

**CITY OF CENTERTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2012**

The special city council meeting was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Robin Reed, Misty Elam and Tommy Laird. Skye Petty was absent. Present and not answering roll call was Todd Wright.

Mayor Edwards addressed the council and apologized for having a special meeting the day before our regular council meeting. He stated that he was contacted by Benton County, which has been providing building inspection services for the City for the past five (5) months. He stated that the County is having a Committee of the Thirteen (13) meeting tomorrow night and that they are wanting to add another Inspector and are interested in cost-sharing with Decatur, Centerton and Bella Vista. He stated that our city's portion would be \$30,000.00- \$35,000.00 per year. The mayor stated that he felt obligated to bring this information to the council, to let them consider this option. The Mayor stated that the County claims to have been spending 2-3 hours per day doing inspections in Centerton, at a rate of \$40.00 per inspection and that our monthly bill has been between \$2200.00 and \$2400.00. He stated that the offer by the County would be a one (1) year contract for unlimited inspections at the \$30,000.00- \$35,000.00 rate with an annual review for a cost of living raise of 2-3%. Keith Higginbotham asked if the contract would be for residential inspections only and the Mayor stated that they will do commercial inspections as well. He stated that they don't review commercial plans. He stated that we would contract that out to an engineer, as we are doing now, with the nursing home, the school and Casey's. He stated that those costs should be \$3000.00- \$5000.00 per year and would be on a project by project basis. He stated that the city is reimbursed for those costs. The mayor apologized again for having this special meeting to discuss this, stating that the County was hoping for an answer before their Committee of the Thirteen (13) meeting tomorrow night, which is at the same time as our City Council meeting. He stated that the County is cutting their budget by \$1.1 million and that the only way the County will add this position is if somebody else helps to fund it. Tommy laird asked if they needed to know by this time tomorrow. The Mayor stated that they need to know if we might be interested and they need to proceed with it. The Mayor stated that we are not agreeing to a contract tonight that this would not begin until after the first of next year. Robin Reed asked if we could approve tonight for them to gather more information for the board to look at. Tommy laird agreed. Josie Reed made a motion to ask the County to provide the council with more information regarding a contract to provide building inspection services to the City of Centerton with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Other Business- Robin Reed asked if the PD could get their check for Holiday Pay before "Black Friday". She stated that other City employees receive their Holiday pay

throughout the year. Mayor Edwards stated that the handbook states that the PD checks would be paid on the 2nd Tuesday of December. There was discussion. The Mayor also mentioned that we will discuss Levelization Pay at tomorrow's council meeting. He stated that we paid \$500.00 to each full-time employee last year, with \$250 to those having been here less than a year. He stated that, if approved, he would like to pay that the week before Thanksgiving. The Mayor stated that he appreciated the city employees. The Mayor stated that he spoke to Police Chief Johnson about PD raises, per the direction given at the last budget meeting and that Lance stated that he would like to raise the officer's pay \$3500.00 and raise the 3 Sergeants and the Lieutenant \$4000.00. There was a short informal discussion about what was on the agenda for tomorrow night's council meeting. The mayor stated that he was going to purchase a new server for City Hall this year and look at possibly purchasing the hardware for a new server for the FD if budget allows. He said that the PD will be looking at their server as well, but that they have a Fund to help pay for theirs. Tommy Laird asked the Mayor to look into bringing the council meetings more up to date with technology as well.

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

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk