

**City Of Centerton**  
**Special City Council Meeting**  
**February 17, 2009**

The city council was brought to order by Mayor Bobbie Griffith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Todd Wright. Those present and answering role call were Josie Reed, Patricia Thornhill, Kathy Huber, Keith Higginbotham, Randy Thomas and Mayor, Bobbie Griffith. Tommy Laird was absent. Those present and not answering role call were Todd Wright, Jan Dolan, Brian Rabal and Lorene Taul. Bert Johnson, Howard Slinkard and Andrew Huntsinger were not present for this meeting. Randy Clark was present in place of Police Chief Lance Johnson.

- (1) **Council Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting January 13, 2009, the Public Hearing February 10, 2009 and the regular council meeting February 10, 2009, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning Minutes and Water & Sewer Minutes Including Financials** - Mayor Griffith stated that there was not a December planning meeting due to bad weather. Kathy Huber made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Water & Sewer minutes including financials for December, 2008, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried
- (3) **Financials** - Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the city and court financials for January, 2009, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **State Of The City Address By Mayor, Bobbie Griffith** - Mayor Griffith stated that the year 2008 was a dark year for the economy with rising gas prices, homes sales falling, financial institutions failing and high unemployment. Centerton has department heads that have worked hard to diminish the effects of a tough economy by curbing their spending in various areas. Centerton's franchise tax, sales tax and turnback revenues came in above the budgeted amounts for the year. We are very appreciative of that extra boost. We are still struggling to entice more businesses to settle here in Centerton. She has talked with business owners on a daily basis and is also seeking help from an economic development to help new business owners with some type of incentive, so that they may ultimately settle in the city. She said we should also try to spend our dollars here in the city if it is at all possible. The Police Department is holding their own economically. We have not had to put 2 officers in a car and we have not relaxed our patrolling as some departments have done. The department would like to have a certified narcotics officer in the near future and also have more CID training. The Police Department is doing a good job. The Street Department has progressed on Kimmel Road and has also had Bliss, on the west end of town, completed, as well as the Bliss street

extension on this side of town completed on this side of town. The department now has two commercial lawn mowers and able to get places cleaned up that were almost impossible to work with the large equipment that we used. We are utilizing court workers daily. They are a blessing, as they help us get our work done more quickly and they don't cost us any money. There is much work to be done on Gamble and Tycoon Roads in 2009. We have a new box culvert on Kimmel Road that is a great improvement. The Planning Department has been busy with master street plans, a land use map and a sign ordinance. They are also working on a comprehensive plan. Northwest Regional Planning has been to a few meetings to try to help us get everything ready and they are an asset to the Planning Commission. Lorene Taul is involved in continuing education and passes her knowledge onto the Planning Commission. The commission is also working on a lighting ordinance at this time. Robert Coffelt is very involved in getting continuing education also and helping to structure ordinances to make our city a more pleasing place to live. Robert has also taken a role in keeping our city from becoming an eyesore because of tall grass and trash in yards and driveways. All of us at city hall are trying to take an active roll in keeping the city clean. The Fire Department has responded to approximately 600 runs in 2008. They have been extremely busy with both fire and medical runs. Our Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for their dedication the city and its residents. They also plan to have two substations in Centerton by the end of 2009. The Water & Sewer Department is presently seeking an alternate way to offer the residents of Centerton affordable sewer. Water & Sewer has secured a loan with ANRC to perform upgrades to existing lines. The department will have a bid opening on March 10<sup>th</sup> for the upgrades and the renovations to the water tower. They are working hard to provide the residents with the best quality of water at a good price that is available. The Animal Shelter happens to be a popular place in the city. The adoptions are going well and she receives compliments daily on the cleanliness of the shelter. The shelter has a very good adoption rate and both employees there are doing an excellent job. All of the city employees are dedicated and work hard to keep the residents happy and the city is safe for all of us. We are all working together for Centerton. I believe that 2009 will be a great year.

- (5) **Department Reports- Administration** - Jan wanted to bring to the attention of the council, the need for upgrades to the city accounting software. She stated that the upgrades were going to cost between \$3400.00 and \$3700.00 depending on the number of users. She took a training class in January. **Water** - Jeff stated that there a couple of bid openings on the 10<sup>th</sup>. One is the interconnection of the two systems, including some pumps at the tower on Hwy 72 to help with the constant flow. Part of it also an alternate for drive-by meter reads if the bids com in right. In the next couple of weeks, the engineering firm we use doing a G.P.S. of all of our system. It should take 2-3 months. **Sewer** - Jeff stated we are working on some different avenues, where hopefully we can at least move forward with A.D.E.Q. and the state can either tell us no or yes again. We did take over responsibility of the note for the land on the west end of town, but are looking to

other locations to put in a sewer treatment facility. We still know that we can treat it cheaper ourselves with a very good process. It's just a matter of convincing the state. **Fire** - Jeff said that so far this year we have had 155 runs, a lot from the ice storm. He had a meeting with F.E.M.A., concerning the ice storm removal. He learned about overtime pay, equipment use and percentage of pay from federal and state disaster funds. He said it is a long process. Jeff said there will be lots of training through April. **Planning** - Lorene stated that we lost the appeal on the west island annexation and on February 10, the Bentonville Council approved the ordinance that had already gone through the Judge and the Hearing process, without an emergency clause, so in 30 days it will go into effect and over 400 acres will go to the City of Bentonville and they will be responsible for emergency services. Four ordinances will be coming at the next meeting: One for streets and sidewalks, one for lighting, one for signs and one for a drainage manual. Lorene spoke with David Todd today about the resolution to approve him to do the study on the improvements from the flood study, but she did tell him that her priority was to get the data to F.E.M.A. to get the large area out of the flood plain. Jeff mentioned that he and Lorene are working on re-addressing the city so everything is uniform. Some people won't be affected but a lot will. If you receive a notice, you will have a year to comply. **Streets**- Bert was absent, but Mayor Griffith stated that she has been talking to the Postal Department because we have areas that are in the city that use a Bentonville address, therefore we do not get any tax revenue from those locations. **Police** - Randy Clark was representing the Police Department and stated that they have hire Tiffany Lowe as a new officer starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said the department is running well. He stated that today at the Mcdonalds in Centerton, a call was received about an empty suitcase by a trash can. Randy responded and called Chief Johnson and in turn called the Bomb Squad in Springdale. They opened the suitcase and found it to be empty. The council agreed that it was better to be safe than sorry.

- (6) **Announcements** - Mayor Griffith stated that the Fire and Street transactions from January, 2009 were in the council's packets as well as building permits. She also announced the new city welcome sign that has almost been completed by one of our local Boy Scouts, only lacking landscaping. Mayor Griffith announced that there would be an A&P Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room. She also noted that Cox Communications sent us a notice about their new pricing dated 1/22/2009. Mayor Griffith stated that also included in the packets are the Centerton Police Department statistics for 2005-2008 and Animal Control statistics from Sept. 2005- Dec. 2008.

Randy Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder