



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
6:00 PM**

(1) **Pledge** – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

(2) **Prayer** – Josie Reed offered the prayer.

(3) **Roll Call** - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Cody Miles, Darren Warren, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham and Cliff Thompson (via Zoom). Justin Cowgur was absent. 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 (Zoom), Fire Chief Matt Thompson and Director of Public Works Anthony Martinez.

(4) **Council Minutes** –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2024 City Council Meeting, with a 2nd 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 July 16, 2024 CWSD Meeting, August 6, 2024 & August 20, 2024 Planning Commission Meetings, August 20, 2024 Board of Zoning Adjustment Meeting and the August 5, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, with a 2nd 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 August 2024, as provided in the Council packets. Revenue was at 68.88 % and Expenses were at 67.39 %. She also gave an update on Ambulance billing.

The August 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 August, 2024 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packets.

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

(7) Public Comments –

Cindy Zumstein – 230 Town Vu Road – Ms. Zumstein addressed the Council expressing concern with Resolution 2024-27, proposing that a City Council Member be allowed to continue to sell medical supplies to the city. She stated that she was strongly in opposition, due to possible conflict of interest.

Thomas Loukes – 1420 Florentine Road – Mr. Loukes addressed the Council expressing concern with Sex Offenders living in the city. He expressed concern with access to unsupervised children at city parks. He recommended that City Council develop a plan to deal with this issue.

Chris Mooney – 1325 N, Main Street – Mr. Mooney addressed Council recommending that the city plan for alternative traffic routes ahead of the planned widening of Hwy 102. He stated that he had reviewed the City Budget and that the financials of the city are in really good shape.

(8) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinance 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2024-26; and Resolutions 2024-26, 2024-27, 2024-28 and 2024-29 by Title only, with a 2nd from Cody Miles. 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 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2024-26, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-24 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO ROBERT AND LORETTA ERICKSON FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to approve a rezone on W. Centerton Blvd. from (A-1) to (C-2). He said it was recommended for Council approval at the 9/03/2024 PC meeting. He stated that there was a Public Hearing held with no opposition. A Land Use map was provided for Council, showing the location of the requested area and surrounding Uses and Zones.

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 Cody Miles. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-25 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 13.04,05 TITLED “COMPENSATION”. FIXING THE SALARY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to allow the Planning Commission Members to be compensated \$25.00/ month for each level completed of the ACE Learning Hub. The details of the ACE Learning Hub Levels were 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 Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-26 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 2.12.04 TITLED “COMPENSATION”. FIXING THE SALARY FOR CITY COUNCIL.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to allow the City Council Members to be compensated \$25.00/ month for each level completed of the ACE Learning Hub. The details of the ACE Learning Hub Levels were 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 Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(9) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2024-26 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2025.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to approve the rate of Property Taxes to be collected in 2025. A breakdown of Property Taxes from the Benton County Clerk 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 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-27 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUNCIL MEMBER CLIFF THOMPSON WITH ROUND TREE MEDICAL LLC. DUBLIN OHIO TO SELL MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to authorize City Council Member Cliff Thompson to continue to sell medical supplies to the city, as a sales consultant representative of Round Tree Medical LLC. He stated that City Code does allow for this and read the Code.

There was Council discussion. Council had no issue continuing to do business with Round Tree Medical LLC, but recommended looking for ways for Council Member Thompson to not be directly involved in the sales transactions with the city.

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

Josie Reed made a motion to TABLE the Resolution, with a 2nd from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor, except for Cliff Thompson, who Abstained, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-28 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH CREDIT BUREAU SYSTEMS INC. PADUCAH, KENTUCKY, TO PROVIDE COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE CITY.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to enter into an agreement with Credit Bureau Services, Inc. to provide Ambulance Collection Services for the

city. Financial Director Shannon Zappettini and Fire Chief Matt Thompson provided additional details and answered questions for Council. A copy of the agreement was provided for Council.

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

- **Resolution 2024-29 - A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON TO UTILIZE ULI NWA SMALL CITIES INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to authorize the city to use ULI NWA Small Cities Initiative Grant funds. Planning Director Lorene Burns addressed Council detailing a grant the city is applying for, which could provide up to \$200,000.00 and its possible uses.

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.

- (10) **Update on Bond and Timeline to Initiate – Cheryl Schluterman with Raymond James –**

Cheryl Schluterman with Raymond James addressed Council, giving an update and timeline of the 2024 Sales and Use Tax Bond Issue. She provided a packet for Council.

No Council action was required

- (11) **Add Assistant Fire Marshal Position to the Centerton Fire Department -**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, requesting to add an Assistant Fire Marshall position to the Fire Department at the rate of \$29.80/hour, based on a 40-hour week. He said there is room for the position in the budget.

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

Josie Reed made a motion to approve the added position of Assistant Fire Marshal, as presented, with a 2nd from Cody Miles. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(12) Surplus Public Works Equipment -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, providing a list of Public Works Equipment items that he is requesting to surplus. A detailed list was provided for Council, including part numbers and serial numbers where applicable:

- 2016 Tandem Axle Trailer
- Boss 10-foot Heavy Duty Plow (Serial # BC060515)
- Monroe Stainless Steel Spreader Box (Serial # 11-08-3182)
- 2001 Caterpillar M315 Wheeled Excavator
- 1991 International Tanker Truck

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the surplus of Public Works equipment, as presented, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(13) Other Business –

- **NWA Regional Transportation Study** – Update by Mayor Edwards. A copy of the study was provided in the Council packets.
- **Chamber of Commerce Update** – A Chamber of Commerce update was provided in the Council packets.

(14) Announcements -

- **9/14/2024 – Centerton Day**
- **9/17/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **9/21/2024 – NWA Preparedness Fair @ 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**
- **10/01/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **10/08/2024 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **10/15/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(15) Adjourn -

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 7:00 PM with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk