



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 11, 2024
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, Cody Miles, Darren Warren, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Justin Cowgur (via Zoom) and Amy Rochette. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Clerk Todd Wright, City Attorney Brian Rabal, HR Director Jocelyn Diaz, Financial Director Shannon Zappettini, City Engineer Alan Craighead, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Police Chief Cody Harper, Fire Chief Matt Thompson, Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt and Director of Public Works Anthony Martinez.

- (4) Council Minutes** –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 14, 2024 and May 22, 2024 City Council Meetings, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and A & P Commission Minutes –

Amy Rochette made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the April 16, 2024 and May 3, 2024 CWSD Meetings, May 7, 2024 and May 21, 2024 Planning Commission Meetings, and the May 6, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (5) City and Court Financials** -

Financial Director Shannon Zappettini addressed the Council, detailing the Financial Reports for May 2024, as provided in the Council packets. Revenue was at 52.68 % and Expenses were at 43.63 %. She stated Legislative Audit has started their annual audit of the city.

The May 2024 Financial Report and Court Report were contained in the Council packets.

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

Josie Reed made a motion to accept the May, 2024 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packets.

Mayor Edwards commended the First Responders, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and City Staff on their response to the recent tornadoes and storms.

City Planner Kayla Knight gave a detailed report on the SmartGov software the Planning Department is currently using. Planning Director Lorene Burns also gave feedback. The recommendation of the Planning Department is that we look for a software that better serves our purposes. City Attorney Brian Rabal recommended that the city reach out with our concerns and give proper notice per the contract requirements. Council supported terminating the existing contract and looking for other software. City Attorney Brian Rabal will review the existing contract.

Council Member Darren Warren complimented the Police Department on their ratio of traffic warnings to citations.

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

(7) Public Comments –

Chris Mooney – 1325 Main Street – Mr. Mooney complimented the Public Works Department on the storm debris cleanup from his home.

(8) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinances 2024-20 and 2024-21; and Resolutions 2024-18 and 2024-19 by Title only, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. 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 2024-20 and 2024-21, with a 2nd from Cody Miles. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-20 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION FROM CENTERTON COMMONS LLC FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE N/E QUARTER OF THE S/E QUARTER OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 31 WEST, CITY OF CENTERTON, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept ROW dedication from Centerton Commons LLC, at 11301 W. Hwy 72.

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 spelling correction in title, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-21 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PERMANENT UTILITY EASEMENT AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT DEDICATION FROM CENTERTON COMMONS LLC FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE N/E QUARTER OF THE S/E QUARTER OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH, RANGE 31 WEST, CITY OF CENTERTON, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept permanent Utility Easement and temporary Construction dedication from Centerton Commons LLC, at 11301 W. Hwy 72.

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 spelling correction in title, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(9) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2024-18 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BURRIS ARCHITECTURE BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS FOR ARCHITECTURE SERVICES FOR THE CENTERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to enter into an agreement with Burriss Architecture of Rogers, Arkansas for Architecture Services for the Centerton Police Department. He stated that there were nine (9) submittals, which was narrowed down to three (3) for interviews, where Burriss was selected. A copy of the agreement was provided for Council. Police Chief Cody Harper detailed the process for selecting Burriss.

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

- **Resolution 2024-19 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS AND BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS, REGARDING EMS SERVICES IN THE CENTERTON FIRE DISTRICT.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to enter into an agreement with Benton County for Centerton to provide EMS services in the Centerton Fire District. A copy of the agreement was provided for Council.

Fire Chief Matt Thompson addressed Council, detailing the agreement.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any 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 Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- (10) Reappoint Jeff Seyfarth, Tony Davis and Jerry Harris to the Centerton Planning Commission, Term Expiring 6/30/2027 –**

Mayor Edwards recommended the re-appointment of Jeff Seyfarth, Tony Davis and Jerry Harris to the Centerton Planning Commission. He stated that there was one person who showed interest in future openings on the Planning Commission. He said there was a formal interview performed and the person stated that they would like to be considered for future openings.

Darren Warren made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Seyfarth, Tony Davis and Jerry Harris to the Centerton Planning Commission, Terms expiring 6/30/2027, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor, except Amy Rochette, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

(11) Approve Moving Permit for Manufactured Home for Matt and Laura Legg, Bates Lane -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this item is to approve the moving permit for a manufactured home to be placed at 8405 Bates Lane. He stated that this was approved by the Planning Commission at their last PC meeting.

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

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Moving Permit for Matt and Laura Legg, as presented, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(12) Acknowledge Receipt for Grant for Sidewalk Project and Greenhouse Road -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, updating them on two (2) grants for sidewalks which have been approved. He said the first grant is for citywide sidewalk infill and was approved for \$402,444.00 (including the city's 20% match). He said the second grant is paired with the city of Bentonville for Greenhouse Road, in the amount of \$577,410.00 (combined for both cities, including the 20% match).

City Engineer Alan Craighead addressed Council, giving an update on the Greenhouse Road expansion.

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

(13) Discuss Starting Salary for Police Department and Building Inspector -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, giving a background of current salaries of Police Officers in our city and surrounding cities. He detailed the recent loss of officers due to pay.

Police Chief Cody Harper addressed Council detailing his struggles with hiring and retaining officers, due to pay, and making a proposal to Council to raise salaries as follows:

- **\$4.00/hour increase for all Commissioned Officers**
- **\$23.31/hour minimum starting salary for Uncertified Officers**
- **\$24.31/hour minimum starting salary for Certified Officers**
- **\$27.00/hour minimum starting salary for Certified Officers w/5 yr. experience**

There was Council discussion regarding surrounding cities Police salaries, culture of the Centerton Police Department, and the prospect of raising the pay of all existing Certified Police Officers. Chief Harper stated that Incentive Pay is also an obstacle for him with other cities'

departments. He stated that he will bring Incentive Pay options to Council later this year, per a request by Council Member Amy Rochette.

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

Darren Warren made a motion to Approve Police Officer Base Salary, for newly hired Officers, as presented, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Approve the \$4.00/hour increase for all Commissioned Police Officers, as presented, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except Amy Rochette and Darren Warren, who voted NO. Mayor Edwards voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mayor Edwards addressed Council, detailing the difficulty the city has had in hiring another Building Inspector.

Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt addressed Council, stating that the open position has been posted for over a year, and we have been unable to hire a qualified Inspector for the salary that has been offered. He asked Council to consider a starting salary of up to \$30/hour.

Amy Rochette made a motion to Approve a starting salary of up to \$30.00/hour for a licensed Building Inspector, as presented, with a 2nd from Cody Miles. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except Darren Warren, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

(14) Other Business –

- **Chamber of Commerce Update** – Council Member Josie Reed provided an update in the Council packets.
- **Community Center Update** - Mayor Edwards gave an update on the 17 RFQ's for Architect, which was then narrowed down to 11, which have been interviewed. He said he hopes to have a selection by the July City Council meeting.
- **Hwy 102B (N. Main Street) Update** – Mayor Edwards gave an update on discussions with ARDOT.

(15) Announcements -

- **6/15/2024 – Coffee w/ the Mayor @ 9:00 AM**
- **6/18/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **7/02/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **7/09/2024 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

- **7/16/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(16) Adjourn -

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 8:03 PM with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk