

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2011**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Todd Wright. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Robin Reed, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Tommy Laird, Tyler Steele and Skye Petty. Those present and not answering roll call were Jennifer Robinson, Todd Wright, Brian Rabal, Howard Slinkard, Street Superintendent Rick Hudson and Police Chief Lance Johnson. Robert Coffelt, Jeff Coffelt and Lorene Burns were not present for the meeting.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 10, 2011 council meeting with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer and Parks & Recreation Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the April, 2011 Planning and Water & Sewer minutes, as well as the May 2011 Parks & Rec 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 41% of the year gone we have received 68% of our budgeted revenue and our expenses were at 37%. He also stated that we have transferred \$750,000 into the Investor's Fund to this date. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the May, 2011 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Approval of Merit Pay System-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that we had a Committee Meeting of the Whole on 6/2/11 and discussed a merit pay system. He asked the council to approve the merit pay system. Robin Reed made a motion to approve the merit pay system as presented with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) **Approval of Department Head Position for Animal Control-** Mayor Edwards stated that it was discussed at the Committee Meeting of the Whole on 6/2/11 to change Animal Control Officer Terry Sanchez to a Department Head and set his annual salary at \$33,000.00. Tommy Laird made a motion to advance Officer Terry Sanchez' position to a Department Head and set his annual salary at \$33,000.00 with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Approval of Police Officer Position-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that we had discussed adding an 11th police officer and that the funds were available. He asked the council to approve the hiring of the 11th police officer and

stated that we had applied for the Cops Grant which would pay 100% of the salary of an officer for the first 3 years and that if we get that grant he would come back to the council and ask them to approve the advertising for the hiring of another officer. Keith Higginbotham asked what the starting pay scale would be and Chief Johnson stated that depending on experience it would be between \$27,500.00 and \$30,000.00. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the advertising for the hiring of an 11th officer and approval of the 12th officer if the grant is received with a 2nd from Josie Reed. Robin Reed abstained. All other council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(7) Approval of Full-Time Position for Street Department- Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that we are looking to change the position of one of our Street Department workers from part-time to full-time. He stated that we are not adding a position and that we currently have 2 part-time and 2 full-time workers. Tyler Steele made a motion to change the person to full-time with a 2nd from Robin Reed. Keith Higginbotham abstained. All other council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(8) Approval of Temporary to Full-Time Clerical Position for Administrative Department- Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that he would like the council's permission to hire a person for a part-time Clerical position. He stated that he changed the job description to better fit the administrative position as opposed to the Planning position we were originally looking at. He stated that this person would work directly under him and that it would be a position with a 90 day trial at a salary of \$9.00-\$10.00/ hr. Robin Reed made a motion to allow the mayor to hire a person to fill a part-time clerical position with the city with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(9) Approval of the Purchase of a new Police Vehicle- Police Chief Lance Johnson addressed the council and stated that the blue Dodge Charger that we ordered on 12/16/10 is still not ready and might be another 2-3 months before delivery. He stated that the State stopped taking bids in May. Lance said that they have a white V-6 Charger in stock and ready in 2 weeks and that they earmarked it for the new 11th car. He said the next day they called and said that it was ready. Chief Johnson stated that the dealership had ordered an extra 20 Chargers, so they earmarked a white V-8 Charger to replace the original blue car that was ordered. He said that he and the Mayor had discussed it and decided to change to a white fleet due to the difficulty and extra cost in getting the blue vehicles. He stated that the first white vehicle is getting the lights and cage added to it right now and the cost was \$21,854.00. He said he would have to redesign the striping once the vehicle comes in and that it would be Navy Blue. He said the V-8 was \$1700.00 more than the V-6. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the purchase of the new car with the funds coming out of the ACT 988 Funds with a 2nd from Skye Petty. Robin Reed abstained. All other council member voted in favor and the motion carried.

(10) Approval for Cassie Elliot to Apply for Parks Grant- Mayor Edwards stated that he had been talking to Cassie about applying for an Outdoor Arkansas Parks and Tourism Grant. He said he met with John Beneike with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism at our park site and told him about what we are planning to do. The mayor stated that he would like for us to apply for a \$250,000.00 matching grant. He said that John said there is \$5,000,000.00 applied for with \$1,000,000.00 given out and that we would likely get \$100,000.00-\$150,000.00 if selected. The mayor stated that we have to have a public hearing and do some other things prior to the August application for the grant. The mayor said that he talked about the grant we had been approved for before that wasn't used and that John said that no funds were dispersed and that it was a reimbursable grant. He said that Cassie thought we had a good chance of getting the grant because we already have the matching funds available. He stated that we have had an engineer draw up a concept plan at no cost to the city at this time. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to apply for a grant up to \$250,000.00 for the park with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(11) Approval of Fred Miller for Planning Commission- Mayor Edwards stated that there were 4 people who had applied for the open seat on the Planning Commission that had been advertised. He stated that the commission had an opportunity to interview 3 of the applicants and recommended Fred Miller to him. Fred introduced himself to the council and gave a few details about his experience. Robin Reed made a motion to appoint Fred Miller to a seat on the City of Centerton Planning Commission with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(12) Approval of Dean Sheppard for A&P Commission Vacant Seat- Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that Mikey Fryer, Chairman of the Centerton A&P Commission, had recommended Dean Sheppard to him for the vacancy on the A&P Commission. Mikey Fryer addressed the council and stated that the commission voted Dean in as their member-at-large at their last meeting. She stated that he attends most of their meetings and that he is a small businessman and a property owner in the community and has shown a good interest in the community. Keith Higginbotham asked if the position was posted and advertised and Mikey said that it was. Keith stated that it was his understanding that it wasn't and that there have been people that have come forward and stated that they did not know there was an opening. Mikey said that they did post it, but that they have not posted previously and have never had any applications required. She stated that they put it in their by-laws at their last meeting at a recommendation from Howard Slinkard. Robin Reed asked if the people that have just been attending have been the ones accepted as members and Mikey said yes, especially for the members-at-large because there are not many food based businesses that have not already had people on. She said McDonalds

has had 6 people and Sonic has had 4 and that they are quick to come and go. She said she has seen a lot of people come and go since 2009. Josie Reed asked what his business was and Mikey told her it was the Local Qponz business and gave some details. Keith asked how many A&P members are on the Parks & Rec Advisory Board and she said Dean would be the only one. Tommy Laird stated that since it was passed in their by-laws to advertise for the position, that we do it at this time. Mikey said she would be glad to do it, but that there has not been a lot of interest from the public and there has been a lot of turnover because of the young people that have been coming from the food industry. Tyler Steele asked if the at-large member has to be from the food industry and Mikey stated that it cannot be from the food industry. Keith said he heard that the meetings are pretty lively and that he is surprised that anyone comes to the meetings. Mikey said that they are but that this is not the time to discuss it. Keith said that maybe it is the time because it is city business. Mikey said she would be happy to advertise for the position. Todd Wright said it might be Dean that is selected after the posting and advertising or you might find others who are interested and Mikey agreed. Jennifer stated that there are 6 posting places in the city and Mikey said she knew that. Tommy Laird made a motion to table the discussion at this time with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(13) Resolution 2011-16- A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE NAME OF THE TRUSTEE FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON 457(b) RETIREMENT PLAN. Mayor Edwards stated that this resolution was a formality to remove former mayor Bobbie Griffith as trustee for the city's retirement plan and replace her name with his, as the new trustee. Tommy Laird made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(14) Resolution 2011-17- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO PURCHASE FROM SPRINDALE TRACTOR OF SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS, A TRACTOR WITH ATTACHMENTS. Mayor Edwards stated that Rick Hudson had come to him and requested to purchase a tractor and attachments to help with mowing in the city. He stated that copies of the 3 bids were contained in the council's packets. Street Superintendant Rick Hudson addressed the council and gave details of the needs and the items to be purchased. Tommy Laird 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. Howard read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(15) Ordinance 2011-13- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 17.04, TITLED GROSS RECIEPTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that this ordinance has to do with the A&P Commission. Howard Slinkard stated that this ordinance amends the code to remove a section in the original ordinance that allocated the A&P funds 80% for Parks and 20% for Promotion of the City. He said this is to clear up confusion as to who controls the money. Howard stated that ultimately it is the A&P Commission's responsibility to decide on the expenditures. He said the P&R is a conduit for ideas and would go to the A&P Commission to see if there are funds available before presenting an idea before the City Council for approval. Tyler Steele asked if that meant the 80%/20% goes away and becomes 100% to be spent at the discretion of the A&P Commission and asked if it was retro-active to funds already allocated to P&R. Jennifer Robinson stated that the A&P Commission, in their minutes, have approved 80% of their funds going to P&R and there are 2 separate checking accounts set up to manage those funds. She said she understands that they plan to leave it that way. Tyler Steele asked if they have to come to the City Council to ask for approval for spending and Jennifer said no, that they are a commission on their own. She said that if it has to do with the use of city property it would come before council. Keith Higginbotham asked if the funds could be used outside of the city and Howard said they could partner outside the city on projects. 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. Howard read the ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on three 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 Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard 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.

(16) Department Reports- Street- Rick Hudson stated that we were turned down on our request for all of the overtime for storm cleanup and are offering 35%. He said that we are re-applying. He said he had no overtime in his budget. He said that they are still evaluating damage from the spring floods. He said they have been attending classes and have applied for the initial grants for repairs. He stated that he has identified 9 roads with severe damage from the storms. He said they are meeting to discuss help on Thursday. He said they are beginning a cooperative project with the county next week to build up Kimmel Road. He said it will take about 2 weeks. Rick stated that the "D" Street project was going well, with curb, gutter, drainage and sub-grade all in place. He said the sub-grade density was too high and needed to be addressed. He said the asphalt was scheduled for tomorrow and that the project should be completed in a week or so. Rick said that the big tractor has several electrical and transmission issues and that the brakes work intermittently with a major hydraulic leak. He said the A/C

and the lights are also not working. He said the hydraulic repair would take a complete break-down of the tractor and would be very expensive. Tyler Steele asked if the tractor was worth it and Rick said it wasn't but that he had to have it. Tyler recommended that we look at it again in a month at look at getting rid of the tractor and the dump truck. Rick said that 2 of his guys completed the Traffic Control Technician class and were certified, and that they can work under him for 2 years to get qualified as Traffic Control Supervisors. He stated that he attended a class in Fayetteville on the new rules of Erosion Control and Design and also attended the Bi-Annual Transportation Meeting with the AHTD. He said they are working on road repairs as best as they can. He said the Open House for the new building is this Saturday 10:30-2:00. **Police-** Chief Johnson addressed the council and stated that he was still waiting to hear back on the Cops Grant. He stated that he got \$3000.00 from the Department of Emergency Management Grant and that he used it to purchased new radios to help the part-time division and the new hires. He said he will hand the old radios down to the Street Department to help them communicate better. He said the annual \$4500.00 Block Grant opened up on Thursday. Keith told Lance to think about getting an extra camera with that money. He reminded the council that 3 of the Crown Victoria's that we purchased in 2006 have 90,000.00 miles on them, so we may need to look at replacing them in the next budget. He stated that they will be running ads this weekend for a fulltime position and a part-time 2 position. He said the training classes are hard to come by right now. Lance brought up the discussion of plans for a new Police Department. He asked the council where they wanted him to go from here. There was discussion. **Planning-** Mayor Edwards stated that Lorene had nothing to report and he told her she didn't need to be at the meeting. He stated that Robert Coffelt wanted him to report that the LC Hickman cleanup was going well, with the house and trailer down and in 4 dumpsters. He said Robert would bring pictures. **Fire-** Mayor Edwards reported that Fire Chief Jeff Coffelt stated that fire runs were at about 360 for the year. **Water-** Mayor Edwards stated that SWEPCO was looking for an easement across from McDonalds and that a resolution would be coming before the council for it. **Administration-** Jennifer stated that our financial audit is being reviewed by legislative audit right now and we should hear back soon. She stated that at the last A&P meeting, they decided to no longer pay for the portable toilets in the park out of the park's part of their budget. She asked the council what they wanted to do. She stated that there were 2 and they cost \$158.06 per month. Tyler asked if we had thought about permanent rest rooms and Keith said we would have issues maintaining them with the neighborhood they are in. Todd said that he knows it is a selling feature for the park for his family to have the rest rooms and recommended keeping at least one portable toilet. Robin made a motion to look at the cost of one with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Jennifer stated that as far as storm repairs, F.E.M.A. will pay 75% of all approved projects, with the City paying 12.5% and the State to pay the other 12.5%. She said that anything under \$63,900.00 is considered small projects and anything above that is a large project. She said that on the small projects, they will come out, give us a bid and write a check. She said the large projects go through an

audit process with progress reports. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that he will be in Hot Springs for the Municipal League Conference this week. He said they are posting signs to help promote the farmer's market. He reminded everyone of "Coffee with the Mayor" this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and the Street Department open house at 10:30. He said they had 1007 kids at the Fishing Derby last Saturday. He discussed the portable radar sign we have for a few more days. He said they cost \$10,000.00 and he was thinking about talking to other cities about going in together on one together to help deter speeding in the communities.

- (17) **Storm Shelters-** The mayor said he wanted to address the storm shelter questions. He said that he was very concerned with the last weather threat. He said they gave 200 weather radios away that day. He said he has heard from the citizens about their concern about the lack of tornado sirens. He stated that they tried a siren out after the tornado in 2006 and you could hardly hear it, so they took some of the storm money and bought 3000 weather radios. He said that the sirens can be heard if you are outside, but not if you are inside watching TV or listening to the radio. He said that they used to cost \$75,000.00 a piece, but had come down drastically to about \$20,000.00 each. He said he will look for grants for sirens while he is in Hot Springs. He said he called the Department of Emergency Management and asked them if they knew of any grants and they said they did not. He said another concern he has heard about was for a community storm shelter. He said there is only one in the 2 counties and that it is in Pea Ridge and it holds 600-700 people. He gave details about complaints from the Pea Ridge Mayor about the shelter. He said that there are individual storm shelters available starting at about \$3500.00 a piece. He said there is a \$1000.00 rebate available. He said that someone had told him that Centerton Gamble Elementary was available as a shelter and so he called the Bentonville Schools Administration and they said it was not available as a shelter due to liability issues. There was discussion from the public. A question was asked if there was a plan in place for emergencies and it was stated that F.E.M.A. takes over during an emergency situation and that each of the emergency service departments in the city are trained for the incident command procedures in those situations. Rick Hudson stated that the departments train and practice every year. Mayor Edwards reminded everyone that the council voted to continue service with the BC Alert System at the last meeting and encouraged everyone to sign up.

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

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder