

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

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

State of the City- Mayor Edwards- .

State of the City Address—2017

Ladies and Gentleman of the Centerton City Council, and fellow citizens as your Mayor I am honored to report to you the state of the city and its future needs. I am grateful for the opportunity that the citizens have given me to serve the citizens of the City of Centerton over the past 6 years. First of all, I am happy to announce that the City of Centerton is financially sound, and thru fiscal conservation, your staff and City Council has balanced its budget over the past 6 years. The 2016 financial statement will be presented tonight and you will see that we are in a good financial condition.

I would like to report on multiple road projects going on in and around our city. First of all, the city has received a grant for intersection improvements at Highway 102B (Main Street) and Seba Road and the first part of the grant is underway. When completed the intersection will have turn lanes, crosswalks and sidewalks. Also, improvements are underway and almost complete at South Main Street and Fish Hatchery Road. The city crews have also prepared right of way to complete road improvements on Buckhorn Flats Road to link to the Quail Hollow subdivision. The city has also received a grant for over \$300,000 to install sidewalks on Gamble Road to connect Seba Road to Bliss Street, and then Bliss Street east to Main Street. The street department also bought a sweeper truck last year and have utilized this in keeping our streets clean.

Our Planning department has been very busy with several projects to include over a dozen new subdivisions coming into the area, since the New Bentonville West High

School opened. Also the planning department has seen several rezone applications for residential and commercial zoning. A new 335 unit multifamily complex is starting this year near Highway 102 and Greenhouse, along with several other commercial projects to include Centerton Plaza. The Centerton Nursing home project has been working hard to complete and should be open this summer and will add over 100 jobs to the community. The Wal-Mart property located at highway 102 and Main Street is nearing completion of major dirt work to relocate the creek on the property, but no other plans have been announced for the property at this time.

Several projects that were completed in 2016 include Bentonville West High School, Mitchael LSD, Greenhouse Retail Center, McCord Dental Clinic, Ravington Events Center, and Aspen Storage Addition.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city with a total of over 9000 inspections in 2016, with a total of over \$500,000 in building permit fees for the year, this is one of the biggest years we have seen, and with the additional of additional subdivisions we will see an increase in inspections this coming year. The building inspection department implemented an email notification system this year, which allows builders to email for inspections and allows staff to let them know at the end of the inspection if it passed or failed and why it failed, so the builder or contractor can correct this. Also the department added online inspections starting this year, where the contractor can simply enter an inspection utilizing the internet and when the inspection is complete they will get a notification if they passed or failed.

Code Enforcement has been busy, as he has also taken on the duties of MS4 compliance, and has attended multiple training courses in 2016 to help with his duties. Also a door hanging program has been implemented in 2016, so if the officer goes to a residence and they are not home, he can simply leave a violation notice, which helps with the time it takes to get the violation taken care of, and also saves money in postage costs.

The Police department had over 8000 calls for service and wrote over 1900 reports. Staffing has been increased over the past year and the current staff is 21 full time officers and 2 part time officers and 2 auxiliary officers, for a total of 25 officers. The city will be looking to add an additional officer this year to serve as a School Resource Officer, if approved by the school board, to help with the increase of students. The current police fleet is up to date. Despite a steady increase of calls for service, there has been no notable increase in serious crimes, and there have been no trends in criminal activity in our community that should be cause for our community. The court had seen an increase in cases and has added a 3rd clerk on staff, and has also been assisting with

the Little Flock court as they train new personal. The court has been asked to consolidate with Little Flock, and if a new court facility is built the city can visit that option at that time.

Another parks project to be completed this year is the Kinyon Sports Complex, first phase, which will include one competition ball field and 3 practice fields, and should be open in the summer of this year. The city has been installing signage at some of our parks this year and is also working to secure a grant to install a splash pad at the McKissic Park. Coffelt Park was damaged during 2016 when a tornado came thru the community, and work is being done to replace and improve the park. The city also accepted about 9 acres of land at the Morningside subdivision to add a new park, to include trails. Back to McKissic Park, the city did add lighting and electricity to the park and pavilion area to be used by the community. A grant was received to install a new restroom at the main park, which is now up and running and seems to be working well, the facility is locked after hours.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 950 calls for service in 2016, which is a 23 percent increase from the previous year and as the transition to becoming a full time fire department takes place we currently have 12 full time firefighters, 5 part time firefighters, and also 30 volunteers. The department has been working hard on training and has applied for a STEP grant to be able to add additional firefighters on at a later time.

The Centerton Water and Sewer Department also had a good year, and is currently sending the majority of our waste water to City of Decatur and the project is complete and hopefully this will help stabilize our treatment costs in the future.

Centerton Animal control had a great year in adoptions and returning missing pets to their owners by the use of Face Book and Pet Finder and to also help adopt pets that were not claimed. The normal population thru these efforts keeps this low. The shelter has taken over 300 dogs over the last year and was able to find the owners of the majority of them, and adopt the rest, the shelter is now staffed to be able to stay open 6 days a week for the public, and able to respond to calls after hours if needed.

Lastly, no administration is complete without the support of the Centerton City Council and a loyal staff of great employees, and our city has many hard working employees from the Department heads to the troops that carry out the daily activities and duties to help keep our city running smooth and efficiently. Thanks for a Job Well Done!!

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Josie Reed made a motion to approve the January 10th, 2017 city council minutes with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Planning and Water & Sewer Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the December 20th, 2016 CWSD and December 20th, 2016 Planning meeting minutes, with a 2nd from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that 8.3% through the year we have received 9.01% of our budgeted revenue. He stated that our expenditures were at 7.61%. He highlighted some of the financials for the council. Robin Reed made a motion to accept the January 2017 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (4) **Ordinance 2017-03- AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF ADDRESSES 1000, 1002, 1010, 1011 AND 1012 SHIRAZ DRIVE TO 1000, 1002, 1010, 1011, 1012 LEIGH STREET RESPECTIVELY; IN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS;** Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to change this street name in the Clark Estates Subdivision. Mayor Edwards stated that he wanted to read this ordinance by title only, for 3 meetings to give those affected, plenty of time. He stated that he has sent certified letters to the 3 affected property owners, and has received receipts back. Council asked the Mayor to reach out to the tenants as well. He stated that he did. There was discussion. This was the 2nd reading. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only.

- (5) **Ordinance 2016-11- AN ORDINANCE AMMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PUPOSES.** Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to amend the budget. Wayne Low made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council

members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the emergency clause, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Ordinance 2017-12- AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL PLAT OF MAPLE ESTATES SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1A, CITY OF CENTERTON, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to accept final plat. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. 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 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Darren Warren made a motion to adopt the emergency clause, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(7) Ordinance 2017-13- AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENTS BY MATHIAS SHOPPING CENTERS INC. PER CORRECTIVE EASEMENT PLAT FOR PART OF THE FRL NE ¼ OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 31 WEST, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS. Mayor Bill Edwards and Lorene Burns addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to accept right of way easement corrections for this property. There was discussion. Wayne Low made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Wayne Low made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Wayne Low made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (8) **Resolution 2017-01- A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL MILLAGE ELECTION.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to show support for the millage election, asking for 1.9 mils. There was discussion. Brian Rabal read the entire resolution. All council members voted in favor.
- (9) **Resolution 2017-02- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VERZANI CONSTRUCTION LLC. BELLA VISTA, ARKANSAS FOR A PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING ADDITION FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON.** Mayor Edwards and Rick Hudson addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to enter into an agreement with Verzani Construction LLC for the addition to the Street Department, stating that they were the low bidder. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (10) **Department Reports- Building Inspection-** Robert Coffelt's report was in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Planning-** Lorene Burns' Planning Project Status Report was in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Police-** Cody Harper's report was in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Streets / Parks & Rec-** Rick Hudson's reports were in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Fire-** Delton Bush's report was in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Water & Sewer-** Frank Holzkamper's report was in the council member's Dropbox packets. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez's report was in the council member's Dropbox packets.
- (11) **S&P Ratings Review-** City Clerk Todd Wright addressed the council and stated that he, the Mayor and Pam Grant had a conference call with S&P Global Ratings, where the financial state of the city was discussed. Todd stated that S&P upgraded the City of Centerton's rating from an "A-" to an "A/Stable". The report from S&P was included in the council's Dropbox packets.

(12) **Discuss Capital Projects-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council, stating that he reached back out to the bond company, due to the concern about funding for the Hwy 102 Project when it comes around in 2020-2021. Mayor Edwards stated that the bond company told him that, at this time, they would be able to issue \$8.9 – \$9 million, and as part of this Bond Issue, they could re-issue another \$3.8 million in 2021, without having to go back to the voters, due to the rate of payoff. There was lengthy discussion. Robin Reed stated that she still had many questions in regard to Bond Elections. Mayor Edwards stated that he could reach out to the bond folks, to better inform the council. No action was taken by the council at this time.

(13) **Other Business-** Mayor Edwards stated that the issue with Council Meeting Minutes not showing up on the City website has been fixed. He stated that he received an e-mail from AJ Stroud, stating that he was resigning from the Centerton Planning Commission, effective March 1st, 2017. Mayor Edwards stated that he needed the council to approve the resignation of AJ Stroud from the Planning Commission. Robin Reed made a motion to accept the resignation of AJ Stroud from the Planning Commission, effective March 1, 2017, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to declare a vacancy in the Planning Commission, effective March 1st, 2017, with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(14) **Announcements-** Mayor Edwards stated that “Coffee with the Mayor” would be Saturday, February 18th, 2107 at 9:00 a.m.

(15) **Executive Session-** Robin Reed made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. The Mayor and Council retired to the Conference Room. Robin Reed made a motion to close the Executive Session and return to the Council Meeting with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Josie Reed made a motion to change the salary of Assistant Fire Chief to \$57,000.00 with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor, except Keith Higginbotham, who abstained. The motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to change the title of the position of Pam Grant from Bookkeeper to Financial Director and to

add a \$3000.00 annual pay increase, due to additional responsibilities, with a 2nd from Wayne Low. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Darren Warren made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk

