

Veto

Regular City Council Meeting  
November 11, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-44**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS  
AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO PUBLISH  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONCERNING  
FOOD SERVICE AT THE FAIRFIELD BAY  
CONFERENCE CENTER FOR 2025;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*WHEREAS*, The City of Fairfield Bay operates its own Conference Center, which was renovated using a federal grant some years ago; and

*WHEREAS*, The City Council Budget Committee wants to determine if there are vendors interested in providing food service for the Conference Center in 2025, on an turnkey basis (where the vendor is responsible for all aspects of food service for each conference); and

*WHEREAS*, The Budget Committee recognizes that pricing options need to be ascertained before the new Budget is adopted in December, and so asks the Mayor to undertake this matter on an expedited basis;

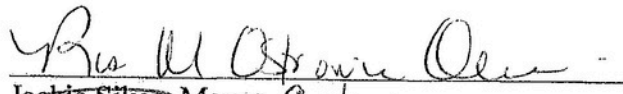
*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS:*

1. That the Mayor be, and she is hereby, requested to publish a Request for Proposals for provision of food service at the City of Fairfield Bay Conference Center for the 2025 calendar year, as soon as possible. The Council asks that any proposals be directed to the Mayor of Fairfield Bay, at the City's mailing address, and be received NO LATER THAN 12 Noon on November 25, 2024, at City Hall.
2. The Recorder-Treasurer shall publish the Request for Proposals BY POSTING IMMEDIATELY UPON PASSAGE BY THE CITY COUNCIL, at the usual five (5) separate places in the City of Fairfield Bay, and should publish this Resolution on the

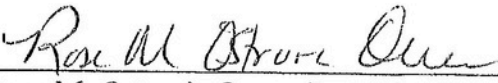
City's Web Site as soon as possible. Publication in the newspaper is required by law, as in all cases. Two newspaper publications are requested, in different weeks.

3. The Mayor, and the Recorder-Treasurer be, and they are hereby, AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PUT THIS RESOLUTION INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

SO BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, at the Regular City Council Meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Sikes, Mayor  
City of Fairfield Bay

A true copy, ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rose M. Ostronic Owen, Recorder-Treasurer  
City of Fairfield Bay

Revised and approved:  
A.J. Kelly  
Kelly Law Firm, PLC  
Attorney for City of Fairfield Bay  
Rev2: Nov. 11, 2024 [Council]

## Rose Owen

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**From:** Jackie Sikes <grandmayogi7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:06 PM  
**To:** Ajkiplaw; Rose Owen; Doyle & Sue Scroggins; Ruth Krotz; Bella A. Comas; Roger Hooper; Patti Leitner  
**Cc:** Dan Feuer  
**Subject:** Veto

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear City Council, Treasurer/Recorder, and City Attorney,

On Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the city council approved Resolution No. 2024-44. A resolution of the City council of the city of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas authorizing Mayor to publish request for proposals concerning food service at the Fairfield Bay Conference center for 2025; and for other purposes.

'ntil the vote is certified from the November 2024 general election as Mayor for the City of Fairfield Bay, I am exercising my authority to veto this resolution in its entirety.

As of this morning, November 12, the hostile work environment, which is in large part due to the lack of support from the current city council, the recent ordinances micromanaging department heads that were approved on the first read yesterday, and this resolution that was passed, has caused the city to lose a very valued employee, Amanda Cook.

The city council has already been made aware of their lack of support and constant negative oversight of all things conference center-related, and this relationship has yet to improve as promised. The overreach of the city council itself is cause for concern for all city departments. This resolution allowing the council to take over determining who does the catering for the conference center without the input of the center's employees is unacceptable and, I fear, will have devastating results for the financial solvency of the conference center. Catering the main meals is perfectly acceptable, but the conference center team has already worked many hours working with a variety of caterers, changed their menu options for their clients, and have bookings for the coming year based on that menu from not just one caterer but several. Having the employees go back and redo menus, contact our clients, and make those changes could cause the city unnecessary financial hardships and may cause the city to lose revenue if clients are not agreeable to making changes. The council should have included the liaison, Patti Leitner, in this decision to oversee food services. This job responsibility is meant for the people who have to carry out the service and should never be dictated by a city council that rarely supports the conference center by attending events or conferences there but needs to be qualified to make those decisions.

Also, if the city council is taking these steps to hire back past city employees they are friends with, let me remind you that those employees quit without notice. One of them was illegally approved for unemployment,

and one could have been prosecuted for theft of funds from the city. Hiring individuals like this is not in the city's best interests and could have even more of a negative impact on the conference center's ability to book conferences. The individual who had to return funds to the city has already tried unsuccessfully to be hired back by the city. When the city council tried to remove my authority to hire and fire department heads after several individuals at the conference center quit with no notice, it is the perfect example that the city council should not be involved in the hiring or firing of city employees but should stick with their primary purpose which is the finances. It would be best if you let the city employees make the decisions that directly are their responsibility. Please stay in your lane and support our city employees, not hamper them with unnecessary resolutions like this one. I have documented proof of why one of the employees quit after being questioned about their work at the conference center. They didn't take too kindly to being questioned. At the time this all happened, it was not in the best interest of the individuals involved or the city to make this a public issue. It was better for everyone that they quit rather than continue the investigation.

I ask the city council to reconsider this resolution respectfully and leave all food service decisions to the capable city employees hired to make those decisions. If you pass the ordinance requiring all purchasing done by the conference center first to be approved by the city treasurer, then at least you are staying in your lane by being concerned about the finances. This, too, will cause unnecessary challenges for the city employees and the Treasurer and should be a combined decision between the council and the employees. Still, this resolution is way out of line and has already caused a significant loss for the city.

Sincerely,

Jackie Sikes

Mayor, City of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas