



Forrest City Public Library Minutes – December 11, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER – 4:45

II. ROLL CALL

LINDSAY HODGES, CHAIRMAN
KAREN HODGES - *absent*
JEANETTE JENKINS
EVELYN SMITH - *absent*
SANDRA WRIGHT
ARLISA HARRIS

III. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES - Motion to approve the minutes for October 9, 2023, by Sandra Wright and seconded by Jeanette Jenkins. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a. **FINANCIALS** – Memorial account, no change except for small interest paid. The checking account statement showed state aid \$9,263.00 and library fees \$1,213.50. Motion to approve the Financial Statement as presented was made by Jeanette Jenkins and properly seconded by Sandra Wright.
- b. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**– Arlisa reported that she is seeking volunteers for the VITA program and will begin certification to begin filing taxes in January 2024.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **YEAR-END BONUSES** – The Board voted, by email, to give staff year-end bonuses - see attached.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **TRUSTEES’ TERM ENDING 2023** – Arlisa reported that Sandra Wright’s term will end on December 31, 2023. Sandra agreed to stay on the board and a letter will be sent to the mayor’s office recommending that she be reappointed.
- b. **2024 LIBRARY BUDGET** – The board received the proposed budget with recommendations from Mayor Bryant to raise the hourly rate of all part-time to \$12.50, full-time to \$14.00 and include two bonuses in 2024. Arlisa reported that the budget includes raises of \$1.50 for all staff and two bonuses. There was some discussion about being able to afford both bonuses. Arlisa recommended giving raises but deciding next year whether to give both or just one bonus, based on affordability. Motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Sandra Wright and properly seconded by Jeanette Jenkins.
- c. **AUTHOR ELI CRANOR EVENT** – Sponsored by the St. Francis County Community Foundation, this event will be held at the Civic Center and hosted by the library.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **MEMORIAL FOR MARY N. THREAT**- Arlisa reported that \$5,000 was given and the family requested that the money be used for something in the children’s room.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - 5:12

Minutes approved on _____

By _____
Lindsay Hodges, Chairlady