



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 10, 2022
6:00 PM**

(1) Pledge – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

(2) Prayer – Keith Higginbotham offered the prayer.

(3) Roll Call - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Keith Higginbotham, Darren Warren, Josie Reed, Misty Elam, and Amy Rochette. Justin Cowgur was absent. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Clerk Todd Wright, City Attorney Brian Rabal, Finance Manager Shannon Zappettini, HR Director Jocelyn Diaz, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Police Chief Cody Harper, Fire Chief Matt Thompson, Animal Control Director Cody Wilson and Lance Johnson and Jake Barrett from Public Works.

(4) Council Minutes –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 12, 2022, April 13, 2022 and April 20, 2022 City Council Meetings, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustments Minutes –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the March 15, 2022 and March 30, 2022 CWSD Meetings; the April 5, 2022 and April 19, 2022 Planning Commission Meetings; and the April 5, 2022 Board of Zoning Adjustment Meeting, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(5) City and Court Financials- Mayor Edwards stated that 33.33% through the year we have received 41.99% of our Budgeted Revenue. He stated that our Expenditures were at 24.84%. He detailed some of the financials, such as increases in Building Permits, City Sales Tax and County Sales Tax. He said the Court Report was contained in the Council packets.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions.

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

(6) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packet.

Mayor Edwards introduced Carl Rabey as the new Financial Director for the city, scheduled to start on 5/23/2022. Mr. Rabey introduced himself to Council, giving a brief description of his employment experience.

Misty Elam stated that she requested at the last Council meeting, that the Financial Director position remain open, including outside the State of Arkansas. Mayor Edwards said that was done. Elam said we were to discuss the top 3 candidates, and that was not done. Elam questioned the Council's ability to approve or deny a hire by State Statute. Edwards stated that the Mayor has the exclusive right to approve a Department Head hire, and the Council has the right to override the Mayor's decision by 2/3 vote.

Amy Rochette made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the hiring of a Financial Director at 6:11 PM, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Misty Elam made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 6:55 PM, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Amy Rochette made a motion to override the hiring of Carl Rabey as Financial Director, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. There was a roll call. Misty Elam and Amy Rochette voted YES; Darren Warren, Josie Reed and Keith Higginbotham voted NO, and the motion failed.

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

(7) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinances 2022-32, 2022-34, 2022-35, 2022-36, 2022-37, 2022-38, 2022-39, 2022-40, 2022-41, 2022-42 and 2022-43 and Resolutions 2022-11, 2022-12 and 2022-13 by Title only, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Josie Reed made a motion to Suspend the Rule Requiring the Reading on three (3) Separate Occasions for Ordinances 2022-32, 2022-34, 2022-35, 2022-36, 2022-37, 2022-38, 2022-39, 2022-40, 2022-41, 2022-42 and 2022-43, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-32 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-23.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to correct the legal description of this property, which was previously approved for annexation.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-34 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO RC MORNINGSIDE, LLC. FROM MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R3-SF) TO HIGH DENSITY MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R4-MF). APPEAL HEARING**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this is an Appeal Hearing for Ordinance 2022-34 for Rausch Coleman Homes. He said this Rezone Request was denied by the Planning Commission on 4/05/2022. He said Rausch Coleman was provided a letter of denial by the Planning Commission, and they responded with a letter of appeal to the City Council. He said the city is in an active lawsuit with Rausch Coleman. He said the Appeal Hearing tonight is only in regard to the rezone request, and we will not be discussing the lawsuit.

Senior Planner Dianne Morrison Lloyd addressed the Council, detailing the Rezone Request by Rausch Coleman, including the location and brief history of the zoning of the property, requirements for each Zoning District, surrounding zoning, compatibility and consistency, citizen comments, and the findings of the Planning Commission on 4/05/2022, resulting in a unanimous vote to deny the rezone request.

Darren Warren asked for clarification of the current zoning allowances, Lloyd clarified.

Amy Rochette asked if single family homes could be built on the property. Lloyd said they could.

Will Clark, Attorney for Rausch Coleman, addressed the Council, stating that their legal position is a request for a restoration of rights for this property. He said the zoning for the property when purchased by Rausch Coleman was R-3 High Density Residential, with Multi-Family Residential being a permitted Use. He said the zoning was changed last summer by this city, allowing only a

single Use of Residential Single-Family. He stated that there are safeguards in place for the city, should the Council reverse the Planning Commission's denial.

Amy Rochette asked why they feel they have had their rights taken away. Clark stated that under the prior Zoning Code, they had the permitted Use for Multi-Family dwellings. He said with the passage of Ordinance 2021-59, that is no longer a permitted Use. He said they were in the process of working with the Planning Department, for a Multi-Family development when the zoning was changed. Rochette asked if their rights to develop were completely taken away. Clark stated that they could still develop, but the rights to develop Multi-Family were taken away.

Jessie Fulcher with Rausch Coleman addressed the Council, stating that they were not notified of the change in zoning, but saw it on a meeting agenda. He addressed some of the citizen comments/complaints from the 4/05/2022 Planning Commission meeting, such as: traffic, school zoning, speed limits, traffic signals, housing segregation, and compatibility with the Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

Darren Warren asked Fulcher if R-3 Single-Family development would not work for Rausch Coleman. Fulcher said they do not have any 3-4 unit single-family development in their current development plans.

Amy Rochette asked Fulcher if Rausch Coleman had single-family homes in the area. Fulcher said they do have single-family homes in Morningside Estates. Rochette asked what would stop them from building single-family homes on this property. Fulcher said nothing would stop them.

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that there are 20-25 e-mails in Dropbox in opposition to the rezone request, in addition to the 15 citizens that spoke in opposition at the 4/05/2022 Planning Commission meeting. He said some of the concerns in those e-mails were: compatibility, density, traffic safety, lack of infrastructure, property values, privacy, noise, emergency services, misrepresentation by the developer, and concern from the Morningside POA, etc.

Mayor Edwards opened the hearing to public Comments.

Public Comments –

Patty Meisenbacher- Morningside Estates POA President- Mrs. Meisenbacher questioned Rausch Coleman's business plan as developers and property maintenance. She questioned the affordability of the apartments that were being proposed by Rausch Coleman. She said she was told by Rausch Coleman that Forest Lane would not be extended past the property she had purchased in 2016. She said the proposed apartments would be what she would be looking at from her property. She questioned the effect of the proposed apartments on the value of her home. She said the residents she represents as POA President are not opposed to rental homes, but are opposed to 3-story apartments. She said POA's were forced in all 3 phases of Morningside Estates, with no amenities provided. She stated that she also feels there is a lack of infrastructure for an apartment complex, and it is not in the best interest of the city.

Jessie Fulcher- Rausch Coleman- Mr. Fulcher stated that he cannot control speeding, the economy regarding housing affordability, or the statements of a housing salesperson in 2016. He said they purchased the 109 lots of Phase 1 from another developer, and that is why the amenities are what they are. He said the Dog Park was done in agreement with the city. He said the POA's have been set up to maintain the retention ponds. He said they are only asking for a restoration of the rights they had in the original zoning.

Michael Commet- Mr. Commet asked if Rausch Coleman had permission to build apartments at the time of the original zoning. He said he understood that at that time, you had to state whether you were building single-family, duplexes or apartments (multi-family). Mr. Fulcher said that is what the city was asking for at the time, but he had never experienced a city doing that before. He said they did provide apartment concepts for the city, and were told they could move forward, although it was never submitted. Commet asked if they were discussions in a meeting, or was submitted for approval by the Planning Commission. Fulcher said they were discussions in meetings, as well as e-mails. Commet said he does not feel that apartments are a good fit for this area, as the density is too high. He said it is not a neutral impact. He said he does not understand why Rausch Coleman is not open to listening to the 109 residents nearby.

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

Mayor Edwards said the Council has the option to uphold the decision of denial by the Planning Commission, or to approve this Ordinance.

Mayor Edwards asked for a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. There was no motion.

Mayor Edwards asked for a motion to deny the Appeal. Amy Rochette made a motion to Deny the Appeal by Rausch Coleman with a 2nd from Misty Elam. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Misty Elam made a motion to take a short break, with a 2nd by Darren Warren.

Josie Reed made a motion to return to the meeting, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham.

- **Ordinance 2022-35 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY BELONGING TO SHIRLEY A. BRIGGS, TO THE CITY OF CENTERTON, APPROVING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES TO BE EXTENDED TO SAID AREA; ASSIGNING SUCH AREA TO WARD 3; AND ZONING AS AGRICULTURAL (A-1).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to annex property on Hwy 102, east of Hwy 279 North. He said this has been approved by the County Judge.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-36 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO ADINARAYANA ADARI FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO RESIDENTIAL TOWNHOUSE DUPLEX (RTH-D).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone property on Motley Road from (A-1) to (RTH-D). He said this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their 4/19/2022 meeting.

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

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. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-37 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO NWA FRIENDS FIRST VENTURE FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (C-3).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone property at the corner of Hwy 279 North and Noah Road from (A-1) to (C-3). He said this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their 4/19/2022 meeting.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-38 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO STEELE DEVELOPMENT INC. FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone property on W. Centerton Blvd. from (A-1) to (C-2). He said this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their 4/19/2022 meeting.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-39 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO KIMMEL ROAD VENTURES LLC. FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R3-SF).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone property at Kimmel Road and Daisy Road from (A-1) to (R3-SF). He said this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their 5/03/2022 meeting.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-40 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY AND UTILITY EASEMENTS BY TERRA ROSE, PER RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT PLAT TITLED PART E ½ OF THE SE ¼ OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 28, T-20-N, R-31-W, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept Dedication of ROW and Utility Easements for the northwest corner of property at N. Main Street and Seba Road.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-41 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT OF THE DIAMOND ESTATES PHASE 4 SUBDIVISION, CREATING RESIDENTIAL LOTS 163-209, AND LOT G, CITY OF CENTERTON, S-29, T20N, R-31-W, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept Final Plat of Diamond Estates Phase 4. He said this was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their 5/03/2022 meeting.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-42 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY ALONG AND A UTILITY EASEMENT BY DON AND VICKIE BARNETT, PER TRACT SPLIT PLAT TITLED “TRACT SPLIT 8111 NUGGET ROAD, BENTONVILLE, COUNTY OF BENTON, STATE OF ARKANSAS, 72713”.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept Dedication of ROW and Utility Easements for property along Nugget Road. He said the Tract Split was approved by the Planning Commission at their 4/19/2022 meeting.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2022-43 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY AND RESCUE GRANT BUDGETS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLAIMING POLICE SALARIES AND EMPLOYER PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to amend our American Rescue Funds Budget to claim Police Salary and Contribution funds, and put them in our General Fund. He said we discussed this in our April Work Session. He said this ordinance has been prepared by the Arkansas Municipal League.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions.

Misty Elam asked if this was for both Police and Fire. Mayor Edwards said it was for Police only. Elam asked that we Table this item until we have our Financial Director in place.

Misty Elam made a motion to Table the Ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(8) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2022-11 - A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE VACATION OF UTILITY EASEMENTS LOCATED ON LOT 7 OF QUAILRIDGE SUBDIVISION, CITY OF CENTERTON, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to set a date of 6/14/2022 for a Public Hearing, to discuss the Vacation of Utility Easements on Lot 7 of the Quailridge Subdivision.

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

Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Misty Elam made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2022-12 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DECCO EXCAVATION, ROGERS, ARKANSAS FOR MULTIPLE MILLING AND OVERLAY PROJECTS AND OTHER CITY PROJECTS THRU DECEMBER 31, 2022.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to allow the city to enter into an agreement with Decco Excavation for asphalt overlay projects in the city, for the remainder of the year. He said we did put this out for bid and only received the one bid.

Jake Barrett addressed the Council, detailing what the processes of milling and overlaying are, to extend the life of the city roads.

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

Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Misty Elam made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2022-13 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INNOVATIVE ROADWAY SOLUTIONS LLC. BULLARD, TEXAS FOR MASTIC SEAL OVERLAY PROJECTS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to allow the city to enter into an agreement with Innovative Roadway Solutions LLC, for mastic seal overlay projects in the city. He said we did put this out to bid, and only received the one bid.

Jake Barrett addressed the Council, detailing what the process of mastic seal overlays are, to extend the life of the city roads.

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

Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(9) Discuss Intern for Planning Department –

Planning Director Lorene Burns addressed the Council, stating that the Planning Department has an opportunity to bring in an Intern from BYU University for 100 hours during the months of June and July. She said the internship is a requirement for the intern's degree, and the decision would need to be made tonight. She said this internship would be a position paid by the city. There was discussion about the job description and pay for the position.

Council felt they needed more information and would be unable to approve the position this evening.

Council asked that information be gathered so that we would be prepared should the opportunity arise again in the future.

(10) Discuss Creation of Library Board –

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that in a previous Work Session there were discussions about uses for the old City Hall building. He said Public Works had mentioned putting some offices in there, and there was also discussion about having a small sharing library. He asked for Council's permission to create a Library Board. He said he would like to get citizens involved. There was brief discussion about membership and bylaws. Darren Warren recommended possibly partnering with the Bentonville Public Library, to take advantage of what they already have. He listed some of their offerings. Council was in favor. Mayor Edwards said he would gather more information.

No action was taken by Council.

(11) Public Comments –

Lisa McCoy – 1261 Clydesdale Drive – Mrs. McCoy expressed concern with the new Financial Director hire. She expressed concern about her FOIA requests not being completely satisfied. She expressed concern with the transparency of the mayor.

Jason McCoy- 1261 Clydesdale- Mr. McCoy expressed concern with the new Financial Director hire. He asked who reads and signs city contracts. He questioned the contract for the Splash Pad.

Jamie George- 1017 Tarah Knolls Circle- Mr. George expressed concern with a Police Officer that was fired for driving his Police vehicle home. He asked how long that was happening before

he was fired. He questioned a previous employee being allowed to resign after coming to a city meeting under the influence of alcohol. He was concerned with there being two different standards. He was concerned with the lack of communication in the hiring of the new Financial Director. He said he feels the city should slow down development until we have the services to support it.

Michael Commet- 268 Fern Street- Mr. Commet asked if the consultant was going to come in and do an audit of the Financial Department. He expressed concern with the Legislative Audits performed over the last three years.

(12) Other Business –

- **Open Code Enforcement Position-** Police Chief Cody Harper addressed the Council, stating that he had 5 applicants and he has found a qualified applicant for the open Code Enforcement position. He said he has \$16.00/hour budgeted for the position, but is asking for Council approval for \$18.00/hour. He said the Salary Study lists this position starting at \$18.03/hour. Misty Elam stated that she felt we need to look at the Salary Study as a whole, before we bring somebody in at \$2.00/hour more than what has been budgeted. Darren Warren said we need to start somewhere, pointing out that we did the Salary Study to allow us to better retain our current employees and to attract higher quality applicants. Harper pointed out how competitive Northwest Arkansas is. Mayor Edwards stated that he looked at the Salary Study and it would take about \$900,000.00 to get every position in line, at this time. He recommended possibly looking at \$2.00/hour raise across the board. Darren Warren said that would not likely be in line with the Salary Study. He recommended possibly looking at \$17.00/hour with incentives for this Code Enforcement position. Chief Harper said he had been considering that option. City Clerk Todd Wright said the Council agreed to look at the Salary Study two-fold: 1) To attract qualified applicants for open positions in the city, at a reasonable salary, and 2) To bring current employees up to the level they should be at. He said he agreed with Darren Warren, that we have to start somewhere. He said if we are going to wait until we look at the entire Study, and it pushes out month after month, you could end up with disgruntled employees which are waiting for a decision to be made, and you could turn away potential qualified candidates. He said it will then be of utmost importance for that information to get out to the Department Heads, so that they know what an open position pays, when we are looking at candidates. He said salaries are fluid, and if we are looking at another 6 months to make a decision, salaries in this region may already be changing. Darren Warren said that is why he pushed for the Salary Study, so that we would have a baseline for starting pay and top-out pay. Misty Elam said we should give ourselves a 3-month deadline, to make a decision. Amy Rochette said she hoped we could make a decision in the next month or two. There was continued discussion about the open Code Enforcement position. Darren Warren said there is a Certification process for Code Enforcement Officers, which we could also look at.

Darren Warren made a motion to allow \$17.10/hour, plus a 6-month Certification incentive up to \$18.00/hour for the Code Enforcement position, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Vehicle for Fire Department for Swift Water Rescues** – Keith Higginbotham addressed the Council, stating that the Highfill Fire Department has a 2.5 ton High-Wheel truck that they are using for swift water rescues. He expressed concern with the vehicles that we are currently taking to swift water rescues. He suggested that we look at getting a high wheel truck for our Fire Department. There was discussion. Darren Warren said he had no issue with researching this type of vehicle. Police Chief Cody Harper said he could help get Chief Thompson membership access to a website of available military vehicles.

No action was taken by Council.

- **Attracting Businesses to the City** – Amy Rochette addressed the Council, asking what the city is doing to attract businesses to the city. Mayor Edwards said he has written letters to businesses in the past, with some success. He said we currently have 17-18 businesses about to open in the city. Rochette asked if we could incentivize new businesses. Edwards asked what we would then do for existing businesses. He said a lot of cities have Chambers of Commerce. He said we used to have one, and maybe it is time to have one again. City Clerk Todd Wright said that we used to have both a Business Association and a Kiwanis Club. He said those types of clubs are dependent on activity and involvement, and folks just got too busy to find the extra time. He said for businesses to come in, it really comes down to supply and demand. Darren Warren stated that there is also not an employment center in the city, where people are already here, and encouraged to stay here for lunch and dinner, as an example. There was brief discussion about options for tax breaks. There was also discussion about local businesses starting another Business Association, BNI group or a Chamber of Commerce.

No action was taken by Council.

- **North Main Street-** Amy Rochette asked if the city could petition for control or ownership of N. Main Street from the State of Arkansas. There was discussion about the city budget, the cost of maintenance, the cemetery, truck traffic, and lack of viable space and uses. It was recommended that we petition the State to repair, maintain and develop it.

No action was taken by Council.

(13) Announcements -

- **5/17/2022 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **6/07/2022 - Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **6/14/2022 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(14) Adjourn -

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 10:38 PM with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk