

**CITY OF CENTERTON
PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

The City of Centerton Public Hearing on amending Centerton Municipal Code, Section 10.12.08 Adjusting Sewer Rates was brought to order and called open by Mayor, Bobbie Griffith. Present for the meeting were: Mayor Griffith, Todd Wright, Jan Dolan, Kathy Huber, Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Howard Slinkard, Andrew Huntsinger, Brian Rabal, Melvin Coffelt and Jeff Coffelt. Council members Tommy Laird and Patricia Thornhill were absent.

Mayor Griffith asked Melvin Coffelt of the Centerton Water & Sewer Department if he wanted to say anything to say regarding the rate increase. Melvin Stated that he would be willing to answer any questions and that the rate increase was to cover what Bentonville has increased the rate to Centerton. He stated that the increase would come in 3 phases beginning January 1st of 2010. He stated the second increase would be July 1st of 2010 and the last increase for now would be January 1st of 2011. He said that at least they didn't give it to us in one whack. He stated that the details of those increases were covered in our October 13, 2009 City Council Meeting. Josie Reed asked what the percentage of increase was. As covered in our October meeting, they were in order; 12%, 25% and 25%. Melvin stated that Bentonville processes our sewer and that we have a contract with them until 2018.

There was a public question as to whether this was an increase on the cost of water and Melvin replied that it is an increase only on sewer which is currently measured by the amount of water used.

There was a public comment stating that word on the street is that Bentonville is spreading their sewer increase over a 3 year period. Public comment responded that Bentonville already had their first increase in October and that would start January 1, 2010 and be on schedule with Bentonville for the second increase on July 1, 2010. Jeff Coffelt stated that the 3 year termed increase for Bentonville is for their water rates and that we don't get our water from Bentonville. Melvin Coffelt stated that we get our water from the "Two-ton" and that we had a water rate increase about 2 years ago.

Mayor Griffith asked if there were any other questions and there were none. Kathy Huber made a motion to close the Public Hearing with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/Recorder