

**CITY OF CENTERTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 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 Keith Higginbotham. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bobbie Griffith, Kathy Huber, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham and Randy Thomas. Tommy Laird and Patricia Thornhill were absent. Those present and not answering roll call were Jan Dolan, Todd Wright, Brian Rabal, Howard Slinkard, Andrew Huntsinger, Lorene Burns, Jeff Coffelt, Melvin Coffelt, Bert Johnson, as well as Sgt. Jason Abbott representing the Police department for Lance Johnson.

- (1) **Council Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the minutes from the October 13, 2009 council meeting 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** - Keith Higginbotham made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the September 22, 2009 Planning minutes with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **City and Court Financials** - Mayor Griffith stated that with 85% of the year gone we have received 86% of our budgeted revenue and our expenses were at 71%. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the October, 2009 City and Court financials with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Ordinance 09-24 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 10.12.08 ADJUSTING SEWER RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**  
The Ordinance was read by title only at the October 13, 2009 meeting and the Public Hearing time was set and held prior to this meeting tonight, November 10, 2009. Kathy Huber made a motion to suspend the rule requiring the reading of the Ordinance 3 times with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew Read the Ordinance by title only. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the ordinance by title only a 3<sup>rd</sup> time with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathy Huber. All members 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 Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) **Ordinance 09-25 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15.08.06 OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE; DECLARING AN**

**EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Lorene Burns addressed council and explained that the city did not currently have a processing fee to offset the costs associated with lot splits and lot line adjustments and that after researching the fees from surrounding towns, found them to be all over the place from \$50 to over \$400. She stated that the Planning Commission decided on \$150. Keith Higginbotham asked what the avg. engineering fee was and Lorene stated \$450.00. Keith recommended that the fee be higher to help offset the costs or possibly charging the \$150 fee each time the split request is reviewed or having them pay the \$150 as well as the difference between it and the actual cost of the total process. Howard agreed and recommended treating the \$150 as an application fee. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to send this ordinance back to legal for a rewrite and table it until the next meeting.

**(6) Resolution 09-23 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INFORMAL INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, AND THE CITY OF BETHEL HEIGHTS, ARKANSAS, REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AND FACILITIES.** Mayor Griffith stated that she and Police Chief Lance Johnson were approached by the mayor of Bethel Heights stating that they are in need of animal control services for an average of 6- 8 dogs per month. Mayor Griffith stated that we would receive \$75.00 per dog not adopted and that they will be brought to us by the city of Bethel Heights and that there would be no patrolling of their city on our part. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kathy Huber. All members voted in favor 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 Keith Higginbotham. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(7) A&P Commission Resignations and Appointments -** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the resignations of Mary Compton and Luke Colley from the Centerton A&P Commission with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the appointment of Sharon Grounds of First National Bank Centerton to fill Luke Colley's position with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(8) Willow Crossing- Completion of Items -** Lorene Burns addressed the council in regards to the progress on Willow Crossing. She stated that some new findings in regard to utility easement errors that will affect several lots and that Willow Crossing have been notified. She stated that Tim has scheduled a meeting with SWEPCO for after Thanksgiving. Bert Johnson stated that some progress has been made on moving the dirt piles on the east side. Lorene stated that the pump repair is scheduled for Thursday. Lorene stated that we have held permits off for 30 days to allow for completion of the list, which has not been completed. Kathy Huber made a motion to suspend the issuance of any building permits until the list

is completed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(9) Lorene Taul - Contour Projects with G-Squared of Fayetteville, Tn.** - Lorene Burns addressed council. She presented a packet containing mapping expenditures for 2009 and proposed expenditures for 2010 with a map showing the mapping area and a proposed contract from G-Squared for Topo mapping for 2010. She stated that there was money figured in her budget for doing some contour mapping in 2009 and that there probably would have been enough money in the budget for the entire project but that there were 2 Topo maps done that had to be done for the flood studies. She stated that there are 2 more areas that she is particularly interested in having mapped and possibly 2 other areas if it fits within budget. She stated that the reason she is asking for authorization now is that it would save us money to contract now. She stated that she would have money left over from this year's budget and so she would not need the total that she has proposed for 2010. She talked about what Bentonville and the County have committed to as far as mapping. She also mentioned how this mapping could be useful for future development projects. Keith Higginbotham asked where the total of the money needed would come from and Lorene stated that it would have to be in next year's budget. Keith stated that his concern was in authorizing money now for a contract with money from next year's budget without it going through the Budget Committee. Josie stated that she thought it should go through the Budget Committee first.

**(10) Approve Hiring of Police Officers T.J. Lee and Nick Hunnicutt** - Jason introduced Officer Nick Hunnicutt to everyone and stated that Officer T.J. Lee was on midnight shift. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve the hiring of Officer T.J. Lee at the yearly pay of \$27,500 (\$13.23 per hour) and Officer Nicholas J. Hunnicutt at the yearly pay of \$28,500 (\$13.71 per hour) with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

**(11) Department Reports - Administration-** Jan stated that the audit would start on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and that we should probably have results by the next meeting. **Street-** Bert Johnson reported that the Police Department was paved and striped and that Gamble and Keller Roads have been overlaid. **Police -** Sgt. Jason Abbott said that Lance had nothing to report. **Planning -** Lorene stated that she had received the Boundary Maps for the 2010 Census and the Boundary Maps from F.E.M.A. She also stated that we do not have a documented landmark on the map. **Fire -** Jeff Coffelt stated that there are 2 current issues. 1) We have a roof structure on the F.D. past its warranty that is continually having some issues with leaks. He said that it appears that there might be some faulty construction on the installation of the ridge cap and/or the metal. He said the contractor that did the installation has been up on the roof to do repairs numerous times. Jeff stated that they believe part of the problem might be in the design of the slope of the structure and possibly poor installation of the roof top using caulk where caulk should not be used. He said there might also be issues with the original

foundation. He said that he had money in the Capital Expense part of next year's budget and would not be taking it out. He stated that it also could be due in portion to the ice storm. 2) Jeff stated that he is still in the process of obtaining a couple pieces of property, hopefully by December, for 2 substations. He said Fire Prevention went very well and they saw a lot of kids. He said that he feels that it really benefits the city. He said that the number of fire runs is up but that he credits good code enforcement from building as well as fire and a good contractor base in the lack of structure fires. He said eventually that will change as homes get older and people stop caring for them. He stated that Fire Prevention is very expensive. He said he tries to roll over products every year. He stated that we have not had any flue fires yet, but that that could change as the colder weather arrives. **Water** - Jeff stated that the Sewer Rate Increase was passed tonight. He said the projects that they have been completing are that everyone's water meter has been changed to a drive-by meter and that next month should be the first month for complete drive-by reading. He said they located about 100 meters that they missed. He said that they read now between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. He said another project that they have been working on is the 2-system tie-in which is now complete. He said all he is waiting on is the communication software, which has been pushed back to the second week of December. He said once it is done, there will be a couple areas that may notice a change in water pressure.

- (12) **Announcements** - Mayor Griffith pointed out to the council that the October, 2009 Permits and Fire and Street transactions were in their packets. A second 2010 City Budget meeting was scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m. Mayor Griffith stated that there would be an A&P Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. in the City Hall Conference room and that Centerton businesses have been invited. Keith Higginbotham expressed his major concern for the businesses in Centerton and stated that we need to look at ways to help and encourage businesses in and to Centerton. Mayor Griffith also pointed out the programming changes for Cox Communications, Dated 10/14/09, 10/19/09 and 11/06/09.

There was no other business and Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

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Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

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Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder