

Council Meeting

May 12th 2026

Mayor Randy Jones called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: Ken Collins, Allan Adelman, Debra Rice were present. TJ Duncan was absent.

Agenda: Dan Muter was not present. Candidate Scott Cochran for full time public works position was present. The council and Mayor went over his application and asked him a few questions. Allan motioned to go into executive session at 6:42pm to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel (job applicant for public works) to include applicant Scott Cochran, City Clerk Amy Tucker, and Public Works Superintendent Ernie Chase and open meeting to resume at 7:00PM, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Debra motioned to return to regular session, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Ken motioned to hire Scott Cochran full time public works dept. at \$17.00 per hour with a 60day probation period, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Keegan Donovan owner of 116 Walnut that was condemned was present. He has torn the trailer down, but has not hauled it off yet. He needs 30 more days. Debra thinks he deserves the extra time. He worked really hard and really late. Allan thinks maybe give him until the next meeting. Randy states if it is not done, the city will finish it and bill him.

Ken motions to extend the clean up for 30 more days, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to pay the bills in the amount of \$130,369.11, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to approve the April minutes, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Liz Hart read the treasurer's report in Toni Duncan's absence.

Ken motioned to approve the report, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Accountant Liz Hart gave her monthly budget report. It is getting to be budget time. They need to be thinking about projects or anything they see coming to put in the budget for 2027. Liz says last year they were able to transfer into the capital improvement fund. She thinks they will be able to it again this year. Randy asks if they can use capital improvement money for grant match funds. Liz says yes, they can. Allan asks what the success rate is for Mulberry to get grants. It seems like other towns get more. Amy stated that is because they have the match money. Liz says they need to talk to Jim Emerson so that they know they

city wants our special assessments we have on the properties going up for tax sale. If they do not pay the assessment, we want the property.

Unfinished business: Demolished church on Clemens: Randy says Greg Baker is having trouble proving he owns it in order to give it to his sister Kim. They need to send a letter asking for an update, and give them 30 days to get it cleaned up. Storm Siren grant: still waiting on FEMA to release the funds to county.

Randy says last month they were given a draft of the new Ordinance regarding building or installing new dwellings or structures. If no one has any changes, they need to adopt it.

Allan motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-03, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

At the last meeting it was discussed to start the process to condemn 109 E 9th. They need to pass a Resolution to hold a hearing. Allan motioned to pass Resolution 2026-16 to condemn 109 E 9th, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

At the April meeting the hearings were held to condemn 201 Elm, 704 S. Military, 410 S Military, and 116 Walnut. The owners of 410 S Military and 116 Walnut have torn down the structures themselves. They need to open the bids for 201 Elm and 704 S Military.

City clerk opened bids from Mid America Sanitation, Jones Land Services, and Foxwell Holdings.

Allan motioned to accept the lowest bid from Foxwell Holdings to demo and remove 201 Elm for \$1,000, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to accept the lowest bid from Foxwell Holdings to demo and remove 704 S Military for \$1,800, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Allan discussed the empty trailer at 108 Sycamore. He said the siding is falling off and laying all over the yard. It is an eye sore. They council agreed. Allan motioned to condemn 108 Sycamore, there was no 2nd, the motion died. Randy says to send the owner a letter asking them to come to the next meeting to discuss their plans with the property.

City Clerk Amy Tucker explained to the council that after RJ graduated the academy he has not come back to work. He has taken a job with Arma Police Dept. She has sent them a letter along with documentation that Arma needs to reimburse Mulberry the expense of training RJ. She is waiting to hear back from them. The league is hosting a city forum in Chanute May 21st, if the council wants to go they must register by tomorrow. Ken says he is already registered through the State to attend. Debra and Allan have to work.

Randy and the council looked over the 3 resumes for the Police Chief position. Randy and TJ will make initial contact and then present them to the council. Randy has talked with the

sheriff and they will come over and patrol. Alex is also here part time. Randy says they need to look into raising wages for the part time and full time police.

Fire Dept: Ernie Chase says they have not had any fire calls, only medical calls. They will wash the streets before Homecoming.

City Plant: Ernie says they had a sewer pump issue. He had to rent a fresh air machine to be able to go down in the manhole. He had to buy a part for \$1,500. USG came and did the maintenance on the water tower. The inspection went well. He has set a couple electric poles. He needs to get more wire to finish up the new service on Oak street.

Dwayne patched some pot holes. They need to set back some money to get asphalt in September. The new swing set and climber are at the ball park. The stuff for the outfield fence came in today.

The concrete is ordered for the gazebo. Randy said Mike Evans had given a bid of \$1,200 to finish it, but he is not going to do it. Randy thinks they should pay Mike Gebelin the \$1,200 for doing it. Allan motioned to pay Mike Gebelin \$1,200 to finish the concrete, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Debra had nothing else.

Allan says heard from a lot of residents that they want a Dollar General. He sent an email, and got a reply. The request was denied. They think Mulberry is too small, and not near a highway. Ken says he has issues with Dollar General. He put up a good portion of his retirement to open his store. People would come in and comment they wished they had a Dollar General. Ernie said he had the same issue when he tried to have his store. They did not get enough support. Ken says St Paul has a city ran store. They could talk to the Mayor about it. Becky Walden says nothing against Ken but he couldn't always be there to run his store. Liz says maybe Susie Boldrini might have some ideas. Randy says they do need some kind of general store.

Ken says he talked with Randy about a grant from the Masonic Foundation. They would have to get a lodge to sponsor them. He says maybe talk to Stan Jayhay. He is a member of the Garland lodge. The Memphis Masonic Lodge.

Randy says they received a special invitation for the Pritchett Grant, but they deadline is approaching.

Ken thinks they should talk to Ryan with IT and see what it would cost to get equipment to stream the meetings. Allan thinks it would cost too much. They would need microphones and cameras. He would rather spend the money on something else. Randy says they could get a quote and see.

Debra motions to go into executive session at 8:26 pm to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel and include Amy and Ernie and return at 8:40pm, Allan 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to go back into regular session, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Allan motioned to adjourn, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Meeting to adjourned at 8:42 PM