

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2009**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bobbie Griffith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the prayer was offered by Josie Reed. Those present and answering roll call were Mayor, Bobbie Griffith, Keith Higginbotham, Randy Thomas, Kathy Huber, Tommy Laird and Josie Reed. Patricia Thornhill was absent. Those present and not answering roll call were Todd Wright, Jan Dolan, Brian Rabal, Andrew Huntsinger, Bert Johnson, Lance Johnson, Lorene Burns and Robert Coffelt. Howard Slinkard and Jeff Coffelt were not present.

- (1) **Council Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 8, 2009 council meeting with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (2) **Planning Minutes** - Kathy Huber made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Planning minutes from July 28, 2009, September 1, 2009 and Public Hearing on September 15, 2009, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (3) **Water & Sewer Minutes** - Josie Reed made a motion to accept the minutes from August, 2009 with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Financials** - Mayor Griffith addressed the council, stating that with 3 quarters of the year gone, we have taken in 79% of our revenue and our expenses are at 63%. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the city and court financials for September, 2009 and there was a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) **Ordinance 09-24 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 10.12.08 ADJUSTING SEWER RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** Melvin Coffelt addressed the council, giving the following details regarding the change in sewer rates for the people served by the Centerton Water & Sewer Dept.:

Effective January 1, 2010- Inside city limit- \$13.72 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$5.10 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month. Outside city limit- \$15.50 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$6.40 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month.

Effective July 1, 2010- Inside city limit- \$14.77 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$6.08 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month. Outside city limit- \$16.50 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$7.40 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month.

Effective January 1, 2011- Inside city limit- \$16.08 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$7.31 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month. Outside city limit- \$17.50 (minimum) for the first 1,000 gallons of water consumption per month, or portion thereof; \$8.40 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumption in excess of 1,000 gallons per month.

Non-Water Customers will be billed Effective January 1, 2010- Inside city limit- \$38.60 (minimum per month). Outside city limit- \$45.00 (minimum per month).

Kathy Huber made a motion to introduce the ordinance by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the ordinance by title only. Mayor Griffith set the public hearing for this ordinance for Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the time and date for the Public Hearing with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Resolution 09-21 - A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE CENTERTON RURAL FIRE DISTRICT PROTECTION SERVICE FEE AND NEW MEMBER FEE FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Griffith addressed the council and stated that this resolution is to raise the fee for fire protection from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per year and to keep the one-time new member fee at \$25.00 per new membership. Kathy Huber made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All members present 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 2nd from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(7) Resolution 09-22 - A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE POLICY HANDBOOK OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Griffith addressed the council and stated that the personnel committee met on October 1, 2009 and voted to make 3 changes to the employee handbook; 1) A nepotism policy is to be added. 2) Vacation time for non-uniformed employees is to be amended as defined in the handbook. 3) Vacation time for uniformed employees (Police Officers) is to be amended as

defined in the handbook. Mayor Griffith went over the details of these changes with the council members present. She also stated that they voted to have employees take one of their weeks of vacation as a full week instead of trying to break them up into days. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Andrew read the resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the ordinance with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (8) Highway Widening Funds** - Mayor Griffith addressed the council in regards to an e-mail from the Centerton Water & Sewer Department to offer to help move utilities to offset some of the costs being asked for by the Highway Department for the widening of Hwy 102 from Greenhouse road to Main Street. Mayor Griffith stated that we have the \$1.3M available. CWSD is recommending that Mayor Griffith enter into negotiations with AHTD for CWSD to move the utilities and to give the right of way that the city currently has in lieu of \$2M. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to enter into negotiations with AHTD with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (9) Willow Crossing Update and Request to Stop Issuance of Building Permits** - Lorene Burns addressed the council regarding the current state of the Willow Crossing Subdivision including a timeline of events from 3/27/06 to present and also including a 19 item list of items for completion dated 10/13/09. Lorene read through the timeline and explained some of the difficulties that have been and are being experienced with the subdivision and requested that there be a stoppage of issuance of building permits until the subdivision is re-platted. She stated that there are 5 permits currently approved. Tommy Laird asked how long it would take to complete the list. Lorene replied that it could probably be done in 30 days, but that with the time needed for a public hearing for a re-plat, we are probably looking at another 60 days. Tim Graham, owner of Willow Crossing Subdivision addressed the council. He stated that he was present at a meeting on-site today and felt like they were close to getting most of the list completed. He stated that there was a part ordered on-site today for the pumps that should take 2 weeks to come in and will be installed the next day to begin the process of calibrating the pumps. He asked that he would still be able to pull permits and possibly table this until the next council meeting to give him some time to get the part in and start calibrating the pumps. He said he feels like getting the detention pond finished is the big issue. He mentioned the 5 existing permits and would like to pull 2 more, but was told to wait for this meeting. Kathy asked if there would be continuous work being done or would it continue to drag on. Tim stated that there has been some complacency. Andrew asked how many permits would be needed in the next 30 days. Tim stated that they had been pulling about 2 per month. Keith asked who was responsible for the bond issue and asked if they would be willing to renew the bond to which Tim

answered that they would be willing. David Todd stated that the 30 day time frame was doable. He said the 2 most difficult issues are backflow and pump settings and potential for damage to Kimmel Road. He said that process could take some time and the developer has committed to that. He said he would recommend limiting permits, possibly tabling this issue and rethinking the bond issue to state when the work is complete. Robert Coffelt stated that permits have been held on 30 lots around the detention pond since June of 2007. He said he feels like the work will get done. He recommended that if all of this work is not done by January or February, then suspend all permits. Randy Thomas made a motion to hold all new permits until November 10th with a 2nd from Kathy Huber. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Keith asked if he could be ready for a Public Hearing at the November council meeting and Tim said he would probably be better off waiting until December.

- (10) A&P Commission - Accept Bruce Coonfield's Resignation; Approve Appointment of Mikie Fryer-** Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the resignation of Bruce Coonfield from the A&P Commission with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members voted in favor and the motion carried. Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the appointment of Mikie Fryer to the A&P Commission with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (11) Approve Hiring of Full Time Maintenance Worker Jerry Remmer for the Street Department -** Mayor Griffith stated that the Personnel Committee recommended that the council approve hiring Jerry Remmer as a full time employee for the Centerton Street Department at \$22,880 per year (\$11.00/hr.). Randy Thomas made a motion to accept the recommendation with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (12) Approve Raise and Promotion for Cody Harper and Anthony Martinez -** Mayor Griffith addressed council stating that the Personnel Committee met and are recommending that the council approve the promotion of Police Officer Cody Harper to Sergeant with a pay increase from \$31,803.00 (\$15.29/hr) to \$32,427.00 (\$15.59/hr). Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the recommendation with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Griffith stated that the Personnel Committee also recommends the promotion of Police Officer Anthony Martinez to Sergeant with a pay increase from \$31,866.00 (\$15.32/hr) to \$32,490.00 (\$15.62/hr). Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the recommendation with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (13) Department Reports – Street -** Bert Johnson stated that we are ready for asphalt on the 3 projects but can't get the rain to stop long enough to get

started. He said that it will take 4-5 days once the rain stops. **Police-** Chief Lance Johnson stated that they finally received the block grant money they were waiting for and purchased the last 2 digital cameras for the patrol cars. He said they are installed and working great and that all of the cars now have digital cameras. He said they got their digital camera for crime scenes and that they still have to purchase 8 tactical bags to put the ballistic helmets and tactical vests in. They also still need to purchase elbow and knee pads with that grant money. Lance stated that they ordered the new Charger on Friday and that it will be blue. He said that it would come in within 30-45 days. He stated that he had 2 openings for officers with 5 applicants left for those positions. Lance said that he participated with the Fire Department on the recent disaster training drills. Lance also reminded everyone that there will be a midnight curfew on Halloween this year. **Planning-** Lorene Burns stated that Cherie Vaughn was appointed as the new recorder for the Planning Commission. She said that they did have the Public Flood Meeting on September 15th, 2009 and that the Arkansas National Flood Insurance Coordinator was there. She also stated that she went through some CRS flood training and would have figures at the next meeting to move ahead with that training. **Water & Sewer-** Melvin Coffelt restated that the Water & Sewer Commission is willing to do anything in their means to get this highway widened. He said that everyone needs to give Mayor Griffith all the support they can and talk to your Legislators as well. He said we greatly need this widening. **Administration-** Jan Dolan reminded everyone that the audit is scheduled for the 16th of November. **Fire-** Keith Higginbotham stated that the Fire Department had 130 runs for the last 3 months and over 500 runs for the year so far.

- (14) **Announcements** - Mayor Griffith pointed out the 16 building permits for September. She also mentioned that Fire and Street transactions were listed in the council's packets. She reminded the Finance Committee that there would be a preliminary 2010 Budget meeting on Monday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Griffith also stated that there will be an A&P meeting on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 a.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. She also noted that there is a Cox Communications Programming change included in the packets as well.
- (15) **Other Business** - Robert Coffelt addresses council to give an update on the house at 577 Main Street. He stated that we are in the process of getting a warrant to be able to get on the property to access the scope of work. Andrew said we can then file suit to raze the building. He said there does not have to be an asbestos study. He said this could be the first of many.

Josie Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a 2nd from Randy Thomas. All members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk