

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

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

State Of The City Address- Mayor Edwards read to the council and the audience: Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council and fellow citizens, as Mayor I am honored to report to you about the state of the city and its future needs. I am grateful for the opportunity that the citizens have given me to serve the City of Centerton and I look forward to the next two years as an opportunity for all of us to make a difference in our community.

First of all I am happy to report that construction has started on Highway 102 and, this project will be an important change to the infrastructure of our city on the eastern side of town. This project will help ease traffic and will handle the daily traffic flow of 18,000 to 20,000 vehicles a day. I have also initiated a campaign to attract business to this area, and have written 30 letters to date and have a goal to help attract 5 new businesses this year.

There have been several new businesses open last year to include the Centerton Animal Hospital, Shipley's Donuts, and also a new Casey's store is being constructed. Building is very strong with over 100 new housing starts in the year 2012, and this trend is continuing into 2013.

I would like to update you on the various departments within the city, and I would like to start with the Planning Department, over the past year this department along with the Planning Commission has been very busy reviewing several projects and subdivisions in the area. The Planning Department hired a new Planning Assistant which will help with the day to day operations of the department and also help with new projects as they come to us. Goals for this year will be continued work on a new GIS system, and to get a lot of our information online to help the public. This department will also work with city staff to update many outdated codes and bring the codebook up to standards.

Next is our Street Department, this crew has been working very hard in our city with several overlay projects, and also completing a lot of much needed work on many of our roads. Recently this department has completed major road renovations on Kimmel,

Buckhorn Flats, Holloway, Seba and Keller roads just to name a few. This department has recently hired an employee to take care of maintenance on our parks. The department has also worked very hard cleaning out a lot of ditches and clearing brush to help improve the drainage in town, and is always looking for ways to improve the roadways for our citizens.

A new building is being constructed for our police department and is near completion, also the department recently increased staff to include a new part time officer, and another officer has been added and also the fleet of vehicles has been upgraded by adding several new vehicles to replace an aging fleet. This change alone will save money in overall maintenance costs, and a vehicle rotation plan has been implemented. Salaries for this department have been increased to match other area cities and also help the department to retain good officers and attract certified officers.

Next I would like to thank the men and woman of the Centerton Volunteer Fire Department; in 2012 the department received 689 calls for service, which was increase from 2011. The department has been able to upgrade equipment to include radios for each member of the department, with over half of them being new digital equipment. The overall number of volunteers has also been increased to 45 in 2012, and the department was able to hire the first paid employee, with the additional of Delton Bush, Fire Chief. The department will be replacing an aging support truck, and is currently studying the possibility of adding Advanced Life Support Ambulance service to the department. The department also completed the 2 substations, and has been able to obtain 2 additional tanker trucks to house in these stations.

The Building Inspection and Code Enforcement have been very busy, with a large number of inspections completing over 4000 inspections in 2012. Currently Cherie Vaughn, the permit clerk is being trained to become the backup inspector in the event our inspector is on vacation or in training, this will insure we continue to inspect projects in a timely manner. Also code enforcement calls have been on the increase and all issues have been taken care of in a timely manner.

Animal Control has been very busy in 2012, and has done an excellent job adopting found animals and also getting the pets back to their owners. The department has utilized a Face book Page and has over 1000 followers and also entered into agreements with surrounding towns to include Cave Springs and Bethel Heights and is currently working with Little Flock and Highfill to receive their pets also. The shelter has received a grant in 2012 and was able to secure funding to replace a fence on the property, and also to install cameras to help deter people from dumping animals.

The Bentonville School District is considering placing a 2nd High School on property owned by the district on Gamble Road, and currently working on a 5000 square foot addition to Centerton Gamble School. The city has also applied for a Safe Routes to School grant to place sidewalks from Gamble School, south to Seba Road.

The City has also received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism in the amount of \$250,000 which will be used to construct ball fields at the site of the Centerton Sports Park. The city is also planning on adding a park on Cass Street and also completing a walking trail around the Centerton Lake, when the highway project is completed.

The City has increased in activities in 2012, and during the months of March thru December including a Spring and Fall Fest, in addition to a monthly community pancake breakfast sponsored by the Centerton Area Chamber of Commerce. A few other things that occurred recently is we upgraded the city website to make it easier for citizens to get information and also there is a complete list of businesses in our city on there to include a website if one was located, we also continue to use our Face Book page for the city and also the Animal Shelter and thru these resources we have been able to increase our adoptions and also open the lines of communications up between city hall and our citizens. We also place current events and things happening currently in the city for example if the power goes out, I have a direct contact with the utility companies and I can notify the citizens right away and an estimate on when the situation will be under control. This year we are also part of BC Alert which is a county wide notification system and we will work on getting our citizens signed up, this service will provide life saving information and can also be used to notify citizens in the event of an emergency.

Lastly, no administration is complete without a loyal staff of great employees, and our city has many dedicated and hard working employees from the Department Heads all the way down to the actual troops that carry out the daily activities and duties to help keep our city running smooth and efficiently. Thank you for a Job Well Done.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 8, 2013 city council meeting with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer and Parks Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the December 18, 2012 Planning and Board of Adjustment meetings minutes, December 20, 2012 Water & Sewer minutes and the January 3, 2013 Parks and Recreation minutes with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that we are 8% through the year and we have received 11% of our revenue. He stated that our expenditures are at 8.4%. Mayor Edwards stated that we have a large expense for the ladder truck that came after the first of the year and that they are still working on that truck. He stated that Delton and Jenny are going to be working with the Municipal League to see if we can get any more reimbursement on the claim for that truck. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the January 2013 City and Court financials

with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(4) Department Reports- Building Inspection- Robert Coffelt stated that Casey's General Store is going in quickly. He gave a Building Permit update. He stated that the Methodist Church on Main Street should be starting their footings hopefully next week. He said that Meadowlands has a few footings left for the new duplexes. He stated that Cherie passed her HVAC test and that she will be working on plumbing next. He stated that the iPad is working great and is extremely helpful. **Police-** Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for January 2013 and asked if there were any questions. He gave an update on the new PD. He stated that he is working with the new Sheriff to try and get more work detail assistance. He stated that the new Sheriff wants to build the relationships back up with the smaller cities. Lance said they are still down an officer because the new hire declined the position today and instead took a position with Rogers for more pay. He said that they have one good part-time candidate. There was discussion. He stated that the new Tahoe's will be in next month. **Court-** Lance stated that there is an attorney in the State of Arkansas that is suing all of the Municipal Courts in Arkansas because their clients did not get a \$10 reduction in their fines for wearing their seat belt. He stated that this case is being handled by the Municipal League. Brian Rabal commented. There was discussion. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they have been very productive over the last month. He stated that Seba Road was cleared, widened, graded and had its drainage corrected and improved. He stated that they worked on Keller Road and did some of the same things while cooperating with the County on that project. He said that his guys have also been working on the City parks to get them rejuvenated. He gave details. He gave an update on their training. He stated that the rear hydraulic pump on the road grader and that the transmission went out on the new dump truck and was not covered by the warranty. He gave details. He updated training for his crew. He stated that Hwy102 project is 47 days into the 195 day project and that they are in "free" time until March 15th. He stated that 24.2% into the time with 18.4% of the work complete. He stated that it will expedite much more quickly once they start laying asphalt. He stated that the Highway Department is estimating that they are actually about 45% complete. Rick presented the council with the Annual Street Condition Report for the city's streets and stated that their packet contains some asphalt scheduling for the few months. **Planning-** Lorene Burns stated that Sally Reed has been hired as the new Planning assistant and that she is a great help. She stated that Sonya Dean resigned from the planning and that her last meeting will be February 26th. Lorene state that they had public hearings last month on Alcohol Sales and Home Occupations. She gave an update on the Morningside Development re-zone being denied. Lorene gave an update on the billboards on Hwy102 and said that the Planning Commission would be willing to revisit our Sign Ordinance regarding the movement of the billboards as required by the ASHD. Lorene gave an update on Centerton Manor and stated that the project is dead at this time. Lorene stated

that for February, she already has 2 requests for tract splits and 2 conditional uses for in-home businesses. She stated that they had approved a contract with Mike Mitchell for GIS and that she has received a statement of qualifications from another GIS company and that she is considering a change in those services. **Fire-** Mayor Edwards stated that the new server for the Fire Department came in and is replacing the old server this week. He asked the council to approve the surplus of the old support truck. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to surplus the old support truck with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards stated that they are still monitoring the ambulance service from the City of Bentonville. Keith Higginbotham gave a brief update on the number of recent calls. Mayor Edwards stated that he, Delton and the Mayor and Fire Chief from Lowell met recently to discuss where we need to start on our own ambulance project. He stated that he talked to Tony Steele about the issues with the roof leaking at the FD and that Tony is going to have it repaired at no cost to the city. **Water-** Frank Holzkamper stated that they made the change to an invoice in a sealed envelope with a return envelope, a change from the previous post card format. He stated that they are now also able to accept credit and debit cards. He said they had their annual audit this month and should have the results in the near future. Frank mentioned that they had a long range planning meeting that went very well. He stated that they have recently added job descriptions for their staff, as well as a progressive pay scale to help retain qualified employees. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and stated that everything was going well at the shelter. He stated that the new awning was up to help protect the front door. He stated that he and DJ attended the flagging training and that he thinks that it will be helpful whenever they have to pick up an animal on the Highway. He stated that they are working on picking up a couple more cities (Highfill and Little Flock) to take care of their dogs. There was discussion. Terry stated that they currently have 5 dogs at the shelter. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that he wrote a proclamation to show his support for the "Safe Routes to School" program for sidewalks on Gamble Road and stated that he got letters of support from Congressman Womack, Senator Hestor, Dan Douglas, Administrators from Centerton-Gamble as well as others. He stated that we are applying for \$200,000.00 of the \$500,000.00 grant. Jennifer stated that year-end, quarter-end and month-end was done as well as W-2's and 1099's. She stated that Debt Service and Parks & Recreation are the 2 new departments on the Financial Statement under General Fund.

- (5) **Ordinance 2013-01- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 14.04.11 TO REGULATE ALCOHOL SALES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance. He detailed some of his thoughts. Lorene stated that she was not sure that the Planning Commission had a good knowledge of all of the legal issues pertaining to drive-thru windows. There was a lengthy discussion. Mayor Edwards stated that we could table the Ordinance and send it back to the Planning Commission;

we could read it on 3 separate occasions and see if we get any feedback from the public, or they could approve the Ordinance with amendments. There was continued discussion. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to table this ordinance and give it back to the Planning Commission to review with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor except for Tommy Laird, who voted against and the motion carried. Ordinance 2013-01 was tabled.

- (6) **Ordinance 2013-02- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 14.04.10 TO REGULATE HOME OCCUPATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards and Lorene Burns addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance and gave details. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Josie reed made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. 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 Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (7) **Ordinance 2013-03- AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 3.04.06 TO THE CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution 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 Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) **Ordinance 2013-04- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this ordinance to amend the final 2012 budget. Jennifer detailed the changes on the financials and the addressed the attached details. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from

Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution 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 Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (9) **Resolution 2013-05- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS AND THE CITY OF LITTLE FLOCK, ARKANSAS, REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (10) **Resolution 2013-06- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS AND THE CITY OF HIGHFILL, ARKANSAS, REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution. Tommy Laird made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal 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.
- (11) **Resolution 2013-07- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOORING AMERICA CENTERTON FOR SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution. Josie Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (12) **Proposed changes to the Centerton Street Department-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that he had been speaking with Rick Hudson and proposed changing Rick's title to Street Superintendent/Parks Director and raising his salary to \$55,246.61. He also recommended changing Russell Ray's title to Crew Leader and change his salary to \$16.00/hr. Mayor Edwards also proposed the starting salary for the Street Department to \$14.00/hr. There was discussion. Skye Petty made a motion to approve the Mayor's recommendations with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor, except for Keith Higginbotham and Robin Reed, who both abstained, and the motion carried.
- (13) **Reimbursement Policy for Elected and Appointed Officials-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and presented them with a new proposed guideline for reimbursement of costs related to training, such as transportation, mileage, lodging, registration fees and meals. There was discussion and suggested changes and additions to the policy.
- (14) **Discuss Placing Bid for Support Truck for Fire Department-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and presented them with an official bid form for a new support truck for the Fire department.
- (15) **Present Plaque to Daryl Reed for Service to the City-** Mayor Edwards publically thanked recently medically-retired Sergeant Daryl Reed for almost 7 years of service with the city and presented him with a plaque.
- (16) **Appoint Nathan Bice and Shannon Vickers to the Parks Advisory Board-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and recommended that Nathan Bice and Shannon Vickers be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the Mayor's recommendations with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (17) **Other Business-** Mayor Edwards stated that he, Tommy and Misty have been testing out iPad's and the Dropbox application for city council meetings and thinks that we will go that direction with our council. He stated that our other departments are already working with them.

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

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk