



**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 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 and Keith Higginbotham. Justin Cowgur was absent. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Clerk Todd Wright, City Attorney Brian Rabal, HR Director Jocelyn Diaz (Zoom), Financial Director Shannon Zappettini, City Engineer Alan Craighead, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Police Chief Cody Harper (Zoom), Fire Chief Matt Thompson (Zoom), 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 July 9, 2024 City Council Meeting, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

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

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the June 17, 2024 CWSD Meeting, July 2, 2024 & July 16, 2024 Planning Commission Meetings, and the July 1, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. 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 July 2024, as provided in the Council packets. Revenue was at 67.99 % and Expenses were at 58.46 %. She also gave an update on the Street Fund and Ambulance billing. She stated that Legislative Audit was about a month away from completion.

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

Council Member recommended looking at options for the city's surplus. Mayor Edwards said there are some large expenses coming up and that we can look at amending the budget in October.

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

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the July, 2024 City & Court Financials, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

#### **(6) Department Reports -**

The Department Reports were in the Council Packets.

Mayor Edwards presented Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt with a 20-Year Service plaque

Mayor Edwards presented Planning Director Lorene Burns and City Engineer Alan Craighead a plaque from FEMA for their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System.

Mayor Edwards stated that we have an opening on the Police Department and Building Safety Department.

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

#### **(7) Public Comments –**

**Thomas Loukes – 1420 Florentine Road** – Mr. Loukes addressed the Council expressing the importance of finances. He commented on the growth of Centerton and expressed the importance of Police and Fire services in the city. He recommended budgeting for the future growth needs of those departments. He asked Mayor Edwards to include pertinent statistics in his annual State of the City Address for people moving to the area to be able to see.

**Craig Vough – 1421 Evening Shade Lane** – Mr. Vough addressed Council expressing concern with vehicular parking across sidewalks in the city, forcing pedestrian traffic into the streets. He asked that more Code Enforcement and Police attention be directed toward this Code violation.

He also asked that the city do something to make citizens more aware of this particular City Code.

**(8) Ordinances –**

**Josie Reed made a motion to Read Ordinance 2024-23; and Resolutions 2024-23, 2024-24 and 2024-25 by Title only, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

- **Ordinance 2024-23 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO 2188, LLC FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO HIGH DENSITY MULTI-FAMILY (R4-MF).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to approve a rezone on Kimmel Road from (A-1) to (R4-MF). He said it was recommended for Council approval at the 8/06/2024 PC meeting. He said a PUD was also approved and that there was a Public Hearing held, with one comment regarding traffic safety. A Land Use map was provided for Council, showing the location of the requested area and surrounding Uses and Zones.

Daniel Ellis was present, representing the applicant.

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 waive the rule requiring the reading of the Ordinance on three separate occasions, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. 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 Cody Miles. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

**(9) Resolutions –**

- **Resolution 2024-23 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM VOIP, PLANO, TEXAS TO LEASE A PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to enter into an agreement with Spectrum VOIP, to lease a phone system for Centerton Animal Services. He said this is the phone system the Police, Court, Fire, Street and City Hall are all on. A copy of the agreement was provided for Council.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.**

- **Resolution 2024-24 - A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN BANK ACCOUNTS AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NWA ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON WITH REGARD TO SAID ACCOUNTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to authorize the closure of the Performance Bond Account and the Public Safety Equipment Fund accounts.

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 review by the City Attorney, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.**

- **Resolution 2024-25 - A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BANK ACCOUNT AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NWA, FOR THE CREATION OF FEE IN LIEU AND COMMUNITY CENTER DONATION CHECKING ACCOUNTS AND TO ESTABLISH INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM VARIOUS ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON WITH REGARD TO SAID ACCOUNT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to establish new bank accounts titled “Fee in Lieu” and “Community Center Donation” Checking Accounts at FNB NWA.

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, contingent upon review by the City Attorney, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.**

**(10) Approve Restructure of Employee Certification Pay Plan –**

Mayor Edwards made a presentation to Council of the Municipal ACE Certification Plan, which was changed by the AML from 3 levels to 4. He said it is open for city employees and Elected Officials. He said on the old plan we would compensate our employees \$1.00/hour per Certified Level. He recommended that we redistribute the current budgeted amount of up to \$3.00/hour to

\$30.00/Week per Level. He also wanted to add the Planning Commission and Elected Officials to the Plan, at \$25.00/month per Level. A copy of the recommendation was provided for Council.

Council Member Darren Warren supported the plan for employees, but recommended bringing an Ordinance back to Council regarding elected officials.

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the Plan as presented for Employees and to bring an Ordinance back to Council, regarding Elected Officials, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.**

**(11) Acknowledge Receipt of STIP Letter to ARDOT for Highway Improvements -**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, asking for Acknowledgement of a Letter written to ARDOT, regarding improvement requests for Hwy 102B and Hwy 279 South. He detailed the letter for Council.

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

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the ARDOT Letter, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

**(12) Accept Resignation of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member Mark Jones -**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that he received a Letter of Resignation from Mark Jones of the Centerton Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

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

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the resignation of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member Mark Jones, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

**(13) Other Business –**

- **Chamber of Commerce Update** – Council Member Josie Reed gave a Chamber of Commerce update.

**(14) Announcements -**

- **8/17/2024 – Coffee w/ the Mayor @ 9:00 AM**
- **8/20/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

- **9/03/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **9/10/2024 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **9/14/2024 – Centerton Day**
- **9/17/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **9/21/2024 – NWA Preparedness Fair**

**(15) Interview Candidates for Open Council Position –**

Mayor Edwards addressed Council, stating that the candidates for the open Council position will be presented in the order they applied and will be allowed 5-7 minutes to present to Council, followed by any questions the Council have for the candidate. He said Council will deliberate after hearing from each of the candidates and appoint one (1) candidate to the vacant Council position. The candidates presented in the following order.

- Melissa Lund
- Chris Mooney
- Brandon Swoboda
- Bryan Bennett
- Destiny Baxter
- Cliff Thompson

Council deliberated.

**Cody Miles made a motion to Appoint Cliff Thompson to the Centerton City Council, Ward 1, Position 2, Term expiring December 31, 2026, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor, except Darren Warren, who voted NO, and the motion carried 3-1.**

**(16) Swear In New Council Member -**

Mayor Bill Edwards swore in Cliff Thompson, as City Council Member Ward 1, Position 2

**(17) Adjourn -**

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 8:09 PM with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

---

Bill Edwards, Mayor

---

Todd Wright, City Clerk

**(16) Adjourn -**

**Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 7:54 PM with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Cody Miles. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.**

---

Bill Edwards, Mayor

---

Todd Wright, City Clerk