

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OZARK, ALABAMA  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Ozark, Alabama, met in Special Session in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Complex at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, April 30, 2015. Upon roll call the following members were present:

Present:        Billy Blackwell, Mayor  
                  Frank Garrett, Councilmember, Place No. 1  
                  Mike Barefield, Councilmember, Place No. 2  
                  Winston T. Jackson, Councilmember, Place No. 3  
                  Andy Gilland, Councilmember, Place No. 4  
                  Anthony Hill, Councilmember, Place No. 5

Absent:         None

Melissa Robinson, who acted as clerk of the meeting, Marlos Walker, Steve Sketo, Steve Price, Steve Sherrill, Larry Minton, Tim Hicks, Frankey Peterman, Denise Strickland, Stephanie Blankenship, Denise Ellis and Joe Adams were also present.

President Gilland gave the prayer followed by Mayor Blackwell leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Gilland stated the purpose of the meeting was to appoint a Fire Chief. He informed the Council that Captain Jason Maertens, Ozark Fire Department, had requested to speak before the Council in support of Steve Sketo to be appointed Fire Chief. The Council agreed to hear from Captain Maertens.

Captain Maertens read a letter of support and request for the City Council to consider selecting Chief Steve Sketo as the Fire Chief, which was signed by everyone employee of the Fire Department and EMS. Captain Maertens informed Mayor Blackwell and the Council the support was strictly voluntary. He explained that not only has Chief Sketo been appointed twice as Interim Fire Chief, the moral in the department has improved tremendously, numerous safety concerns within the department have been addressed and corrected and he has identified much needed improvements to operating guidelines and ISO requirements. Captain Maertens closed by thanking the Council for their consideration.

Mayor Blackwell informed everyone he doesn't have any question about Steve Sketo. He said this was an example to the employee in the Fire Department and EMS that just like them he started at the bottom and moved up in the department. Mayor Blackwell said this is a monumental statement in Ozark of these employees support.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to go into Executive Session, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Hill. The voted was recorded to wit: Ayes: Councilmembers Jackson and Hill. Nays: Councilmembers Garrett, Barefield and Gilland. President Gilland declared the motion failed.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 6, 2015  
PAGE 2**

Mayor Blackwell and Councilmember Jackson left the Council Chambers.

President Gilland commended the Fire Department and EMS employees for coming and supporting Steve Sketo.

Mayor Blackwell and Councilmember Jackson returned to the Council Chambers.

President Gilland asked Mayor Blackwell if he had a recommendation for the Fire Chief. Mayor Blackwell recommended Steve Sketo as Fire Chief. Councilmember Barefield made a motion to nominate Steve Sketo as Fire Chief, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Garrett. The Council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

Steve Sketo thanked Mayor Blackwell, the Council and the Fire Department and EMS employees.

Councilmember Barefield reminded everyone that on Tuesday, 10:00 A.M. the Military Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Army Aviation Birthday at the Ann Rudd Art Center with the speaker being General Pete Berry.

Mayor Blackwell reminded everyone of the AUSA Luncheon on Friday, at 11:00 A.M. at the Daleville Cultural Center.

Councilmember Jackson reminded everyone of the Boys and Girls Club Steak and Burger Dinner, Thursday at 6:00 P.M. at the Ozark Civic Center.

With there being no further business to come before this Special Council Meeting of April 6, 2015, Councilmember Garrett moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Jackson. The Council voted unanimously in favor thereof.

---

Presiding Officer

---

City Clerk