

**CITY OF CENTERTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 24TH, 2009**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bobbie Griffith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Tommy Laird. Those present and answering roll call were Josie Reed, Tommy Laird, Kathy Huber, Keith Higginbotham, Patricia Thornhill, Randy Thomas and Mayor Bobbie Griffith. Those present and not answering roll call were Jan Dolan, Todd Wright, Brian Rabal, Howard Slinkard and Bert Johnson.

- (1) **Resolution 09-16 - A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor And City Clerk To Execute On The Behalf Of The City A Contract With APAC-Arkansas, Inc. For Construction Of Certain Street Improvements For The City Of Centerton, Arkansas.** - Mayor Griffith addressed the council and explained that the information on the bids for this project was contained in their packets. She stated that APAC was awarded the bid with a letter from Morrison Shipley. She said that the Street Department budget would have to be amended for about \$88,000.00. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Kathy Huber. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard Slinkard read the resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Other** - Mayor Griffith reminded the city council members that there would be a groundbreaking for the Veteran's Memorial Park on September 1, 2009 at the City Hall location at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Griffith stated that another item of business was that she received a phone call from Kelly Copelin about changing some items, such as his record of employment, saying that he couldn't get a job. She stated that she called Howard Slinkard at that point and asked what she should do. She stated that Mr. Slinkard said to have Mr. Copelin bring in a letter stating what he wanted the city to do. A copy of the letter from Mr. Copelin was provided to each member of the council. Howard Slinkard addressed the council and stated that back in 2004 after Mr. Copelin was terminated he filed a suit against the City of Centerton in Federal court. Howard stated that he was representing the city when that matter was settled. He stated that the suit was filed as Wrongful Termination, a violation of civil rights, because he wasn't given a name-clearing hearing. Howard stated that the matter was settled. He stated that he didn't know what this matter was about. He stated that he didn't see how the city could take any action to do this under the circumstances. He said that Mr. Copelin was paid a considerable amount of money to settle the lawsuit. Keith Higginbotham stated that he was confused about a section in Mr. Copelin's letter asking for "termination" to be changed to "retirement". Keith stated that Mr. Copelin went to court because he was terminated, not because he retired. Keith made a motion to deny the request. He also asked Howard if there was a clause about harassment in

the settlement agreement, to which Howard said there was not. Howard stated that it was just a release of all claims arising from the facts. Kathy Huber asked what this was about if there was a release. Keith stated that there was no mention of early retirement at the time of the termination as far as the city was concerned. Howard agreed that there never was an official position of the city toward early retirement. Randy Thomas gave a 2nd to Keith's motion to deny the request and all members of the council voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried. Jan Dolan asked Mayor Griffith if she was going to send Mr. Copelin a letter, to which she replied that she would, as well as trying to send a copy of the tape of the meeting.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/Recorder