

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 21, 2009**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bobbie Griffith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Todd Wright. Those present and answering roll call were Mayor, Bobbie Griffith, Kathy Huber, Josie Reed, Tommy Laird, Keith Higginbotham, Patricia Thornhill and Randy Thomas. Those present and not answering to roll call were Todd Wright, Jan Dolan, Brian Rabal, Andrew Huntsinger, Lorene (Taul) Burns, Lance Johnson, Bert Johnson, Robert Coffelt and Jeff Coffelt. Howard Slinkard was not present.

- (1) **Council Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the minutes from the city council meetings on May 12, 2009 and June 9, 2009 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members of council voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning Commission and Water & Sewer Minutes** - Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Planning minutes from May 26, 2009 and Water & Sewer minutes from May, 2009 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **Financials for General/Street and Court** - Mayor Griffith stated that we are 50% of the way through the year and that we have collected 58% of our budgeted revenue and have spent only 44%. Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the City financials including Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Patricia Thornhill. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Ordinance 09-20 - AN ORDINANCE ORDERING THE CLEAN-UP OF PROPERTY AND THE REMOVAL AND RAZING OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS LOCATED IN CENTERTON, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Robert Coffelt explained to council that the property at 577 Main Street, formerly owned by Edna M. Griner is in need of clean-up and the buildings on said property are in need of removal or razing, as the property constitutes a public nuisance and is injurious to the public welfare, health and safety. He stated that he has been working with the family for 2 years. The listed property owner is deceased according to a grandson and the person with power of attorney has been unable to be contacted. Robert stated that the city has done everything in its power at this point. The certified letter sent out came back but the regularly mailed letter did not. Andrew stated that this ordinance is the first step towards cleaning up the property and that the ordinance should state a time limit, possibly 30 days, to respond to the cities request. He also stated that the City would have to file suit and that it would be a bit of a process. Robert stated that if they do not respond, we would have to hire a separate structural engineering firm to look at the property. He stated that it could be costly, but that he didn't know because we had

never done it. He said that if everything goes smoothly we may look at a couple more properties next year. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to set the time period on the ordinance to read 30 days with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the ordinance by title only. Patricia Thornhill made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance 3 times with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Randy Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Patricia Thornhill. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the emergency clause. Kathy Huber 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.

- (5) **Ordinance 09-21 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, INCLUDING LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS, CIRCULATION SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMUNITY FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS, UTILITIES PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND CITY BEAUTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Lorene addressed the council and stated that this ordinance was to adopt the comprehensive plan that went to public hearing in June with no public comment. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the ordinance by title only. Kathy Huber made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance 3 times with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Randy Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the emergency clause. Patricia Thornhill made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Resolution 09-14 - A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2010 CENSUS-** Mayor Griffith explained to the council that this resolution is for the City to partner with the 2010 Census with the Centerton A&P Commission and the Centerton Kiwanis Club's support to get the word out on the 2010 Census. The partnership will allow for funds to be used on products to be used by us for that promotion. She stated that this census is probably going to put our population at about 8500 and that we need **everyone** to be counted. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the resolution by title only. Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (7) **Approval of 3 Year Renewal of Planning Commission Terms for A.J. Stroud, Cliff Mathis, & Jeff Sayfarth to 6/30/2012** - Randy Thomas made a motion to approve the renewal of terms for A.J. Stroud, Cliff Mathis and Jeff Sayfarth, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) **Approval for Ken Williams to Maintain One of the City Parks to Complete 100 Hours of Community Service** - Mayor Griffith stated that she had been contacted by former mayor, Ken Williams asking to be able to complete his community service by maintaining a park of his choice, on his own time, using his own equipment. She stated that other persons doing community service work in our community do not get to make a choice as to where they want to work or what they do to fulfill that community service. She does not think that it would be appropriate. Keith Higginbotham said that he thought we would be showing personal preference if we did not treat him the same as we would anyone else coming into our community to perform community service. Bert Johnson stated that he also thought that it would be showing special treatment and would cause turmoil with the other community service workers that do not have those choices. Randy Thomas stated that he thought it would be an embarrassment to the city and that he would prefer that he not do it in our city period. Patricia Thornhill asked why it came before the council at all, stating that other community service assignments do not come before the council. Randy Thomas made a motion to not allow Ken Williams to perform community service work in the City of Centerton with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Patricia Thornhill. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (9) **Approve Increase for Police Officers to Cover 2.5% LOPFI Deduction Which Was Effective 7/01/09** - Lance explained to the council that part of the police dept. package is that the city pays 100% of their retirement, which is a benefit to the officers. He said that at the last legislative session, because of the number of retirees that haven't had a pay raise in years, they got legislation to pass that current retirees will get a pay raise. He stated that the raise will be incurred by member contributions of 2.5%. Lance stated that he went to the mayor and asked for help to offset that expense to get them at least back to where they were. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the pay raise for the officers with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (10) **Approve Melvin Coffelt as CWSD Representative and Jeff Coffelt as Alternate to BWRPWA (Benton-Washington Regional Public Water Authority)** - Mayor Griffith stated that the Centerton Water & Sewer Commission approved Melvin Coffelt to be the representative and Jeff Coffelt to be the alternate to BWRPWA. Randy Thomas made a motion to approve with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (11) **Parks & Recreation Department** - Patricia Thornhill stated that we were unable to have our Special meeting last night but that the Parks & Rec is prepared to start taking orders for the pavers for the Veteran's Memorial Park. She said that she is hopeful that we will have a rough draft representation ready for Centerton Day as well as a sample paver and applications. She stated that we are still planning on a September 1, 2009 groundbreaking. She also thanked everyone on Parks & Recreation for their efforts so far. Mayor Griffith stated that Centerton Lake was stocked with 250 lbs. of fish last Friday. She also stated concerns over the vandalism at the pond at Black Springs.
- (12) **Department Reports - Police** - Chief Johnson stated that the department is up to full staff. **Planning** - Lorene reported that the flood study came back with no gross errors from F.E.M.A., and that David Todd will present it to the Planning Commission on Tuesday and then to the City Council on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Jan announced that Lorene had gotten married in June and now has the last name, Burns. **Fire/Water & Sewer** - Jeff Coffelt announced that the water tower on Hwy. 72 is not in service yet, but will be in about a week. He also stated that the two-system connection is almost complete and that the pumps will be ready in about 2 weeks. He said most people will not notice a difference, with the exception of possibly some people a little further out seeing an increase in water pressure. Jeff said that there is an upcoming substantial sewer rate increase for the city of Bentonville that will be passed on to us. He said they will be having a meeting in August and that we will know more after that meeting. He said that it is an "across the board" increase for all members. Jeff also reminded everyone that Saturday is Centerton Day and for everyone to come out and take part in the fun and/or to volunteer to help. **Streets** - Bert Johnson stated that he was getting ready to put out the Police Department, Gamble Road and Keller Road for bid on 8/11/09 at 2:00.

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

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Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder