

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2012**

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, Tyler Steele, Skye Petty and Tommy Laird. Those present and not answering roll call were Todd Wright, Jennifer Robinson, Brian Rabal, Andrew Huntsinger, Street Superintendent Rick Hudson, Police Chief Lance Johnson, Animal Control Supervisor Terry Sanchez, Fire Chief Delton Bush, Melvin Coffelt and Robert Coffelt. Lorene Burns was absent from the meeting.

- (1) Council Minutes-** Skye Petty made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 14, 2012 council meeting with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) Planning, Water & Sewer, Parks and A&P Minutes-** Tyler Steele made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the January 24, 2012 Planning and January, 2012 Water & Sewer minutes as well as the February, 2012 Parks & Recreation and December 2011 A&P minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that Jennifer Robinson was back and that the council had January 2012 City and February 2012 City and Court Financials in their packets for approval. He stated that in January, with 8% of the year gone and 11.4% our revenue in, our expenses were at 6%. He stated that in February's report, with 16% of the year gone and 23% of our revenue in, our expenses were at 13%. Tyler Steele made a motion to accept the January, 2012 City and February, 2012 City and Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. There was discussion about turnback funds for the City and the Street Department.
- (4) Discuss Council and City Clerk Compensation-** Mayor Edwards presented raising the Council pay to \$125.00 per meeting and City Clerk pay to \$125.00 per meeting plus \$75.00 for typing the minutes to get us more in line with other cities around us. There was discussion. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve to raise the pay as presented at \$125.00 per meeting for the Council and \$125.00 per meeting plus \$75.00 for the minutes for the City Clerk to begin April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (5) **Chamber of Commerce Renewal-** Michael Finke addressed the council and detailed the recent and upcoming business of the Centerton Area Chamber of Commerce in regards to the promotion of the City of Centerton. Michael asked the council to vote to renew their membership with the Chamber. There was discussion. Brian recommended renewing the membership in the form of a resolution. Skye Petty stated that he thought the cost of the membership was nominal considering the amount of promotion done for the city. Skye Petty made a motion to table the discussion until the April council meeting, where it can be brought back in the form of a resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Discuss Applying for 2012 COPS Grant-** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that we applied last year and were turned down. He said that he was told that we would get special consideration this year for having applied last year. He stated that this is a 75% grant for 3 years to help us hire another officer. He said that the stipulation is that we have to hire a veteran. Chief Johnson stated that it has to be a military veteran post-9/11. Lance gave details about the grant. There was discussion. Robin Reed made a motion to recommend that Chief Johnson apply for the 2012 COPS Grant with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (7) **Promotion of Randy Clark to Lieutenant-** Police Chief Lance Johnson addressed the council and stated that we talked about the need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> in command at the Police Department at the last City Council meeting. Lance again detailed the need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> in command. He recommended to the council that Sergeant Randy Clark be promoted to Lieutenant, effective immediately with a salary of \$40,000.00 per year, with his evaluation to remain in August. Tommy Laird made a motion to approve the promotion of Sergeant Randy Clark to Lieutenant with a salary of \$40,000.00 per year with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Randy was presented with his new badge and congratulated by all present.
- (8) **Resolution 2012-04- A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained that this resolution was in regard to a change in the nepotism policy that we have in the city handbook and gave details and examples. He read the new policy. 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. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (9) **Ordinance 2012-05- AN ORDINANCE AMMENDING SECTION 3.04.05(a) OF THE CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards stated that this ordinance was to make it so that any city expenditures over \$1000.00 need to be approved by the mayor. He said that the current code is for expenditures over \$100.00. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian read the emergency clause. Keith Higginbotham 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.
- (10) **Ordinance 2012-06- AN ORDINANCE AMMENDING CHAPTER 8.12 OF THE CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Robert Coffelt addressed the council and detailed the need for this ordinance. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions 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 adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian read the emergency clause. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the emergency clause with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (11) **Ordinance 2012-07- AN ORDINANCE REPLACING THE CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 16.08 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 07-16 AND 09-16; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Andrew Huntsinger addressed the council and detailed the need for this ordinance, explaining that it is to adopt the new flood map and changing the regulations in the code book to reflect that and to change the base floor elevation from 2ft. to 3ft., which was approved by the Planning Commission at their last meeting. Tyler Steele made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions 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 adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tyler Steele. 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 found in the council's packets. He stated that the new Tahoe came in and detailed some of the features. Lance gave details to the council on the progression of the new police department with the current timeline. He said that he was hoping to take it to planning on March 27th. He said we could possibly go to bid on April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00. He said the projected estimate right now is \$690,000.00. He said they have taken some of that off already in landscaping. He said he would like to get it to \$500,000.00-\$550,000.00. Robin asked what we would do if it can in over budget. Mayor Edwards said that he felt we would be fine and cautioned the council against getting into reserves with all that we have coming up. Jennifer explained how the reserve funds (Investor Account) work. She stated that we are required to keep 20% of our annual operating expenses in that account. She also said that the payment will not have to be paid in one lump sum. Robin stated that she was concerned that it would be put on the back burner.

**Building Inspector-** Robert addressed the council and stated that permits were up in February. He said he did 6 permits in Quail Ridge Yesterday. He stated that Oak Tree lots are selling like hot cakes. He stated that he expected Forest Park should be starting soon. He stated that the Holloway abatement issue is done and that the bank took care of the burned structure. He stated that there is a trailer that needs to be removed from a property at Bush and Tycoon and that he has been in contact with the person buying the land.

**Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they have been working on drainage. He stated that they completed 20 of 25 detention ponds. He stated that they probably would not have access to the county workers for a while. Rick stated that they did quite a bit of training last month. He mentioned the rising cost of asphalt and stated that he and the Mayor went to a county class on asphalt/concrete. Rick mentioned that his new truck came in. He mentioned that they are prepared for mowing season. He asked for the council's permission to go ahead and hire the seasonal person that was previously discussed. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to allow Rick to hire a seasonal person for the Street Department with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Rick mentioned that prices are going up, so they may need to look at new technology for our overlays. He mentioned that they removed the gazebo from the City Park and some trees have been removed as well. He recommended getting the Tree Board together. He said they are working on the city ball fields as well. He stated that \$10,000.00 was approved by P&R and A&P for his budget for use in the parks. Rick mentioned the completion of the remodel of Hickory Park and recommended that they go by and see it.

**Planning-** Mayor Edwards stated that Lorene is out 6-8 weeks. He said that he will assume planning duties for now. He stated that The Centerton Animal Hospital is open, that Shipley's donuts will open on Thursday and that Salon 102 will be opening soon. He stated that an Italian Ice company is asking for a conditional use permit to operate in Beckendale Plaza and that a nursing home to be located at 1570 W. Centerton Blvd. is going through a re-zone process. He mentioned that the new Police Department is going well. **Fire-** Mayor Edwards introduced Delton Bush as the new fire chief. Delton stated that there is about a 99% chance of getting a very good tanker from the county. He said they changed some of the apparatus numbers. He stated that the ladder truck is repaired and ready for service. He said that he can't see a need for a heavy rescue

at this time, but mentioned that we do need to get our equipment into a rotation basis. He stated that they cleaned up some of the equipment on our existing trucks. He stated that he has had some interest already from some full-time fire fighters in the area wanting to get on our department that could bring some more experience to the department. He mentioned the run report found in the council's packets. He said that they assisted the Hiwassee FD in a fatality structure fire yesterday. He said that the guys did a fantastic job on a structure fire on a large house in Talamore and gave details. He stated that we are the highest population for a volunteer FD in the state of Arkansas and asked for our patience. Tyler asked about staffing the department on a more full time basis and Delton said that he could get to that point. Delton stated that he is trying to get our ISO rating looked at again. Robin asked if we had lost any firefighters since he took over and he said not yet, other than one that went to Bentonville for a full-time position. He said that change is always difficult. He said that they would be looking at changes to the meeting and training times. There was discussion about the number of allowable volunteer firefighters and how that is affected by worker's comp insurance and budget. **Water-** Melvin Coffelt stated that the construction bids for the HWY 102 project close tomorrow and they will be laying pipe soon. He stated that they have hired a new Superintend and it will be announced at the CWSD meeting on Thursday. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and mentioned the rabies clinic on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-12 at the City Park. He said that rabies shots will be \$7.00 and dog tags will be \$5.00/\$10.00 He said that he is still waiting to hear back on the grant for lighting and cameras. .

**Administration-** Jennifer thanked everyone for their support and gave an update on her husband. She stated that the audit will be sometime in August. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards detailed the status of the high school millage and stated that the vote would be on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He said that he, Rick, Brian and Fred are going to a planning class in Hot Springs tomorrow. He stated that we did not get the Trail Grant we had applied for. He stated that the Hwy 102 project is now going for bid in July, due to 1 more easement acquisition and only 40% of the utilities being moved at this time. He reminded everyone about the Coffee with the Mayor and CACC Pancake breakfast on Saturday. The mayor also mentioned that the Farmer's market is going to be mainly on Saturdays this year. He also reminded everyone about the Spring Festival coming up on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business-** Keith Higginbotham mentioned to the council members the need to have a Personnel Committee meeting to take care of some unfinished business. A consensus could not be reached on a time, so Keith said he would send everyone an e-mail of his available times, so that they could set up the meeting.

**Announcements-** Mayor Edwards stated that he would present Jeff Coffelt and Mark Hayre with plaques at the next fire meeting, thanking them for their service with the Fire Department.

There was no more business or announcements and Tyler Steele 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