

**RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Special Called Meeting**  
**June 1, 2020** *J.*

Present: Melissa Beatty, Alderman Phyllis Carruth, Dallis Clark, Jamey Ellis, Bryan Fisher, Mayor Richard Harris, Alderman Chris Olson, Terry Thomas, Alderman Mark Tripp, Alderman Eric Westcott

Absent: Johnny Brazil, Greg Hines

Person Recording: Kelli Nealy

Guests: Bob Burris; Hannah Butler-The Courier; Stephanie Casto; Samuel Hughes; Martin Irwin; Gary Knudsen; Troy Norton; Rev. Tom Scott; Megan Selman; Beth Tripp

**Call to Order**

Bryan Fisher called the meeting to order at noon.

**New Business**

**A. Hickey Pool Discussion-**The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of M.J. Hickey Pool. Department Director Terry Thomas addressed those in attendance about the 2020 season and said the opening date is scheduled for Saturday, June 6. The following items were distributed: 2019 daily attendance records at Hickey Pool, project costs and pictures of facilities in Danville and Conway, the 2020 operating budget and seven year trend analysis for Hickey Pool, as well as a breakdown of the 2019 utility expenditures. The floor was then open for discussion. Mayor Richard Harris said after looking at the pool and pool house, the community deserves better, however money is a factor. Alderman Mark Tripp said swimmers attending swim team practice should be included in daily attendance records. Gary Knudsen thought discussions should not be focused on competitive swimming because Hickey Pool is also used by the community for recreation. According to the company developing the Park Master Plan, Russellville is +1 in swimming pools, however it is deficient in splash pads. Martin Irwin said the city would be making a mistake if the outdoor pool were moved to the other side of town. Alderman Olson suggested that the city consult with experts in making decisions regarding the pool. Commissioner Jamey Ellis was interested in the number of people from out of town that attended the Clarksville facility. Mayor Harris said he is intrigued by the number of people in attendance at the meeting which is an indication of the passion the community has for the pool. The commissioners were reminded that the meeting was the first step in the process of making a recommendation to City Council regarding Hickey Pool.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.