

**City Of Centerton  
City Council Meeting  
March 10, 2009**

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

- (1) **Council Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the minutes from the special city council meeting on February 17, 2009 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning and Water & Sewer Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Planning minutes from January 6, 2009 and January 20, 2009 and the Water & Sewer minutes from January, 2009, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **Financials for General/ Street and Court** - Patricia Thornhill made a motion to accept financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathy Huber. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Ordinance 09-05 - An Ordinance Amending Centerton Municipal Code, Chapter 11.24 Signs; Declaring an Emergency; And For Other Purposes.** Robert Coffelt addressed the council regarding this ordinance. He stated that he had been working on this sign ordinance amendment for quite some time, adding more to what we already had in place. He stated that some of the biggest changes are with real estate signs and off- premise signs as well as better definitions and better descriptions for sign area. He said the big thing about signs has to do with public safety. Howard asked if there were any signs that were in violation of the existing ordinance and Robert said that there were a few and that it was just a matter of getting to them. He said that there were some where the business doesn't exist any more that need to come down. He stated that the new ordinance allows for roof signs. Josie Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathy Huber. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the ordinance by title only. Patricia Thornhill made a motion to strike the rule requiring that the ordinance be read three times, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. Roll call votes of yes were recorded for all members present and the motion carried. Patricia Thornhill made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present 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 Josie Reed. All members present voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

- (5) **Ordinance 09-06 - An Ordinance Adding Chapter 15.09 Outdoor Lighting/Illumination To The Centerton Munciple Code; Declaring An Emergency; And For Other Purposes.** Robert Coffelt brought this ordinance before the city council and after much discussion it was tabled until the next city council meeting.
- (6) **Ordinance 09-06 - An Ordinance Amending The Centerton Munciple Code, Chapter 11.20.03(A) Building Permit Fee Schedule; Declaring An Emergency; And For Other Purposes.** Robert Coffelt presented this to the council to update the building permit fee schedule and getting a little more in line with what other cities have been doing. Robert stated that the schedule would be using the ICC valuation data table which is updated every six months. A 2009 building permit fee schedule was included as an appendix and part of the ordinance. Robert also used another chart to help explain the changes to the council. This chart showed the current cost of permits on two different sized homes and what the new permit charges would be on the same homes after the would be passed. Robert stated that our permit fees have been low for quite some time. Keith Higginbotham asked if there was anything wrong with being on the low side, especially considering today's economic situation. Robert replied that if we want to sustain the level of service we currently give, we need to increase our rates. He also mentioned the fact that the city does not have impact fees. Robert encouraged the city to look strongly at impact fees. Keith mentioned the fact of the numerous empty lots in the city limits and asked Robert how he proposed that we sell them if our rates increase. He said that we need to do something to draw businesses into town and also help increase our population. Lorene Taul stated again how much lower our permits are than surrounding cities. Keith asked what could be done to bring builders back into our city, to which Robert replied that it was not their job to bring in the builders. Robert stated that he had been talking to the local builders and subcontractors for some time now about the coming rate increases and has been told that they understand and do not have a problem with it because we will still be lower than the outlying areas. Keith replied that he was hearing differently from some of those same people. Robert went on describing some of the individualized rate increases such as base fees and re-inspect fees Howard Slinkard stated that the fees from building permits are not to be used as a revenue source for the city. He stated that they are there to offset the cost of providing the services. Robert mentioned how the other cities in our area are looking at increases and that the county just raised their fees last year. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the ordinance by title only. Patricia Thornhill made a motion to strike the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance three times, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. Sustaining votes were recorded for all members present and the motion carried. Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the ordinance, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed.

Sustaining votes were recorded for all members present 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 Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (7) **Resolution 09-06 - A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor And The City Clerk To Execute On Behalf Of The City A Sales Contract With Computer Systems Of Arkansas For Accounting Software Upgrades And Services For The City Of Centerton, Arkansas.** Jan Dolan explained that this resolution was for a contract for the accounting software mentioned by her in the last council meeting. She stated that Andrew and Howard had looked over the agreement already. She also said that it would take 90-120 days to get the software and training complete. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the resolution by title only, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. Sustaining votes were recorded for all members present 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 Patricia Thornhill. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) **Approve Hiring Of Full Time Police Officer Tiffany Lowe** - Mayor Griffith brought this item before the council stating that the starting rate of pay for Officer Lowe would be \$27,500.00 per year or \$13.23 per hour. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the hiring of Tiffany Lowe at the mentioned pay, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. Sustaining votes were recorded for all council members present and the motion carried.
- (9) **Parks and Recreation Meeting Update** - Patricia Thornhill stated that there was a well attended Parks & Recreation meeting on March 3, 2009. She said that Todd Wright accepted the position of Parks & Recreation Secretary. She said the main focus of the meeting was to take a look at lands that belong to the city already and to individually walk those parcels. Todd is supposed to look for dimensions of those properties for the next meeting, at which time we would start looking at options for those sites. Patricia stated that there would be monthly meetings. Todd said that Andy Tiner was interested in being back on P& R and Mayor Griffith said that Luke Colley from Arvest was also interested. She said that would put 9 people in P&R. Patricia Stated that we might look at putting out mailers to the residents in the affected areas to get their feedback and ideas.
- (10) **Department reports – Administration** - Jan said the city newsletter would be going out Friday. Mayor, Griffith said that there will be a photo-op at Joseph Isabell's Eagle Project at the "Centerton Welcomes You" sign on Monday at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Court of Honor at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. **Planning** - Lorene asked the council to look over a comprehensive zoning plan found in their folders and let her know if there are any questions or comments. She said it would be key in the future direction of the city. She said the previous plan was primarily agricultural, whereas this plan has a more residential direction. **Police** - Chief Johnson updated the council about Officer Martinez being in a Narcotics Officer

class that goes through May, with graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He said that the class is being taught so that the information can be easily shared with the rest of the department. Lance stated that they have seen an increase of marijuana on the street. He said that 2 officers are headed to the Academy. Graduation is June 6<sup>th</sup> for them at Elm Springs Police Academy. He said they have been cleaning up around the P.D. and that he would like to re-paint the exterior of the building if he can get a decent bid. He said that had followed up on some speeding complaints, but didn't find a big issue. He said he did write one citation. **Fire/Water** - Jeff Coffelt said that there was 1 bidder on the Water Tower Maintenance Bid and that they will be painting both water towers. He stated that there was a \$1,309 453.80 low bid on the two system tie-in. Jeff said that a drive by meter system would take about 3 months to implement and that the G.P.S. mapping would take about 6 months. **Streets** - Bert Johnson said that they had about 1 week left on the ice storm cleanup. He said the crack sealing on the city streets would be starting soon. He stated that he was going to re-bid the Bliss Street overlay and that he was in the process of getting new pricing for seal-coating some of the older streets. Bert said that mowing season was coming soon and that it was recommended that we let the bottom of the detention ponds grow much taller to improve water quality down stream. The sides of the ponds would still be maintained as they had been.

- (11) **Announcements-** Mayor Griffith announced that the February, 2009 building permits and Fire and Street transactions were contained in the council's packets. She also noted that the Cox Communication 2/23/2009 new pricing was in the packet. Robert Coffelt added a note that sprinkler systems will become mandatory in the near future for residential homes.

Josie Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathy Huber. Sustaining votes were recorded for all members present and the motion carried.

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Bobbie Griffith , Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder