



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023
6:00 PM**

(1) Pledge – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

(2) Prayer – Amy Rochette offered the prayer.

(3) Roll Call - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Keith Higginbotham, Darren Warren, Josie Reed, Misty Elam (via Zoom), Amy Rochette and Justin Cowgur. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Attorney Brian Rabal, Financial Director Carl Rabey, City Engineer Alan Craighead, Planning Director Lorene Burns and Police Captain Chris Kelley.

Mayor's Assistant Nicola Hoofard recorded the meeting in place of City Clerk Todd Wright.

(4) Swearing In of Council Members/ Reading of Rules of the Governing Body –

Mayor Bill Edwards swore Council Members, Josie Reed, Justin Cowgur and Amy Rochette into office.

The Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney and other Council Members had been sworn in previously.

Mayor Edwards read the rules of the governing body of the City.

Clerk Todd Wright was designated as Mayor Pro Tempore.

(5) Council Minutes –

Amy Rochette made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2022 and December 13, 2022 City Council Meetings, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD and Planning Commission Minutes –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the November 22, 2022 CWSD Meeting, and the December 6, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) City and Court Financials -

Financial Direct Carl Rabey addressed the Council, giving the Financial Report for December, 2022.

Revenue was at 124.43 % and Expenses were at 94.34 %.

The December Court Report was contained in the Council packets.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the December, 2022 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(7) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packet.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

(8) Public Comments –

Cindy Zumstein – 1092 N. Main Street – She stated that she was opposed to the Rezone being proposed at Seba Road and N. Main Street. She felt it was not the lightest impact and best Use for this property. She mentioned traffic concerns and planning for the community. She asked that Council vote against the rezone request

Brian Riley – 116 Brookshire Lane – He expressed concern with possible alcohol sales if a convenience store was approved to be developed following a rezone of the property at Seba Road and N. Main Street. He asked if the proposed Daycare relocation is within 1000 feet of the possible convenience store. He felt a convenience store was not in the best interest of the citizens, or the best Use for the land. He also expressed concern with traffic and improvements to N. Main Street.

Crystal Penner – 1501 Aniston Drive – She stated that she was opposed to the Rezone being proposed at Seba Road and N. Main Street. She expressed concern with infrastructure, traffic

control and sidewalks, as well as need for tax revenue for the city. She asked the Council to consider “pausing” development until there is a clear plan and infrastructure can catch up.

Bryce Cheatham – 230 Town Vu Road – He stated that he was opposed to the Rezone being proposed at Seba Road and N. Main Street. He expressed concern with existing traffic at the intersection of N. Main Street and Town Vu Road. He questioned having a convenience store in the middle of a Residential area, and asked if it was the best Use for the land. He said there are better locations for a convenience store. He asked Council to vote against the rezone request, due to lack of impact data.

Gavin Edwards – 601 Bighorn Drive – He expressed concern with a difference of opinion between the Planning Department and the Building Safety Department regarding Model Homes in a subdivision. He said he was given a Conditional Use Permit by the Planning Commission to build a Model Home in his subdivision, but was denied a Building Permit due to lack of a Final Plat. Mayor Edwards stated that Building Safety is asking for a platted lot for construction, and the Planning Staff is recommending a Tract Split. Mayor Edwards said the developer needs to work through the Planning Staff.

(9) Ordinances –

Amy Rochette made a motion to Read Ordinances 2022-97, 2023-01, 2023-02, 2023-03, 2023-04, 2023-05, 2023-06 and 2023-07; and Resolutions 2022-47, 2023-01, 2023-02, 2023-03 and 2023-04 by Title only, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Suspend the Rule Requiring the Reading on three (3) Separate Occasions for Ordinances 2022-97, 2023-01, 2023-02, 2023-03, 2023-04, 2023-05, 2023-06 and 2023-07, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-97 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 10.12.06, TITLED CHANGE IN RATES FOR WATER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance was tabled at the last meeting, as there was thought that there is a State Law that would supersede this Ordinance. He attached the response from the Municipal League, stating that it can be done, but they recommend not doing it, since a Water & Sewer Commission has been created by the city. He said Sewer Rates still come before the Council, per State Statute. He said he met with the Water & Sewer Commission and they asked that Council not approve this Ordinance.

Justin Cowgur stated that the Water & Sewer Commission has held off on issuing any increases and has actually taken a loss recently.

Robert Anderson said it was a narrow decision for the Commission to ask for an increase, but was precipitated by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture informing us that we were out of compliance with ACT 602.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Take No Action on the Ordinance, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except for Amy Rochette, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

Darren Warren asked that the number of Commissioners on the Water & Sewer Commission be increased from the existing three (3) Members, to give citizens more representation. Robert Anderson said they will discuss it at next week's Commission meeting and make a recommendation to the Mayor, to bring to the Council.

- **{APPEAL HEARING} Ordinance 2023-01 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO GEORGE W. AND CHARLA J. WEEKS FROM AGRICULTURE (A-1) TO RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX (R3-D).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this is an Appeal Hearing for the Rezone Request for property on Bush Road from (A-1) to (R3-D). He said the request was denied 4-3 by the Planning Commission at their meeting on 11/15/2022.

Will Kellstrom addressed the Council, representing the applicant, detailing their case for appeal. He addressed public concerns with traffic, property values, Land Use, surrounding zoning and density. He said the density is only one (1) unit more per acre than the (R-3) of the Tamarron Subdivision.

Mayor Edwards provided the Land Use Map and detailed the concerns and findings of the 11/15/2022 Planning Commission meeting.

Public Comments -

Bronte Welker - 511 Tamarron Drive – Stated that the multi-family demand of the Comprehensive Plan has already been met. She expressed concern with upcoming high-density development and resulting traffic safety issues. She also expressed concern with pressure being placed on the school system. She reiterated concern with traffic safety in regard to student pedestrian safety.

Parker Teshima - 12172 Bush Road – Expressed concern with increased traffic and compatibility.

Lisa McCoy- 1261 Clydesdale Drive - Expressed concern with property value, due to a surplus in available homes and recent price cuts.

Jess Blaylock – Sunrise Developers – Is developing adjacent to the subject property and has no issues with the proposal.

Kyle McGuire – 311 Violet Street - Expressed concern with use of facts in making these decisions. He provided statistics for the average number of children in apartments and duplexes, as well as the average number of cars. He was in support of development to fit the needs of the community.

Crystal Penner - 1501 Aniston Street - Expressed concern with increased traffic.

Nikki Casey – 713 Ponderosa Street - Expressed concern with student pedestrian/traffic safety on Fish Hatchery Road. She was not opposed to multifamily development.

Nadesha Richardson - 510 Tamarron Drive - Expressed concern with additional traffic and lack of sidewalks. She also expressed safety concerns with student pedestrian traffic.

Council Member Darren Warren clarified the difference in density between (R3) and (R3-D), which would be one (1) additional Unit per acre.

Council Member Justin Cowgur said we need to get the roads figured out.

City Engineer Alan Craighead gave an update on the sidewalks for Fish Hatchery Road.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Amy Rochette made a motion to adopt the Ordinance without a 2nd, and the motion died.

Council Member Misty Elam left the meeting due to Technical difficulties (she was attending via Zoom).

- **{APPEAL HEARING} Ordinance 2023-02 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO OPTI-CHAIN LLC FROM MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX (RTH-D) TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R3-MF).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this is an Appeal Hearing for the Rezone Request for property on Bliss Street from (RTH-D) to (R3-MF). He said the request was denied unanimously by the Planning Commission at their meeting on 11/01/2022.

Kyle McGuire, the applicant, addressed the Council, detailing their case for appeal. He cited issues with the size and layout of the property as reason for the rezone request. He said there will be no change in density, and it is consistent with surrounding zoning. He addressed concerns with traffic, density and property values. He said there will be less students and traffic than (R-3) development would have. He stated that tonight is a question of zoning, not development.

Fire Marshal Paul Higginbotham stated that there is no margin for error for the proposed development.

Mayor Edwards provided a map showing the property and detailed the concerns and findings of the 11/01/2022 Planning Commission meeting.

Public Comments -

Brian Darling – 633 Bliss Street – Stated that the Planning Commission unanimously denied the request. He expressed concern with density and compatibility with the surrounding Zoning, Land Use and the Comprehensive Plan. He also pointed out the only benefit is to the developer.

Patty Franklyn – 601 Walker Street – Expressed concern with increased traffic on Bliss Street and access for the Fire Department.

Crystal Penner - 1501 Aniston Street - Expressed concern with statistics being presented as being compatible with this community.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

There was no motion to adopt the Ordinance, and the item died.

- **Ordinance 2023-03 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING REZONE ORDINANCE 2022-76 TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO SKYLIGHT PROPERTIES FROM AGRICULTURE (A-1) HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to amend the rezone of property on Greenhouse Road from (A-1) to (C-2). A map of the property was provided for Council. He said the exhibit previously presented was being corrected with this ordinance.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2023-04 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO TONY STEELE FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (C-3).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone property on Seba Road and N. Main Street from (R-2) to (C-3). He said a Conditional Use Permit was approved by

the Planning Commission at their meeting on 1/03/2022, for a 4000sf building with a right turn lane on Seba Road, 10ft sidewalks, down lighting, landscaping buffers and limited hours of business (5:00 am to 11:00 pm). He said there is (C-3) to the north and west, and the property is designated for Commercial Use on the Land Use Plan. He detailed concerns from the public from the 11/15/22 Planning Commission meeting. He provided the Land Use Map and Schedule of Uses for (C-3).

City Attorney Brian Rabal reminded Council that they are only looking at the Rezone Request this evening.

Department/Council Comments -

Robert Anderson – 124 Skinner Street – Stated that he lives less than ¼ mile from the subject property. Spoke positively of Kum-n-Go. Stated that the additional truck traffic on N. Main Street would be minimal. Stated that Commercial Use is intended to be placed to support Residential areas, and he always expected Commercial Use for this corner.

Amy Rochette – Council Member – Questioned whether a Convenience Store fits in this location. States that she feels it does not fit.

Keith Higginbotham – Council Member – Stated that he expected this property to rezone to Commercial Use. Stated that Residential Use would create more traffic. Stated that this could give residents an option to walk to and shop.

Anthony Martinez – Assistant Public Works Director – Agreed that traffic safety is a concern, with the decision to be between residential home traffic and commercial traffic. Stated that residential traffic would be greater. Pointed out that commercial development would bring infrastructure improvements.

Darren Warren – Council Member – Stated that a Convenience Store at this location would take some pressure off of the Convenience Store on Centerton Blvd. and N. Main Street. Stated that he did not see this having a big impact. Stated that a Conditional Use Permit also allows the city to dictate the conditions of development.

Alan Craighead – City Engineer – Stated that C-3 is the least intensive Commercial Use designation. He said the Future Land Use Plan shows this property as Commercial Use. Stated that allowing it to be developed as Residential Use takes the Commercial Use opportunity away.

Justin Cowgur – Council Member – Would like to see the city have someone who recruits businesses and looks where to appropriately place them. He said property owners do have rights and Council can't always control what gets developed.

Public Comments -

Kelly Reitz – 1590 Lexington Place – Stated that a Convenience Store doesn't belong. She would rather see residential homes. Expressed concern with traffic safety and compatibility.

Steele Homes Representative – Expressed appreciation for all concerns discussed. Reminded everyone that this item is only a Rezone Request for 6.29 Acres at this time. He said City Staff have done detailed research regarding this request. He said they are requesting a rezone to (C-3), which is compatible to the Future Land Use Map. He said it is also in line with the approved zonings to the north and west of this property.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. Keith Higginbotham and Darren voted YES, and Amy Rochette, Justin Cowgur and Josie Reed voted NO, each due to the concerns of the citizens, and the motion failed.

- **Ordinance 2023-05 - AN ORDINANCE WAIVING BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOES FROM SUPERIOR AUTOMOTIVE, SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS FOR THE CENTERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to waive the bidding requirements to allow the purchase of four (4) 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe's for the Police Department. He said for additional Police Officers were approved in this year's budget, and they will each need a vehicle. He said the four (4) vehicles are also in the budget. He said the cost will be \$49,467.00 for each vehicle. He said they will be available in about two weeks.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2023-06 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF UTILITY EASEMENT BY ALMA LUCIA & GONZALO ACEVEDO, PER TRACT SPLIT TITLED "ALMA ACEVEDO LOT SPLIT".**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept Utility Easement from a Tract Split on W. Centerton Blvd. He said it was recommended for approval by the City Council at the Planning Commission meeting on 12/06/2022. A map of the property was provided for Council.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2023-07 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to amend the final budget for the City for 2022.

Financial Director Carl Rabey addressed the Council, detailed the final 2022 City Budget as provided in the Council Packets. He said budget adjustments will be done monthly as we move forward.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried. City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Emergency Clause. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(10) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2022-47 - A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE “CENTERTON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE MANUAL – 2009, CURRENT ADDITION” OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

City Engineer Alan Craighead addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to amend the city’s Drainage Manual. He detailed changes for Open Swales and HGL calculations.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Amy Rochette made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2022-48 - A RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE, RATIFY AND APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to approve the settlement with Rausch Coleman Homes NWA, LLC. He stated that this item was tabled last month to allow a representative from the Arkansas Municipal League to be present.

Justin Eichmann addressed the Council, stating that a Settlement Conference was held on 8/12/2022, where a resolution of agreement was reached.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the Resolution by title only, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried. City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2023-01 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAM BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON AND THE BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to approve an inter-local agreement with the Benton County Solid Waste District. A copy of the amended agreement was provided to Council.

Wendy Bland with Benton County Solid Waste addressed the Council, detailing the Special Services Program agreement as presented to Council. She stated that the current \$.50/person annual Member Contribution would be raised to \$1.00/person, based on each city's certified population. She said this agreement is replacing the annual requests from each city, by the district. She detailed the recent history of funding difficulties for the Solid Waste District.

Crystal Penner – 1501 Aniston Street – Asked how the city pays for this service. Mayor Edwards stated that it comes out of the city budget.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2023-02 - A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BANK ACCOUNTS AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NWA, FOR THE CREATION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT ACCOUNT, ARDOT GRANT ACCOUNT AND MCKISSIC TRAIL GRANT ACCOUNT; AND TO CLOSE THE FIREMAN'S PENSION CHECKING ACCOUNT AND TO DESIGNATE INDIVIDUALS**

AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM VARIOUS ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON WITH REGARD TO SAID ACCOUNTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to allow the city to establish new bank accounts at First National Bank of NWA and to close one account.

Financial Director Carl Rabey detailed the accounts for Council.

Justin Cowgur asked Mayor Edwards for a list of Grants the city has applied for and the current status. Mayor Edwards said he would gather and provide that information

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2023-03 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH NO CODE SYSTEMS, WINNIPEG MB, FOR TRACKING SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to allow the city to enter into an agreement for a tracking software system for the Animal Shelter. A copy of the agreement was provided for Council.

Police Captain Chris Kelley gave a detailed overview of the software and answered questions. He said that the software is customizable for our shelter. He said there is a \$1,000.00 User Fee and a \$150.00 monthly fee for five (5) users.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Darren Warren made a motion to adopt the Resolution, contingent upon City Attorney Review of the Agreement, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2023-04 - A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to apply for \$125,000.00 from an 80/20 grant, which we would like to apply towards the sidewalk project along Fish Hatchery Road.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(11) Water Rate Increase – Centerton Utilities -

Robert Anderson of the Centerton Water & Sewer Commission addressed the Council, stating that the Department of Agriculture told them they were not in compliance with ACT 605, necessitating a rate increase for water. He said that the Commission voted for the increase in water rates to go into effect 2/01/2023. He said a link to the Rate Study and the reasoning for the increase will be posted on the Centerton Utilities website. He said there will also be a notice in the water bills for the two (2) cycles in January. He said there has been discussion that our water supplier is looking at raising the cost of water by \$.15/1000 gallons in July. He said if that happens, we will have to pass that increase through to the residents. He explained the reasoning for the increases by the water supplies, due to the continuing growth in Northwest Arkansas. Anderson gave an update on current and future water & sewer projects and the state of the cities utilities.

Mayor Edwards said he did have some concern with the water rate increase. He stated that he understood that it was due to ACT 605, and that the Arkansas Municipal League was looking into the legislation. He said Council has already approved bond money, ARPA funds and Impact Fees for use by Centerton Utilities. He said he would like to have seen the rate increase be held until after the AML was done with their inquiry.

Mayor Edwards asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none.

No action was taken by Council.

(12) Approve Clerk Position for Animal Control Department -

Mayor Edwards addressed Council, asking for their approval of a Clerk position for the Animal Shelter. Captain Kelley said we are getting lots of applications for positions at the Animal Shelter.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Approve the Clerk position for the Animal Control Department, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(13) Request to purchase a 2023 Dodge Ram 1500 for the Public Works Department -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, requesting their approval for the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Ram 1500 for the Public Works Department, at a cost of \$34,446.00.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Approve the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Ram 1500 for the Public Works Department, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(14) Request Position Change for Finance Department -

Financial Director Carl Rabey addressed the Council, asking for approval to change the Finance Manager position to Assistant Financial Director, with no increase in pay and no overtime; and to change the position of Billing Clerk to Senior Finance Specialist. He also stated that a Junior Finance Specialist has been hired, and she will be positioned at the reception desk in the City Hall lobby. He provided a spreadsheet of the positions for Council.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Approve the Finance Position Changes as presented, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(15) Request to Surplus Bunker Gear from Centerton Fire Department -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, requesting approval for the surplus of Bunker Gear from the Fire Department. A list of equipment, along with Serial Numbers, was provided for Council.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Approve the Surplus of Bunker Gear from the Fire Department, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(16) Other Business –

- **Old City Hall Update** – Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, providing a concept for possible use for the old City Hall building. He said this will be discussed at a later date.

(17) Announcements -

- **1/14/2023 – Animal Shelter Workday @ 10:00 AM**
- **1/17/2023 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **1/21/2023 – Coffee with the Mayor @ 9:00 AM**
- **1/24/2023 – Council & Planning Work Session @ 6:00 PM**
- **2/07/2023 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **2/14/2023 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **2/21/2023 - Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(18) Adjourn -

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Adjourn at 10:13 PM with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk