

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2011**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Todd Wright. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Robin Reed, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Tyler Steele, Skye Petty and Tommy Laird. Those present and not answering roll call were Jennifer Robinson, Todd Wright, Brian Rabal, Rick Hudson, Lance Johnson, Howard Slinkard, Michael Niederbaumer and Terry Sanchez. Lorene Burns, Robert Coffelt and Jeff Coffelt were not present for the meeting.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 8, 2011 council meeting and November 21, 2011 special council meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer, Parks and A&P Minutes-** Tyler Steele made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the October, 2011 Planning, Water & Sewer and A&P Commission minutes and the November, 2011 Parks & Recreation minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that with 91.6% of the year gone, our expenses were at 86.59%. He said that we are still under budget about 5%. He also told the council that we have transferred another \$175,000.00 into the Investor's Fund since the first of the year and that we have close to \$2.178 million in reserves in the Investor Account. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the November, 2011 City and Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Approval of Vehicles for Street and Police Departments-** Mayor Edwards stated that the Police Department and the Street Department would each like to purchase a 2012 4wd crew cab Dodge Ram trucks. He stated that the state contract amount on them was \$22,900.00 each. Tyler Steele made a motion to allow the departments to purchase the trucks with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) **Update on Bentonville Ambulance-** Mayor Edwards stated that the City of Bentonville was asking for compensation for ambulance service in 2010 and 2011 as well as any service going forward. Mayor Edwards stated that he and Mayor McCaslin have met several times and that they have agreed to not charge for 2010 or 2011. He stated that they felt like we should enter into an Interlocal agreement for services starting January 1, 2012. Mayor Edwards detailed their discussions. He stated that they were asking for \$400.00 per call for patient transfer within the

city limits. He said it will be renewed annually, billed quarterly, with a 30-60 day escape clause. He stated that through November, they showed 340 ambulance calls with 231 patient transfers. Mayor Edwards stated that he would put some things together and get it to the council.

- (6) Resolution 2011-29- A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ATTORNEY TO SERVE AS PRIMARY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to appoint a primary attorney for the city for a period of one year. The council decided asked to make the decision by ballot. Mayor Edwards took up the ballots and stated that the count was 5 votes for Brian Rabal and 1 vote for Howard Slinkard, with no votes for Acacia Stinnett. Mayor Edwards stated that Brian Rabal is appointed to be the Primary Attorney for the City of Centerton from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 at a rate of \$135.00 per hour. Skye Petty made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard read the resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards acknowledged Howard Slinkard for all of his service in behalf of the city.
- (7) Resolution 2011-26- A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A CITY PROSECUTOR FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution, stating that Tim Hutchinson is currently our City Prosecuting Attorney and has agreed to continue and keep his rate at \$725 per month. Tommy Laird made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) Ordinance 2011-14- AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012; DECLARING AND EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to approve and adopt the budget for the year 2012. He mentioned the profit of \$69,569.98 that shows on the budget and stated that the compensation for the Bentonville Ambulance Service is not included. Tommy Laird recommended putting \$90,000.00 in the budget for ambulance service. Jennifer stated that it would be put under Administration in the budget. Mayor Edwards stated that he added \$3000.00 in the Planning budget for re-surveying the current City Hall property due to some inconsistencies. He also stated that he included an hourly position for the Planning department to pay up to \$13.00 per hour. He stated that the position could also be used to help in other departments. There was discussion. Skye Petty made a motion to read the

ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard Slinkard 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 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard Slinkard read the emergency clause. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(9) Annual review of Mayor's Salary-** Mayor Edwards read from Ordinance 2010-31 that says that the council shall review the compensation of the mayor on an annual basis. He stated that last year the salary was set at \$49,000.00. Mayor Edwards stated that he was going to look at raising the pay for council in July, 2012 to \$100.00 per meeting. There was discussion. Skye Petty made a motion to raise the mayor's salary to \$50,500.00 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(10) Update on Parks Grants-** Mayor Edwards reviewed the parks grant letters with the council and stated that we should hear something by the end of the year on the big grant.

**Department Reports- Police-** Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for the previous month found in the council's packets. He stated that there has been quite a bit of training this month. He stated that he sent 3 officers to a narcotics class in Ft. Smith and that there were some other classes in there. He stated that they picked up a Hummer for \$260.00 and detailed his plans for it. He said it won't start at this time, but thinks it is battery related. He said it is being stored at the Street Department for now. He detailed the department's vehicle situation, needs and plans for future vehicles. Robin Reed made a motion to allow Lance to surplus one of the Impala's with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Lance gave details on the status of the process of the new Police Department. He stated that he has interviewed surveyors and architects and asked the council to allow him to sit down with the top 3 architects and surveyors to start talking pricing for contracts. He said we won't sign any contracts without coming before council. He gave details. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to allow Lance to do that with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards acknowledged Lances efforts in **Street-** Street Superintendant Rick Hudson stated that they have been helping to clean up the parks and gave details. He stated that Hickory Park has been completely gutted. He stated that they have been cleaning drainage channels and that we should be in a lot better shape in the coming year. Rick gave details on the new truck coming in. He said they got the Gator in and are using it. He said the hoist pricing he got is running around \$4000.00 installed and that they will look at getting it next year. Tyler asked if we should look at getting our own chipper and Rick said that it is not high on our priority list. He said the system we

have is working well with the one we use. He said the new dump truck should be here in the next 2 weeks. Rick thanked the council for their support over the last 12 months.

**Planning-** Mayor Edwards stated that Lorene was out for medical reasons. He reported that the Country Oaks subdivision was working on completion of a final plat. He said that we requested a final re-inspection before we can get a final plat on it. He said we were hoping to get it done before the December Planning meeting. He stated that the work has begun on moving the substation back on HWY 102 in preparation for the widening. He said that the Centerton First Baptist Church has submitted development plans for a new baseball field. **Building Inspections-** Robert Coffelt was not present, but a list of building permits was included in the council's packets. **Fire-** Fire Chief Jeff Coffelt was not present. **Water & Sewer-** Jeff Coffelt was not present. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez stated that as was well. Her said Facebook is really helping with adoptions. He said the shelter was actually empty for a couple of days. He said that it allowed him and DJ an opportunity to visit some other area shelters and that they got some good ideas. Mayor Edwards stated that they got all of the existing lights working at the shelter and that they are looking to add more. Terry stated that he is now on the County Animal Control Committee. **Administration-** Jennifer Robinson stated that we did a cut off on department spending of December 16<sup>th</sup>, so we can get all of the invoices in and paid by the end of the year. She said she is getting ready for the end of the year with W-2's and 1099's and all of the year end reports done for the State and Fed. She said that we will need to get council to fill out W-4's to be able to run council pay through payroll. She said the budget will be amended by the next council meeting and will have to be published as well as the 2012 adopted budget. Josie asked if the bonuses had been paid out and Jennifer said that they were paid out on November 21<sup>st</sup> and that the Police offices got their holiday pay as well. **Parks & Recreation-** Brad Carpenter was not present. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that Bloomsburg Magazine listed Centerton as the best place to raise children in the state of Arkansas for 2012 and we ordered some signage to reflect that. He mentioned that the new speed sled is in and being used. He stated that trash service will be normal during the 2 upcoming holidays. He gave details the Christmas parade and tree lighting and acknowledged all that helped. He mentioned that Santa will be going through neighborhoods Saturday starting at 9:00 a.m. There was discussion about how to advertise for future city events.

**Announcements-** Mayor Edwards stated that the city Christmas party would be this Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Robin thanked all of those that donated and helped with the family sponsored by the city for Christmas and gave details. Michael Finke gave the Chamber report. Todd acknowledged the efforts of our new mayor and new council members and thanked everyone for working together.

There was no more business or announcements and Tyler Steele made a motion to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Bill Edwards, Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder