

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 8, 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, Skye Petty and Tommy Laird. Those present and not answering roll call were Todd Wright, Jennifer Robinson, Brian Rabal, Street Superintendent Rick Hudson, Police Chief Lance Johnson, Animal Control Supervisor Terry Sanchez, Fire Chief Delton Bush, Planning Commissioner Lorene Burns and Water Superintendent Frank Holzkamper.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 10, 2012 council meeting with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer, Parks and A&P Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the March 27th, 2012 Planning minutes, March 15th, 2012 Water & Sewer minutes as well as the April 3rd, 2012 Parks & Recreation minutes and February 24th, 2012 A&P Commission 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 through 33% of the year, we have received 38% of our income and that our expenses were at 27%. He stated that we are still under budget. Tommy Laird made a motion to accept the April 2012 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Department Reports- Building Inspector-** Robert Coffelt was not present for the meeting, but his building inspection stats were presented in the council's packets. **Police-** Police Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for the previous month found in the council's packets. He said that there are vacations are being taken and will be taken and coverage is being made. Lance stated that he has 2 Supervisors taking training classes locally. He stated that the 2 new Tahoe's are ready and will be picked up tomorrow. Lance stated that there is an FOI training class coming up in September and recommended all elected officials to go. He said that registration is in August. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that they lost and hired a full time person for the Street Department. He detailed the work they have done on the Sports Park. He mentioned that this past month has seen quite a bit of equipment breakdowns and repairs and gave details. Rick stated that they have been doing some work on the property around the FD on Hwy102. **Planning-** Lorene Burns addressed the council and stated that Mike Borengasser with the NFIP visited her and went over some of our flood procedures as the first step for the CRS rating. Lorene gave details and stated that she was hoping we would get

a 7 or 8 and detailed how those scores would help get a discount for homeowners. She announced to the council that Ann Snyder had accepted the position of taking minutes for the Planning Commission meetings. Lorene mentioned a request for a conditional use permit, the City Park Pavilion plans and plans for Conover Medical for a possible expansion. She stated that we finally have a firm date on the LOMR of June 5th. **Fire-** Fire Chief Delton Bush pointed out the call sheet in the council's packets. He stated that he has added 2 new firefighters. He stated that they collected \$2200 for MDA at the Centerton Spring Festival. Delton mentioned that we should be getting an engine and a tanker from Hiwassee, through the County. He said that the Hiwassee FD is no longer and that Gravette FD is responding to those calls now. The mayor mentioned that the City had given the Jeep to Chief Bush to use for the FD. He detailed the fire runs and stated that he had gone up to the FD and programmed all of the radios for them. He also mentioned that they were finding a lot of need repairs at the FD. **Water-** Melvin Coffelt addressed the council. He said that Joby was in ICU after having a heart attack on Sunday. Melvin introduced Frank Holzkamper as the new CWSD Superintendent. Frank addressed the council and gave updates on Hwy102. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez addressed the council and stated that everything was going good at the Shelter. He said that they are working on getting more cameras for the shelter. Terry stated that they drafted a Vicious Animal Agreement and a copy of the agreement was found in the council's packets. He gave an example of how well Facebook works in finding homes for the dogs. Josie thanked him for helping her friend find their lost dog. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards mentioned future sewage expenses and presented the council with a paper from the CWSD that detailed costs of connecting to either NACA or Decatur. He stated that he received a \$3000.00 grant from Wal-Mart and that he was going to use the funds for lighting and camera improvements to the Animal Shelter. He mentioned the \$2392.00 raised by the FD for MDA at the Spring Festival as well as \$178.00 raised for Snack Packs from a silent auction, as well as the money donated to the fallen Police Chief of Lowell from a raffle. He mentioned our city's involvement in the Touch-a-Truck activity and stated that the Hwy102 widening is scheduled to still go out to bid in July. He said the ASHD told him the gas utility is still behind in their preparations for the widening.

- (5) **Appoint New City Council Member-** Keith Higginbotham asked for those citizens in attendance, that are applying for the vacant council position, to stand and introduce themselves, which they did. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss appointing one of the candidates to fill the open council position with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. There was a lengthy recess as the council retired to the conference room for an Executive Session. The council returned. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to call the city council meeting back into order with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to appoint Misty Elam to fill the vacant city council position with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members

voted in favor and the motion carried. Misty Elam was sworn into office by Mayor Bill Edwards and took her seat on the stand.

(6) Discuss Police Department Project and Funding- Mayor Edwards addressed the council and detailed the reason for throwing out the bids for the new PD building. He stated that the council had approved \$400,000.00 for the building and that the low bid came in at \$711,000.00. He stated that we could only negotiate the contract with the low bid if the bid was within 25% of the amount approved by council. He stated that according to our attorney and the Municipal League, the amount was over the 25% allowable and the bids needed to be thrown out. Mayor Edwards stated that a couple of the bidders had stated that they could take \$100,000.00 off of the bids if some of the specs could be changed. There was discussion about the type of roof specified for the new building and some less expensive options. Chief Johnson detailed the roof options and some other specification change options that could save some costs on the bid. There was discussion about other upcoming projects and available funds. Mayor Edwards presented the council with a spreadsheet that showed available funds, money needed for upcoming projects and total estimated costs for the new PD if the bids came in around \$600,000.00 for the building. He also presented the council with a spreadsheet showing an option for low interest 5 year financing for part of the PD project, stating that he did not want to have to borrow money but that it is an option. He stated that he felt like we would pay the loan off early. Keith asked if there was any bond money available and Jennifer stated that she would check into it. There was discussion. Jennifer stated that she felt confident that we could pay off the loan quickly. Lance questioned the validity of the sealed bid process if the council publicizes a new approved budget amount. There was discussion. Lance detailed some of the new re-bid specs. Lorene asked if council had to reject the bids and Mayor Edwards stated that he has the authority, which he has already done. Robin asked if the bidders could FOI and get the new approved amount. Chief Johnson thought he could get the re-bid posted in the paper this weekend and that the original bidders will be personally notified. Jennifer asked if the fact that the low bid of \$711,000.00 was over 25% more than the original approved budget of \$400,000.00, not allowing for negotiation was the reason for throwing out the bids and Brian stated that she was correct. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adjust the budget for the Police Building for the bidding process from \$400,000.00 to \$600,000.00 with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to have a Special Council meeting as soon as a bid is approved to get this done as quickly as possible with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Tommy Laird made a motion to approve the City to take out a line of credit up to \$400,000.00 to pay for the remainder of the PD project with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian stated that there will have to be a resolution drawn up. Mayor Edwards stated that he will have the resolution and all of the figures together for the special

council meeting. Jennifer stated that we have paid out \$34,000.00 to the engineer, surveyor and architect on this project already.

(7) Ordinance 2012-11- AN ORDINANCE REDISTRICTING CITY WARDS.

Mayor Edwards stated that this ordinance is to redistrict the city wards due to the new census to spread the representation out with equal population. The council was provided with new ward maps. He stated that this will be in effect for the next election cycle. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian read the Ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(8) Ordinance 2012-12- AN ORDINANCE WAIVING BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LEASE OF A BACKHOE/LOADER; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and detailed the need for this ordinance, explaining the need for the new backhoe. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Brian read the ordinance by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the ordinance on 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. 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 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(9) Resolution 2012-06- A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained that this resolution was to allow Frank Holzkamper to be a representative on the NACA board of directors. Robin Reed 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. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(10) **Resolution 2012-07- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH JA RIGGS TRACTOR CO, SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS, FOR RENTAL OF A TRACTOR/LOADER/BACKHOE.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and detailed this resolution, stating that the payment will be \$899.00/month. There was discussion. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Robin. 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 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Other Business- Keith Higginbotham stated that we need to look at appointing someone as Mayor Pro-Temp at our next meeting. PJ Milstead addressed the council as a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and stated that he will be filling the roll of representing the chamber to the city and asked for the council's support in mending any previous issues and moving forward working together. He gave details of current and recent chamber activities. He stated that Michael Finke will be taking a different role with the Chamber, but is still the President. He stated that he would like to have an activity at the FD later this year with ALL proceeds going to the Snack Pack Program. Todd gave an update on the June 26, 2012 Millage Election campaign efforts. Jennifer recognized all of those people that helped with the Spring Festival.

Announcements- Mayor Edwards reminded everyone about Coffee with the Mayor on May 19th, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. He also stated that there will be a public hearing on June 5th, 2012 for a Parks Grant.

There was no more business or announcements and Josie Reed made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk

