

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The prayer was offered by Keith Higginbotham. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Keith Higginbotham, Josie Reed, Robin Reed, Wayne Low, Skye Petty and Misty Elam. Those present and not answering roll call were Todd Wright, Pam Grant, Brian Rabal, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Street Superintendent Rick Hudson, Police Chief Cody Harper, Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt, Fire Chief Delton Bush, Water & Sewer Superintendent Frank Holzkamper and Animal Control Supervisor Terry Sanchez.

**Public Hearing-** Mayor Edwards opened the public hearing for ARC Construction and Development to vacate platted Utility Easements and create new Utility Easements with a motion from Keith Higginbotham and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. Carl Walker was present, representing ARC. He and Planning Director Lorene Burns gave details to the council and the public. There was discussion. Mayor Edwards asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak. There was not. Skye Petty made a motion to close the Public Hearing with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Misty Elam. The public Hearing was closed.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Wayne Low made a motion to approve the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 city council minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
  
- (2) **Planning and Water & Sewer Minutes-** Robin Reed made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 CWSD and August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 Planning meeting minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
  
- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that 75% through the year we have received 82% of our budgeted revenue. He stated that our expenditures were at 67%. He highlighted some of the financials for the council. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the September 2016 City and Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (4) Ordinance 2016-38- AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS BELONGING TO ARC CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FROM BUSINESS DISTRICT (C-1) TO RESIDENTIAL TOWNHOUSE MULTI-FAMILY (RTH-MF12).** Mayor Bill Edwards and Lorene Burns addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to rezone this property and gave details. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) Ordinance 2016-39- AN ORDINANCE VACATING PORTIONS OF THE PLATTED UTILITY EASEMENTS LOCATED ON LOTS 8, 9, 19, 21 & 22 OF THE CENTERPOINT SUBDIVISION (PHASE 1), CITY OF CENTERTON, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 623 IN THE RECORD OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to accept vacated utility easements. There was discussion. Wayne Low made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Robin Reed made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) Resolution 2016-23- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON FOR THE YEAR 2016 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2017.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to authorize the rate of property tax to be collected in 2017. He stated that there were no changes. There was discussion. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt

the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(7) Resolution 2016-24- A RESOLUTION THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUTCHEN CONSTRUCTION, CASSVILLE, MISSOURI FOR MULTIPLE ASPHALT OVERLAY PROJECTS AND OTHER CITY PROJECTS THRU DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to enter into an agreement with Hutchen Construction for multiple asphalt projects. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Wayne Low made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(8) Department Reports- Building Inspection-** Robert Coffelt addressed the council and detailed the report in the council's Dropbox packets, giving updates on current projects in the City. Robert said it has been busy, with 30 permits already pulled in October. Robert gave an update on upcoming training and certifications. Robert gave an update on the new software. He asked for the council's approval to add a new module, adding a cost of \$5025.00, with a yearly fee of \$755.00. Robin Reed made a motion to approve the \$5025.00 for the added module with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. **Planning-** Lorene Burns addressed the council and detailed her Planning Project Status Report. She stated that they have been extremely busy. She complimented the work being done by Larry and Carletta. Lorene gave an update on recent and upcoming training. She spoke to the council about Economic Development. **Police-** Chief Harper addressed the council and pointed out the stats he handed out for the previous month. Robin asked for a vehicle count. Cody stated that there are 20 active vehicles, plus the gray Charger for part-time officers, the blue Charger for running around and for driving to training and the Expedition, which is used for inclement weather. Cody gave an update on training. Cody gave an update on body cams and vehicle cameras. Cody stated that Dean Anderson will be the next SRO if another one is added to the High School. Robin Reed asked about multiple officers involved in vehicle stops. Cody stated that it is his policy that a 2<sup>nd</sup> officer be in-route, whenever an officer makes a stop or reports to a call. Cody stated that they currently have three 12-hour shifts with 4 officers each shift. **Streets / Parks & Rec-** Rick Hudson addressed the council and detailed his reports in the Council's Dropbox packets. He gave an update on the Gamble Road final inspection. Rick stated that they are still waiting on the South Main Street and Fish Hatchery project. Rick detailed the upcoming

street overlay projects. Rick gave an update on training and education. Rick gave an update on subdivisions. He gave an update on the Sports Park, stating that the issue with the concession stand will be taken care of. He said that the contractor has accepted responsibility and will be removing the structure. Rick stated that another contractor will build the new structure. Rick pointed out their new dump truck that has finally been completed and he brought to City Hall for tonight's meeting, for the council, staff and citizens to be able to look at. **Fire-** Delton Bush said they are at 747 runs for the year and have a staff of 30 firefighters. He stated that they were losing one of their full-time officers. He stated that he was working on a replacement. Delton gave an update on training. He said that they just completed the Fire Prevention Training at Centerton-Gamble and Lifeway Christian schools. **Water & Sewer-** Frank Holzkamper stated that he didn't have much. Frank stated that they are almost done laying sewer lines between A and B Streets. He stated that they put in for bid this week, the sewer line extension to the Windsong subdivision on Hwy279 South. Frank stated that he and Mayor Edwards have been attending meetings in Decatur, regarding the Sewer Plant expansion. He stated that Decatur is having some resistance from Simmons Foods. There was discussion. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and stated that they are going to add 5 windows to the Shelter, allowing them to run the ventilation fan, without having to open the front door. Mayor Edwards stated that there was money in the budget. Terry said there are currently 6 dogs at the shelter. **Administration-** Pam stated that we got back the Audit Report. She stated that she is currently doing HR training. Pam stated that they are working on transferring the Fire Dues collections to our system. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that he applied for and we were awarded \$268,000.00 Safe Routes to School grant for more sidewalk on Gamble Road. He said it will most likely happen next year. Mayor Edwards also acknowledged the Audit Report. He stated that it was a great audit. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Audit Report with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (9) **Discuss Cost of Living Increase -** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and passed out a survey containing the employee salaries of 8 surrounding communities. He complimented all of the Department Heads and employees on their hard work. He stated that the Department Heads have been great stewards of taxpayer money' coming in under budget every month. He asked the council to consider a cost of living adjustment for all city employees. Mayor Edwards stated that we have tripled our workforce and budget since 2011. He stated that surrounding communities have been giving pay increases and some have even been trying to hire some of our employees away. He stated that he spoke to all of the Department Heads before bringing this to council. He stated that they agreed to first make sure that the budget will be able to absorb this increase and that we will not look at adding any new positions until mid-year next year. Mayor

Edwards did stated that if there was a staffing need and the budget allowed, we could look at it earlier in the year. Mayor Edwards asked the council to approve a \$1.00/hr. cost of living adjustment for all hourly city employees, including our volunteer fireman on their fire runs. He proposed a \$2080.00 annual increase for salary employees, based on a 2080 hour year being worked. He stated that the impact would be \$40.00/wk. per employee. He stated that the Department Heads were on board with this proposal and each of the budgets are in a position to absorb it. Fire Chief Delton Bush, Street Superintendent Rick Hudson, Police Chief Cody Harper and Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt each addressed the council, speaking in favor of the increase and thanking the council for their consideration for this increase. Mayor Edwards stated that he would like the increase to be effective next pay period, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and still be able to do the employee merit raises when reviews are due. He stated that it will affect the budget around \$20,000.00 for the remainder of this year and around \$100,000.00 for next year. Mayor Edwards stated that we want to make sure this can all be absorbed before adding any additional positions. Keith Higginbotham told Chief Harper to put an additional police officer and a vehicle in the budget for next year. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the cost of living increase as presented with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(10) Purchase 2016 Ram Truck for Street Department** - Mayor Edwards addressed the council, stating that the Street Department would like to purchase a truck for the Street Department on State Bid for \$28,972.00, plus it will need some cation lights added to it. Mayor Edwards stated that Rick still had over \$30,000.00 in his budget for Capital Purchases. He said they would like to surplus a truck when that truck comes in. Rick Hudson stated that they need 2 trucks for the 2 departments. Wayne Low made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 Ram Truck for the Street Department with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(11) Discuss Capital Projects Funding** - Mayor Edwards addressed the council, stating that the city has some large projects coming up in the city. He stated that the city's part of the Hwy 102 widening is slated to be about \$3.1 million. He stated that it would wipe out all of our reserves. Mayor Edwards also stated that we have discussed the need for a new Court Building. City Attorney Brian Rabal stated that people have to wait outside on court dates. Mayor Edwards stated that he spoke to our Bond folks about our \$.01 sales tax. He stated that we are paying it off at a record rate. He stated that he would like to look at extending that sales tax. He stated that part of it would be re-financed and part

would be extended. He stated that he was told that we would be eligible for about \$9.5 million, based on current sales tax revenue. He stated that he would like to put about \$5 million in Street improvements, \$4 million for a new City Hall/Court building and \$500,000.00 to remodel the current City Hall building. He stated that he was thinking the existing building could be used as a Community Center/ Library. Mayor Edwards stated that this would have to go before the voters for their approval and explained the process. He asked if the council was interested and would want to get started with RFQ's. There was discussion. Misty Elam recommended that the Mayor gather more information.

- (12) **Set Budget Meeting for November 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** - Mayor Edwards recommended that we have the city budget meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. All council members present were in agreement.
- (13) **Announcements-** Holman Dental Grand Opening on 11/4/16, Coffee with the Mayor 10/15/16.
- (14) **Other Business-** There was no other business.

Misty Elam made a motion to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Bill Edwards, Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk

