

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2012**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Keith Higginbotham. 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 role call were Todd Wright, Jennifer Robinson, Brian Rabal, Street Superintendant Rick Hudson, Police Chief Lance Johnson, Terry Sanchez and Lorene Burns. Robert Coffelt and Jeff Coffelt were not present for the meeting.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 13, 2011 council meeting with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer, Parks and A&P Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the June 28, 2011 and November 29, 2011 Planning and November 2011 Water & Sewer minutes, the December, 2011 Parks & Recreation minutes and the November 2011 A&P Commission minutes with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that with 100% of the year gone, our expenses were at 101.5%. He said that those figures include all of the raises and back pay for last year and all of the equipment we bought in December. He said he thought we did very well. Jennifer addressed the council and stated that we purchased \$77,000.00 worth of asphalt at the very end of the year and she did not get to write the check until 2012, so it will come out of the 2012 budget and will need to amend the budget to reflect that. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the December, 2011 City financials with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tyler Steele made a motion to accept the December, 2011 Court financials with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Approval of Vehicle for Police Department to Replace 2010 Dodge Charger-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that we had a police vehicle, a 2010 Dodge Charger, involved in an accident after our last City Council meeting. He stated that the vehicle was totaled and that we have received a check from the Municipal League for a little over \$17,000.00. He asked the council to approve the purchase of a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$25,093.00 on the state contract. He said that price is not equipped. Tyler Steele made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe for Police Department with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. The

mayor said that he hoped the vehicle would be here at the end of January or first of February.

- (5) **Resolution 2012-01- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, AN AGREEMENT WITH MORRISON SHIPLEY FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained that this resolution was in regard to the new Police Department. Police Chief Lance Johnson addressed the council and gave details of the process of selecting an engineer. He said that he is hoping for an April groundbreaking. He said it will be approximately 4600sf. There was discussion about the property plans. 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 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, except for Tyler Steele, who abstained, and the motion carried.
- (6) **Resolution 2012-02- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH MANGOLD BURRIS ARCHITECHTURAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Police Chief Lance Johnson addressed the council, stating that this is to enter into a contract with an architect for the new Police Station and gave details. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian 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.
- (7) **Ordinance 2012-01- AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL PLAT OF FOREST PARK, CENTERTON, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need to bring this ordinance before the council. He said everything was done with planning. Lorene provided the council members with copies of the plat. Josie 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 ordinance by title only. Tyler Steele made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the emergency clause. Tommy Laid made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (8) Ordinance 2012-02- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 2.24 PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES AND FIXING THE SALARY OF THE PART-TIME ELECTED CITY ATTORNEY.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need to bring this ordinance before the council to show Brian at zero compensation due to his agreement of \$135.00 per hour as Primary Attorney. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance 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 Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (9) Ordinance 2012-01- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2011; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PUPOSES.** Jennifer Robinson addressed the council and stated that the council had a copy in their packets of what the budget was approved for in 2011, what the actual were and the variances between the two. She detailed some of the highlighted changes for the council. Mayor Edwards publicly thanked Jenny for her hard work on the budget. Robin Reed 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 ordinance by title only. Tyler Steele made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Skye Petty. 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 Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (10) Ordinance 2012-01- AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE COUNTRY OAKS SUBDIVISION, CENTERTON PLANNING AREA, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need to bring this ordinance before the council. He said everything was done with planning. Lorene presented the council members with copies of the plat. She explained to the council the need for Centerton's approval for this subdivision in the County, because it is in the Centerton Planning Area. Josie Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian Rabal read the ordinance by title only. Robin Reed 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. Tommy Laird made a motion to

adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. 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 Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (11) **REAPPOINT DARREN WARREN AND DEVIN MURPHY TO PLANNING COMMISSION EXPIRING 06/30/2014** – Tyler Steele made a motion to accept the reappointment of Darren Warren and Devon Murphy to the Planning Commission with terms expiring 06/30/2014 with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Department Reports- Police- Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for the previous month and for the year found in the council's packets. He stated that they had an increase of about 400 calls over last year and that they have added an additional officer this year. He mentioned the 2 accidents last month involving our police cars. Lance stated that he and the Mayor are planning to have a driving simulator from JB Hunt for the Police Officers and the Street Department employees to train on this month. The Mayor stated that there would be some classroom work this month and the simulator will be in February. Todd asked if there was anything offered by the State, considering all of the other training that is offered and taken by the officers. Lance Stated that once you get out of the Academy and are certified, there really isn't. Lance recognized the efforts of the city employees for the sponsor family for Christmas. He mentioned a need for help with Snack Packs. Lance awarded Ty with the Officer of the Year Award. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they got the dump truck in and he brought it to City Hall for everyone to look at. He said they purchased a new sheep foot for \$2500.00. He detailed the work and condition of the new and improved Hickory Park. Rick stated that they did some asphalt work done on 2nd Street, D Street, Shady Acres, Dorsey Lee and part of Tycoon. He stated that he was able to get Bentonville to split some of the cost of doing part of Greenhouse Road. He said they have been working with Animal Control with the reconstruction of their whole containment area. He said they are using detention workers as much as possible. He stated that they continue to work on drainage and that they have a few issues, but have come a long way in the last year. **Planning-** Lorene stated that they have finished the 2 subdivisions. She said she has 5 development site plans to finish up. She said that there is still an illegal subdivision that she is working on. She said she talked to David Todd this afternoon regarding the Centerton LOMR. She stated that he is finishing that up and is ready to submit information tomorrow. She said we will wait to get approval from F.E.M.A. on the model before we send out any letters. She said that we probably need to have a couple more public hearings since so much has changed. She said the effective date will be June 5th on the preliminary maps, but that F.E.M.A. has issued a letter stating that Committees will start using them December 5th to regulate flood plains. She stated that we have several areas where that put lots into the flood plains that have not been built on. She said that Robbie is working with her on those. She said those will require flood plain development permit and, at the least, an elevation certificate to assure that we are following the FIP guidelines and to make sure those houses are elevated 2 feet above the base flood elevation. Tyler asked if that affected properties to the south and Lorene said our LOMR affects the south side to Ponderosa Street. She said

the last part of the Dogwood Subdivision up by Fish Hatchery will be affected in June. She said she would like to send those citizens a notification. Robin Reed asked Lorene where she was with a job description for a part-time person to help her and Lorene stated that she is not sure what the council determined the description to be. She said she understood that the description changed. Mayor Edwards stated that he and Lorene would get together on it. Lorene stated they she thought the council had talked to Bill and that it was decided to look for a clerical person instead of a CAD person that could do the maps.

Animal Control- Terry stated that the fence and the yard were looking great and he thanked the Street Department for helping out. He said everything else was going fine. He said that he got the money from the Wal-Mart grant. He said that they have 5 dogs available for adoption at this time. Terry detailed how dog bites and vicious dogs are handled for Robin Reed. He also discussed how the shelter is staffed.

Administration- Jennifer Robinson stated that our 2011 financials and 2012 adopted budget will be published in the paper. She said that she is working on getting W-2's and 1099's out, finishing the year-end and opening the New Year financials. She said this is her busiest time of the year. She said she needed the W-4's and financials by the end of the month.

Mayor- Mayor Edwards stated that we did not receive the Parks Grant and gave details. He said we will re-apply. He said he will meet with the same board on February 10th regarding the Wildlife Grant for the walking trail, which is a 100% grant, that we applied for a couple of months ago. He went over some more details regarding the defensive driver training. He stated that he is going to the Municipal League Conference for 3 days in Little Rock. The mayor stated that we are working on the city website again and hopes to have it up soon. He mentioned the success we are having with the speed sled.

Other Business- Discuss Fire Department Staffing and EMS Study- Mayor Edwards stated that Mayor McCaslin e-mailed him an Interlocal agreement in regards to ambulance service and that he had some questions with the wording, so he sent it to the Municipal league for review. He stated that the agreement is for \$400 per call for patients that are transported and that we wouldn't be charged for the transporting of Bentonville residents. He said that he is keeping a spreadsheet and that we are at 22 calls for the year and that 9 of those calls involved transported patients. He said that the county is doing an EMS study with all 27 fire departments that should take 30-60 days. There was discussion. The Mayor stated that he checked with 8 local Fire Departments to see how they are staffed and he gave details of each department. The Mayor mentioned that he lives close to our fire department and has noticed that there is always someone at our department and that our response times were very good. The Mayor stated that he met with Jeff Coffelt and that Jeff told him that he planned to retire from the fire department this year. Mayor Edwards stated that we have talked about hiring a full-time Fire Chief, but that he thought that we might look at using our own people to start with. Chris Benefield addressed the council and gave his thoughts about full-time versus volunteer for our fire department. There was detailed discussion and comments from the Council, Benefield and other fire fighters in regard to staffing and Fire and EMS service. The council requested more feedback from the member of the fire department before a final decision is made. Tommy Laird stated that it is time to make some slow changes. Robin Reed asked how many volunteer firefighters that we have and Mayor Edwards stated that there are 33. There was discussion about training for the volunteers. There was a fire call

and all 9 of the firefighters present left City Hall. There was discussion. Mayor Edwards recommended going to a fire training meeting. He suggested waiting for the feedback from the department and then all work together to find a solution. Tyler Steele recommended that there be someone who, no matter what, is at least required to be at every council meeting, somebody that is responsible as an employee that may also be able to help with a possible EMS as we move forward. He said that you have to have somebody that is going to manage all of this. He stated that although the volunteers have passion for it, you still need to have somebody where that is their job. Josie Reed also expressed a need for someone to oversee the 3 stations and all of the equipment. Robin Reed compared the need for accountability to what we have in the Police Department. There was discussion about accountability. Mayor Edwards stated that would write a formal policy about spending limits.

Announcements- Michael Finke announced the 1st Annual Centerton Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held at NWACC on Thursday 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and the January 19th, 2012 ‘Morning Coffee’ event at Van Es and Stinnett at 7:00 a.m. Mayor Edwards announced “Coffee with the Mayor” on January 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

There was no more business or announcements and Skye Petty made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder