

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 10, 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, Skye Petty, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Tommy Laird and Robin Reed. Tyler Steele arrived before the end of the meeting. Those present and not answering role call were Todd Wright, Howard Slinkard, Rick Hudson, Jeff Coffelt, Brian Rabal and Jennifer Robinson.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 12, 2011 council meeting with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 20, 2011 special city council meeting with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning, Water & Sewer and A & P Minutes-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the April, 2011 Planning minutes, March, 2011 Water & Sewer minutes and the March, 2011 A & P Commission minutes with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that these financials were for April, 2011 and that we have received 48% of our budgeted revenue and the expenses are at 30%. He also stated that we transferred \$200,000.00 into the Investor's Account. Skye Petty made a motion to accept the April, 2011 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Josie Reed. Skye Petty questioned the worker's compensation expenses and Jennifer Robinson stated that we have to kind of guess what those expenses will be each year when we budget and that we just missed it. She stated that it only gets paid once a year. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Brad Carpenter- Parks and Recreation Request for Funds- Harvest Street Park-** Brad Carpenter addressed the council and gave details of plans for a park area beside the pond on Harvest Street and requested \$4000.00 for the project. A detailed expense listing was presented to council. Keith Higginbotham expressed concern with having metal picnic tables at the park and reminded everyone of previous issues with vandalism on that site. He asked if they had priced concrete tables. There was discussion. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the request with a recommendation that police patrol be stepped up after the project is completed with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (5) **Resolution 2011-13- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PARK DONATION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that this resolution came out the situation where we placed the park bench for Michael Savard. He stated that if someone wants to donate a park bench through the city, we will install it. He stated that they don't have to be a memorial and that anything added to the bench has to be approved by council. He gave some details. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. 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 Skye Petty. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Resolution 2011-14- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CASSIE ELLIOT, a.k.a. VISIONARY MILESTONES INC, FOR LOCATING AND OBTAINING GRANT MONEY FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that this resolution was to authorize us to enter into a contract with a grant writer. He stated that there are several grant needs that we have and that a grant writer could help us qualify for those grants. He introduced Cassie Elliot and gave details on how she would be compensated for her grant work. Cassie addressed the council and detailed her experience and gave some ideas for grants for the city. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present 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 Robin Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (7) **Resolution 2011-15- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO GRANT RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENTS TO THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT("AHTD") ON CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE CITY, BEING ACQUIRED BY AHTD FOR THE PURPOSE OF WIDENING HIGHWAY 102.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that the State Highway Department came to the city requesting to purchase three easements for the widening of highway 102. Howard gave details of the properties and the amounts of the purchase requests as well as details of the process. He stated that the Copper Oaks property is still in negotiations and could be substantial in value. Skye Petty made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Howard read the resolution by title only. Josie Reed

made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (8) Ordinance 2011-12- AN ORDINANCE REGULATING RESIDENTIAL SALES; PROVIDING FOR PERMITS THEREFORE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and gave details for this resolution. There was discussion about the retrieval of signs after yard sales and subsequent penalties. Robin Reed made a motion to read the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Skye Petty. All council members present 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 3 separate occasions with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. 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 present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (9) Department Reports- Police-** Mayor Edwards introduced new police officer Alex Wallace to the council. Mayor Edwards pointed out the police stats report in the council's packets. **Street-** Rick Hudson stated that it has been a record year, with record snow and rain and that we have really felt it on our county roads. He estimated that we lost about 40% of our gravel on those roads in the last rains. He said we will recover most of it and end up with about a 15% loss. Rick stated that the County Judge is willing to work with us on the county roads we share boundaries on and has agreed to furnish base material and gravel and we will furnish labor and cross drains to do some of the repairs on Kimmel, LC Hickman and Bates. He stated that we also lost some sidewalks and have erosion in our ponds and that it is going to be a long summer for repairs. He stated that the Street Building is almost done and is under budget. He said they only lack gas hook-up and getting grass started in the yard. **Planning-** Mayor Edwards stated that Lorene was on her way back from meetings and that Robert had a Building Permit report in the packets. **Fire-** Fire Chief Jeff Coffelt stated that Centerton Day is coming and they are looking for volunteers. He said that Beef O'Brady's is supplying the food again this year and a group has volunteered to cover the concession stand. He stated that the two Substations should be completed by May 31st. He stated that they have had 270 runs this year so far. He stated that they assisted some other departments during the flooding, but that we were very fortunate in our area. **Water-** Jeff stated that the contractor is on sight for the Bella Vista by-pass and that you can see the large equipment now. Jeff stated that more info was sent to the Highway Department on Hwy 102 and we are waiting to hear back from them. He said that the Highway Department is still planning to start moving dirt by September. **Administration-** Jennifer stated that D Street is closed for construction for the next 45-60 days. She stated that we survived the Audit and that everything looks really good and it should go to Legislative Audit in June or July and we should have a final report for the council in August. Todd stated that

we did have the Exit Review meeting with the Auditor. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards stated that we are working on the Police Grant for 2 officers and gave details. He stated that he has a Letter of Resignation from Sharon Grounds from the A&P Commission. Robin Reed Made a motion to accept the resignation with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Edwards stated that she was having some family issues that led to the resignation. Mayor Edwards mentioned the fundraiser on May 14th in the city park with the proceeds to go to the former mayor, Bobbie Griffith and her husband Jimmy to help pay for their medical expenses. He also mentioned the Farmer's Market and stated that a banner was going to be put up to help promote it better. The Mayor reminded everyone about the BC Alert (Reverse 911) system for severe weather alerts and how it was previously funded by a grant that expires in July. He stated that our city's part moving forward to help fund it would be \$1853.87 for the remainder of this year and the annual cost moving forward would be \$3707.75. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve funds to cover the rest of the year with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (10) Announcements-** Mayor Edwards pointed out that the April 2011 Street and Fire transactions were in the council's packets. He invited everyone to "Coffee with the Mayor" on Saturday, May 21st, 2011. He set up a Meeting of the Whole for Thursday, June 2nd, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Edwards asked if there was any other business and there was not. Skye Petty made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Tyler Steele. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder