

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2013**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The prayer was offered by Keith Higginbotham. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Keith Higginbotham, Skye Petty, Misty Elam, Robin Reed and Tommy Laird. Josie Reed was absent. Those present and not answering role call were Brian Rabal, Todd Wright, Jennifer Robinson, Street Superintendant Rick Hudson, Fire Chief Delton Bush, Police Chief Lance Johnson, Animal Control Supervisor Terry Sanchez, Water & Sewer Superintendant Frank Holzkamper, Planning Commissioner Lorene Burns and Building Inspector Robert Coffelt.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 12, 2013 city council meeting with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer and Parks Minutes-** Tommy Laird made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the February 26, 2013 Planning meeting minutes, February 21, 2013 Water & Sewer minutes and the March 5, 2013 Parks and Recreation minutes with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that we are 25% through the year and we have received 30% of our revenue. He stated that our expenditures are at 30%. He stated that we pretty much paid off the new PD and just received the 2 new Tahoe's. He also stated that we should be receiving about \$30,000.00 in franchise fees from Waste Management. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the March 2013 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Department Reports- Water- Frank Holzkamper spoke to the council first so that he could leave early to meet with the City of Highfill at their meeting regarding their water service. Frank stated that they have been working on defining their service area. He stated that he has met with Bentonville, is meeting with Highfill tonight and then will be going to Gravette and Bella Vista in the near future. He said that they are still exploring all of their avenues for sewer service and hope to be coming before the council in the next 2-3 months with a solution. He stated that they should have plans soon for a secondary feed to the Quail Ridge subdivision, running down Greenhouse Road. He said they will be

working on a master plan in the near future. Frank stated that Joby Howard passed his Wastewater I training course and so we have another wastewater operator other than Frank. Mayor Edwards stated that the old Water truck sold for \$6604.00. **Building Inspection-** Robert Coffelt stated that Casey's is hoping to close out on April 25th or 26th. He stated that permits are still being pulled in certain subdivisions. He stated that last month's revenue was up from \$9000.00-\$14,000.00, that puts us at \$44,587.00 for the year. He stated that Bentonville Solid Waste has their footings poured. He stated that the Methodist Church was up and they were putting metal studs in the other day. **Police-** Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for March, 2013 and asked if there were any questions. He said the DWI's and the disturbances were up and that they were going to work on track those a little better. Lance stated that they have 5 interviews tomorrow for the open position. He said there were 26 applicants. He stated that they are due for pistol qualifications. He stated that the 2 new Tahoe's were issued and in service. He stated that the donated one of the Crown Vic's to City Hall and one to the Fire Department and that the only vehicle left in reserve is the 2004 Expedition. He said the other Crown Vic has a bad transmission and is on the auction block. Lance stated that the new PD is absolutely beautiful and that it is a pleasure to go to work each day. He stated that they would like to do an Open House/Ribbon Cutting on April 25th at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Edwards asked the council for their permission to put a generator out for bid for the new PD. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to put it out for bid with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they are still working on recovering our right-of-way and drainage improvements in town. He stated that they were working on cleaning up Mel Platte's place and that they received clearance from the asbestos inspection. He stated that they had 2 people, Robin and Russell; attend class in Ft. Smith for Park Design. He stated that he, Sally and Lorene will be attending a Floodplain Management training next week in Russellville. He stated that the new 1-ton truck has come in and that the old truck has been switched over to a service truck. He also stated that they got the new/used road grader in. **Planning-** Lorene stated that they had 2 applicants for the open position on the Planning Commission and that they selected Nick Jewett. Lorene stated that she has 4 requests for tract splits and that she received preliminary plat for Quail Hollow. Lorene stated that the agreement with Elizabeth Bowen was signed and that they have a meeting this coming Thursday to start working on a Master Street Plan. Lorene stated that she had one phone call asking for a place to put a bar. **Fire-** Fire Chief Delton Bush stated that they have had 178 fire calls. He stated that they finally got their flag lit. He said that they changed all of the ballasts in the truck bays to more economical lights. He stated that the new server is working great and that he is even able to work on his reports from home. Delton stated that they have just about completed the brush truck. He stated that it will be at station #3. He stated that they will participate with the PD at Touch-a-Truck on May 4th. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and stated that everything was going well at the shelter and that business was picking up. He reminded everyone about the Rabies Clinic coming up on April 13th. He stated that they had 12 dogs currently at the shelter. **Administration-** Jennifer had nothing for the council. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that the County is considering purchasing a new radio system and expressed his concerns. He stated that he and Rick met with the Bentonville School District. Rick stated that he thought the meeting was very productive and that we were still in the running. Mayor

Edwards stated that he also met with the demographers. Mayor Edwards reminded everybody about the Rabies Clinic on April 13th from 10:00-12:00, the Pancake Breakfast on 4/20 from 8:00-11:00, the Benton County Cleanup on 4/20, the Rodeo Parade on April 27th at 11:00 a.m. and the Touch-a-Truck show on May 4th. **Chamber of Commerce-** PJ addressed the council and discussed the financials. He stated that the Pancake Breakfast will be held on 4/20, the rodeo will be 4/25-4/27 and that the next chamber board meeting will be 5/6/13 at 6:00 p.m.

- (4) Ordinance 2013-08- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) Hiring Additional Firefighter Monday through Friday-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and expressed this possible need. Fire Chief Delton Bush stated that after being Fire Chief for a year, he I not able to get things done that desperately need to get done. He stated that everything the fire department does is based around lowering the ISO rating for the city. He stated that they are currently working on fire hydrant testing. He stated that they are currently a volunteer department, but stated that if he could add another full time person 8-5 M-F, it would put another set of hands in the department on a daily basis. He stated that one of the goals he has is to be able to offer ambulance service, but that we are not quite ready at this time. He stated that we were looking at the ambulance service as a way to get us to paid personnel at the fire department. He stated that most of the departments in the area started working toward a full-time department by hiring a full-time Chief and then started adding people on an 8-5 basis. He stated that he wanted to start on a part-time basis to save on insurance, with starting pay at a maximum of \$13.00/hr. He gave more details of the position and pay. He said that he hoped to fill the position(s) in house. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to allow Delton to put out feelers for interest to fill the position(s) with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (6) Appoint Nick Jewett to the Planning Commission-** Mayor Edwards recommended that the council approve the appointment of Nick Jewett to the Planning Commission. Keith asked if he could remain on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Mayor stated that he could. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the appointment of Nick Jewett to the Planning Commission with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (7) Discuss Offer from Trinity Multi Family for Pomeroy Property-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that the council had asked him to price appraisals for the property. He stated that he talked to 3 appraisers and got prices of \$400.00, \$600.00 and \$1000.00. There was discussion. Tommy Laird made a motion to allow the Mayor to have the property appraised with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) Other Business-** Keith Higginbotham stated that he is gathering information for the Mercy Helicopter Ambulance Service and gave the details he already had.
- (9) Executive Session-** Robin Reed made a motion to enter into an Executive Session for a personnel issue with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. The Mayor and the Council retired to the Conference Room. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to return from executive session with a 2nd from Tommy Laird.

There was no more business or announcements and Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk

