

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 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 and Robin Reed. Tommy Laird was absent. Those present and not answering role 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, Fire Chief Delton Bush and Building Inspector Robert Coffelt.

- (1) Swear in Council Members-** Mayor Bill Edwards had Skye Petty, Keith Higginbotham, Misty Elam and Robin Reed stand and hold up their right hands and repeat back to him as he swore them in as Aldermen. Mayor Edwards stated that Tommy Laird was sworn in at the County Courthouse.
- (2) Appoint Alderman-** Mayor Bill Edwards stated that Sheila Ray had won the election against Josie Reed but had to resign due to her relocation out of the city of Centerton. Mayor Edwards stated that he spoke to the Municipal League and the County Clerk and that they told him that the position would have to be vacated and then someone would have to be appointed to fill the position. Mayor Edwards recommended to the council that Josie Reed be appointed to re-fill the vacant Alderman position. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to vacate the position of Alderman that was won in the election by Sheila Ray, who resigned, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to appoint Josie Reed to fill the vacant Alderman position, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards swore Josie reed in as an Alderman.
- (3) Council Minutes-** Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 11, 2012 city council meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) Planning, Water & Sewer and Parks Minutes-** Josie Reed made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the November 27, 2012 Planning minutes, November 15, 2012 Water & Sewer minutes and the November 6, 2012 Parks and Recreation minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (5) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that pretty much through the end of the year we came in at 123% revenue from what we budgeted. He stated that our expenditures are at 105%, which is over budget. He stated that we would amend the budget at our next meeting to take care of the overage. He stated that we have paid about \$538,000 on the new Police Department so far out of the \$750,000.00. Robin Reed made a motion to accept the December 2012 City and Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Department Reports- Building Inspection-** Robert Coffelt stated that we had 20 building permits last month. He stated that we did \$24,000 in permits in the 1st quarter last year; with \$50,000 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter; \$31,000 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and \$51,000.00 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. He stated that our total for the year was almost \$158,000. Robert stated that they are doing some training this month and that he would discuss that with the builders, so they would know what to do while he and Cherie are out. He stated that they had their pre- construction meeting with CGE and that their permit for expansion was released. He stated that the permit for Casey's General Store was released as well. He stated that they are looking at the ESI software they are using to see if it will work with I-phones and I-pads and they are having some challenges. **Police-** Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for 2011, 2012 and December 2012 and asked if there were any questions. He stated that there were no major spikes and no major decreases. He stated that they got a good Craig's List arrest and gave details. He gave an update on the new PD and stated that he will get the keys when he gets the keys. Lance said they are still down an office and that they have narrowed the applicants down to 4 and will be doing interviews next week. He stated that there are 42 new policies from the Chief's Association that are federal and state regulations and that they need to redo their policy handbook. Lance discussed available on-line training for his officers. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they have been cleaning drainage and right-of-ways. He stated that they are back to full staff. He mentioned MS4 compliance training and stated that the new truck for the Street Department has been ordered. **Planning-** Lorene Burns stated that Sally Reed has been hired as the new Planning assistant today and that she will start next Friday. She stated that Casey's General Store has made a 25% deposit and is ready to start. She stated that Centerton Gamble Elementary is ready to get started. She stated that she is still waiting for final development plans for Living Waters. She stated that she received a tract split request on Dorsey Lee Road that is in the County. Lorene stated that there is 80 acres that Morningside Development that is being looked at for townhome duplexes and that there will be a public hearing for that. Lorene stated that there will be a public hearing for the changes in the schedule of uses for alcohol sales greater than 5% that are sold for off-site consumption. Lorene stated that there will be a change in the schedule of uses for in-home businesses as well. **Fire-** Fire Chief Delton Bush stated that they were

689 runs last year. He stated that they are starting to paint the hydrants in the city to fit the flow of the hydrant. He stated that they are still working on getting a new support truck. Delton stated that they will be hosting the Benton County Fire Protection Association meeting for the first time in a long time. He stated that they got all of their 2012 reports completed and shipped to the State and that it was the first time they had gotten any paperwork from us since November of 2010. He stated that it could help us in getting future grants. Delton stated that they are still working on the ladder truck. Mayor Edwards stated that the new server for the FD has been ordered. **Water-** Frank Holzkamper stated that they will be changing to an invoice in a sealed envelope with a return envelope from the current post card format for billing next month. He stated that they will be able to accept credit cards soon. Frank mentioned that the Water & Sewer rates are frozen for now, with no increases. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and stated that everything was going well. He stated that they will be making a presentation at Bright Field Middle School and that the school will be making a donation to the shelter in return. He stated that they currently have 12 dogs at the shelter. **Admin-** Jennifer Robinson stated that the Statements of Financial Interest need to be turned in by 1/31/13. She said she was working on W-2's and 1099's that are due by the end of the month. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that the Municipal League Conference will be January 15-19 and that he, Brian, Misty and Robin are planning to attend. He mentioned that we will be getting the City of Distinction award at a banquet on Thursday. He also mentioned that they he is testing software on his I-pad to try to get our council's technology up to date. **Chamber of Commerce-** PJ addressed the council and stated that the Mayor is on the Board of Directors now. He stated that the Pancake Breakfast is 1/19/13 at City Hall and a Year-End meeting for the Chamber after the Pancake Breakfast. He said there is a pulse in memberships this month. He said they are working on paying off their debt. He stated that they are sharing information with lance and Cody and have given information over to the prosecutor.

**(7) Resolution 2013-01- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ACCEPT A RIGHTOF WAY AND UTILITY EASEMENT FROM CASEY'S MARKETING COMPANY.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution. Keith Higginbotham 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. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(8) Resolution 2013-02- A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID MONEYS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution, giving details of the grant and our plans should we receive the grant. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(9) Resolution 2013-03- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS AND THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS, REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution, detailing our current contract with Bentonville. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(10) Resolution 2013-04- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, AND THE CITY OF CAVE SPRINGS, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(11) Discuss Police Chief Salary-**

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that Police Chief Lance Johnson has always deferred raises from himself to his officers when offered. He stated that the same thing happened last month when raises were approved for his supervisors. Mayor Edwards stated that there was money in the budget to go ahead and give Lance a raise and recommended that the council approve a \$4000.00 raise. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to discuss a pay raise for Chief Johnson. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to give Police Chief Lance Johnson a \$5000.00 raise with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(12) **Other Business-** Keith Higginbotham asked the council to approve making the Fire pay increase to \$12.50 per run retro-active to 12/1/12. Robin Reed made a motion to make the fire pay increase retro-active to 12/1/12 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor, except for Keith Higginbotham, who abstained, and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards stated that Delton wanted to remove some carpet in the fire station and replace it with tile. He stated that he had gotten 3 bids for the work, including one from Flooring America, which Todd works for, which also happened to be the low bid. Brian Rabal stated that there was a statute covering “conflict of interest” and that it was written horribly. He recommended approving an ordinance to allow such work to be done now and/or in the future. The mayor and the council recommended having Brian write an ordinance for the next council meeting.

**Announcements-** Mayor Edwards stated that we did receive a letter from the Governor stating that we got the \$250,000.00 matching Park Grant and that will be receiving information on when we can start.

There was no more business or announcements and Robin Reed made a motion to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. 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