ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER
ITEM 2: INVOCATION
ITEM 3: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ITEM 4: REVIEW MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4 BOARD MEETING
ITEM 5: REQUEST FROM DR. LADELL DOUGLAS
ITEM 6: REQUEST TO AID SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
ITEM 7: PRESENTATION FROM HOPE WATER & LIGHT
ITEM 8: CONSIDER ORDINANCE: GENERAL MILLAGE
ITEM 9: CONSIDER ORDINANCE: FIREMEN’S MILLAGE
ITEM 10: CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
ITEM 11: CITIZENS REQUESTS
The City of Hope Board of Directors met at 7:00 PM October 4, 2016 with the following present:

- Catherine Cook, City Manager
- Joe Short, City Attorney
- Connie Lavender, City Clerk

Directors:  
Dennis Ramsey, Mayor  
Steve Montgomery, Vice Mayor  
Mark Ross  
Willie Walker  
Don Still  
Don Hall  
Kiffinea Talley

Mayor Ramsey called the meeting to order. Don Still opened the meeting with prayer. Mayor Ramsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting. Steve Montgomery made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Don Still. All present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ITEM 5: PRESENTATION OF 2015 CITY OF HOPE AUDIT REPORT

Stacy Scroggins with Emrich and Scroggins, LLP, CPAs gave a report on the City of Hope audit. Mr. Scroggins told the board of some requirement changes to improve accounting and financial reporting and has to do with pensions relating
to GASB 68. He also stated the City was strong and was spending less than taking in. Mayor Ramsey thanked Mr. Scroggins for the report.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING: ALLEY CLOSING WINN’S ADDITION

Mayor Ramsey closed the Board meeting for a public hearing to discuss the closing of an alley in the Winns Addition. Walker Rental Properties, Inc has petition the Board to vacate and abandon a portion of the alley between lots 4, 5 and 6 and lot 27. There was no one at the public hearing to comment so Mayor Ramsey closed the public hearing and call the Board meeting to reconvene. Mayor Ramsey asks City Attorney Joe Short to read the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 1621

AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: “AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF THAT CERTAIN PLATTED AND DEDICATED ALLEY BEING SITUATED BETWEEN LOTS 4, 5, 6 AND 27 OF WINN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HOPE, ARKANSAS”

Mayor Ramsey for a motion to suspend the rules. Don Still made a motion to suspend the rules; Mark Ross seconded the motion. Roll was called. All voted “Aye.” Mayor Ramsey asked if there was a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Don Still made the motion; seconded by Mark Ross. All present voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

ITEM 7: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH HEMPSTEAD HALL

Mayor Ramsey tabled item 7.

ITEM 8: PROPOSED STATE POLICE LEASE

City Manager Catherine Cook presented the Board with a request from the Arkansas State Police to renew their lease for an additional year on the existing
term of $600.00 per year. Vice Mayor Steve Montgomery made a motion to accept the request, seconded by Kiffinea Talley. All present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ITEM 9: PROPOSED REFINANCING: 2013 WASTEWATER BONDS

Catherine Cook gave a report on her findings to refinance the 2013 Wastewater Bond and extend the term for an addition five years. She stated she had been working with Stephen, Inc. and Crews & Associates. Stephen, Inc suggests a three year extension and generates $1.27M and Crews & Associates suggest a five year extension which will generate $2.054M. Kiffinea Talley made a motion to work with Crews & Associates, seconded by Mark Ross. All present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ITEM 10: CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Cook gave a report on some vandalism going on at the Hope Fair Park. Cook noted the vandalism was being done in broad daylight. Damage has been done to the Community Center and also to some equipment windows parked at the Community Center. She also stated there has been an increase in surveillance cameras to catch who is doing this. Cook also asked the Board about when they wanted to have the annual Tour of Facilities. The Board asked her to set a date for after the election in November.

ITEM 11: CITIZENS REQUEST

Jay Kopecky addressed the Board to thank them for allowing him to attend the Arkansas Airport Managers Convention in Texarkana.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
ITEM 5: REQUEST FROM DR. LADELL DOUGLAS

Dr. Ladell Douglass has presented the following request for use of the Northside Park Community Center for the Hope Rockers Dance Troupe. I have the request for your information. While it is not addressed specifically in the information, I am assuming that the request includes no charge for the facilities.
October 14, 2016

To: Hope City Council Members

I am submitting a formal request to allow the use of the Northside Park Community Center for use by the Hope Rockers Dance Troupe under the direction of, Ms. Natasha Martin. The dance troupe would like to use the center to practice their dance routine on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6pm-8pm. This troupe consists of 2 different age groups. There will be eight girls 5-11 years of age and eight girls 11-17 years of age.

They will not be performing at the center for anyone, only practicing their routines. These practices will be supervised by, Mr. Charles Primus or myself in order to ensure that no one other than the dance troupe or their instructor are in attendance.

I feel that this is a reasonable request which help these children develop more self esteem and self discipline.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Ladell Douglas
ITEM 6: REQUEST TO AID SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Mayor Ramsey attended a meeting on Monday, October 10, 2016 which included County Judge Haskell Morse. They were informed that the Southwest Arkansas Development Council, which runs the Senior Center here in Hope, would cease business immediately. The operation of the Senior Center will be taken over by the Area Agency on Aging. In order to fund the first month of service to this center, they will need a contribution of $6,311 which is proposed to come from the City of Hope and Hempstead County. If the Board agrees to this proposition, which would be the only way that the Senior Center can remain open, the City share would be $3155.50. After that initial contribution, they should need no further funds at this time.

The local Senior Center provides meals for approximately 50 seniors a day.
ITEM 7: PRESENTATION FROM HOPE WATER & LIGHT

Hope Water & Light has been working with a private company called GridLiance on a partnership that will involve the possible sale of transmission line assets of the City of Hope which are managed by Hope Water & Light, not distribution lines which serve customers. This project would potentially improve the reliability of the Hope Water & Light system both internally and externally, would allow more reliability for the hospital and University, and also potentially aid in the attraction of economic development prospects.

This is a project which Hope Water & Light has been exploring since early 2016. The Company has visited with Hope Water & Light staff extensively and has made a presentation to the Hope Water & Light Commission. After reviewing the presentation, the Hope Water & Light Commission has unanimously recommended the project to the City of Hope Board of Directors.

This is a complex proposal so at this initial presentation the staff of Hope Water & Light will be represented by Assistant General Manager of Operations Russell Cornelius and GridLiance will bring several staff members to aid in the presentation. There will be an opportunity to see the presentation and to ask questions of Hope Water & Light and GridLiance. There will be no action needed from the Board at this meeting.

At future meetings the Board of Directors can determine the process by which they wish this project to be reviewed by the Board.
ITEM 8: CONSIDER ORDINANCE: GENERAL MILLAGE

The proposed ordinance sets the City’s real and personal property tax rates at 4.2 mills. The City is required by State statute to re-establish the rates each year. The Hempstead County Quorum Court, upon receipt of the ordinance, will formally establish the rates for all taxing entities in the county at their November meeting.

The rate in the ordinance has added 1 mill to the previous year’s ordinance which was set at 3.2 mills last year. The Board had made the decision to raise the millage from 2.2 to 3.2 mills last year, then up to 4.2 for 2017, and up to 5 mills in 2018. This change is in line with previous discussions that the Board has had regarding millage rates on several occasions earlier in the year. Last year the City received approximately $177,869 as a result of this millage, which was down from the previous year. We have not received all of the millage for this year, of course, since most of it is not paid until October so we will not know what the 3.2 mills will generate until late in the year.

The attached ordinance is presented for the Board’s consideration.
ORDINANCE NO. ________

AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY A TAX OF THREE POINT TWO (4.2) MILLS UPON THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HOPE, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 2017, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF HOPE, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That a tax of four point two (4.2) mills be, and the same is hereby levied upon, all taxable property, both real and personal, within the City of Hope, Arkansas, for the year 2016 to be collected in 2017.

SECTION 2: All monies collected and raised by said tax shall constitute a general fund to defray the general and ordinary expenses of the said City of Hope, Arkansas.

SECTION 3: The Clerk of the City of Hope, Arkansas, shall certify this levy to the Clerk of Hempstead County, Arkansas, to be placed upon the books and collected at the same time and in the same manner as State and County taxes are collected.

SECTION 4: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and this ordinance being necessary for the public health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Hope, Arkansas, an emergency is hereby declared, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of October 2016.

________________________________________
Mayor

________________________________________
City Clerk
ITEM 9: CONSIDER ORDINANCE: FIREMEN’S MILLAGE

The proposed ordinance sets the Firemen’s Pension property tax rates at 1 mill for both real and personal property. These rates reflect the results of the November 5, 2002 election.

The rate in the ordinance is unchanged from last year. Last year the Firemen’s Pension Fund received approximately $84,017 as a result of this millage.

The attached ordinance is presented for the Board’s consideration.
ORDINANCE NO. ________

AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY A TAX OF ONE (1) MILL UPON THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HOPE, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 2017, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PENSIONS TO THE RETIRED FIREFIREFIREFIREMEN AND PENSIONS TO THE WIDOWS AND MINOR CHILDREN OF DECEASED AND RETIRED FIREFIREFIREFIREMEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF HOPE, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That a tax of one (1) mill be, and same is hereby levied upon, all taxable property, both real and personal, within the City of Hope, Arkansas, for the year 2016, to be collected in the year 2017.

SECTION 2: All monies collected and raised by said tax shall be used only for the purpose of helping to pay pensions to retired firemen, to widows and minor children of deceased firemen, and to widows and minor children of deceased retired firemen, as now provided by the law.

SECTION 3: The Clerk of the City of Hope, Arkansas, shall certify this levy to the Clerk of Hempstead County, Arkansas, to be placed upon the books and collected at the same time and in the same manner as State and County taxes are collected.

SECTION 4: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, and this ordinance being necessary for the public, health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the City of Hope, Arkansas, an emergency is hereby declared, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of October 2016.

_________________________
Mayor

____________________
City Clerk
ITEM 10:  CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Landfill
2. Wastewater projects