88

Roxie Hall

Mayor Roxie Hall

Susan Stevens

City Clerk Susan Stevens

