

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2010**

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

Tommy Laird made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment motions and/or resignations with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Mayor Griffith excused herself and the City Council members to meet together in the Centerton City Hall Conference Room rather than asking everyone in the audience to leave the Community Room. The Mayor and the Council returned to the Community Room after a short period of time. Tommy Laird made a motion to accept the resignation of City Council member Patricia Thornhill with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Griffith announced that City Council member Randy Thomas sent a letter of resignation and asked for it to be read to the public during the council meeting. Mayor Griffith read the letter out loud. Kathy Huber made a motion to accept the resignation of Randy Thomas with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (1) **Melvin Coffelt- Chair for Water and Sewer Commission Term-** Melvin addressed the council and stated that he went on the Commission in 1999 and that we have really grown. He stated that there is a lot to do and there are a lot of things coming that will require everyone's help. He stated that his term was for 6 years. Josie Reed made a motion to accept the re-nomination of Melvin Coffelt for a 6 year term with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Rick Hudson- New Street Superintendent-** Mayor Griffith addressed the council and introduced Rick Hudson as the new Centerton Street Superintendent at a salary of \$47,500.00. Rick addressed the council and stated that he was on the Highway Department for 35 years and that his father was on the Highway Department for 30 years before that, so it was kind of a history for his family. He said he was proud of the small crew he has and is proud of the City of Centerton. Mayor Griffith stated that Rick would remain a member of the Centerton Planning Commission. Kathy Huber made a motion to accept Rick Hudson as Centerton Street Superintendent at a salary of \$47,500.00 with a 2nd from Keith

Higginbotham. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (3) **Council Minutes-** Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 14, 2010 council meeting with a 2nd from Kathy Huber. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (4) **Planning and Water & Sewer Minutes-** Kathy Huber made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the September 2nd, September 14th and August 24th, 2010 Planning minutes and the August, 2010 Water & Sewer minutes with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (5) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Griffith stated that we have received 88% of our projected revenue and our expenses were at 69%. Josie Reed made a motion to accept the September, 2010 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (6) **Timothy Graham, Jr.- Willow Crossing- Request for 3 Building Permits-** Tim Graham addressed the council and stated that he would like to request some more building permits. Lorene Burns addressed the council and stated that Tim would like to request 3 permits for each month for October, November and December. Lorene gave a report of the progress on the subdivision since the last meeting and stated that the subdivision should be re-platted by the end of the year. She stated that they agreed to let Tim keep the dirt pile to be able to use it for future needs for the subdivision. She said they needed a little more rain to test the pumps. She said they did some utility damage while doing some landscaping and that Tim has agreed to pay for the repairs. Lorene said that they were ready for a letter of commitment and to set the amount of the bond as well. She said they are waiting for the city to tell them where to put the street lights along Hwy 102 and that the city is short staffed and working on other projects. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve 3 building permits and review the progress again the November council meeting and to set the term in the Letter of Commitment at 3 years with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (7) **Resolution 2010-12- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON FOR THE YEAR 2010 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2011.** Mayor Griffith stated that this is the resolution we have to pass every year to set our millage rates and that there are no changes. Kathy Huber 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. Kathy Huber made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Tommy Laird. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

(8) **Department Reports- Police-** Chief Johnson stated that crime was a little unusual this month. He stated that they had a personnel meeting and that things may have come to light. He said that it will either correct itself or be corrected. Chief Johnson stated that equipment wise they had a good month, getting the AR-15's while saving \$1600.00, finding scopes for about \$120.00 each, saving another \$1400.00 and then finding a radar unit for \$420.00, saving \$1200.00. He stated that Court for December will be on the 8th. Lance stated that Animal Control is doing well and that Terry picked up 11 dogs today. Lance told the council that there will be a fundraiser at New Life Christian Church on November 6th, sponsored by the Centerton A&P Commission with the proceeds going to the Centerton Police Department. He said it will be a chili dinner and there will be a wreath raffle, a pie auction and a silent auction. **Planning-** Lorene Burns reminded the council that the Family Dollar store was going up. She said the construction was going faster than the engineering, creating some issues with elevations, utilities and streets. She stated that Aspen Storage had their gravel and fencing done and were ready for final inspection. She stated that she and Jeff Coffelt attended a Western Beltway meeting and that there were about 50 people in attendance and it was positive a meeting. She asked for the council to fill out and send in the surveys she sent them. Lorene stated that Eden's Court is preparing for final plat. She said she received the drainage study for the 2 new fire stations today. She stated that she met with Bentonville and Highfill to set new Planning boundaries and that there will be ordinances and resolutions to come regarding any changes. She said that she attended the Flood Plain Conference from September 26th-29th and that it was long and busy. She stated that she received 3 awards; one for Community of the Year, one for Outstanding Service to the Organization and the Silver Sand Bag award. **Water-** Jeff Coffelt addressed the council and stated that the water and sewer rates have not gone up but there was a notification of a \$1.50 assessment fee that will start on the next billing cycle. Jeff stated that it is a pass through from the water provider that we purchase water from. He said that it is basically a franchise fee that will be used to cover their shortfall. He said it is supposed to go through December of 2011, but that it can be voted on again because it is in our contract. Jeff stated that they are still working on a discharge permit with ADEQ and have been for quite some time. He said they are in the process of a stream study. He said they are looking at this option to keep our rate from increasing. He said they still feel like they can build a plant cheaper than going to NACA. He said they are finishing the tie-in with Highfill. Jeff said they have contracted with someone to do the easement acquisitions for the Bella Vista Bypass. He said they have 1 year to move several thousand feet of water main from here to the edge of Missouri that we are in charge of. Jeff said to add to that, mid last week the highway department brought the final set of plans for Highway 102 to him and that they will have what they need from us in the next week, to finalize contracts and put it out to bid. Jeff stated that he could see Hwy 102 going to bid before the Bella Vista Bypass because there are 49 easements to acquire, as opposed to a couple to acquire on Hwy 102. He said our deadline was for December of this year for information.

Fire- Jeff stated that we are at 437 fire runs for the year. He said they did get bids for the Street building and the 2 Fire substations and will have everything ready for the next meeting. **Administration-** Jennifer stated that we are working on budgets.

(9) **Jimmy Thompson-** Jimmy Thompson addressed the council and stated that the reason he is here is a tough decision on what has gone on for a year or two now. He said he has dedicated his life to helping people, with 30 years in the Fire service and he was a medic. He said the reason he is here is because he is disappointed in the council and in the Fire service in this town. He said it all came to a head when Keith Higginbotham was removed from the Fire Department. He stated that Keith had as good of attendance as anyone and that he was the one that got the truck from the station to the incident 90% of the time. He said that if you looked at the records, it has become a difficult task to get a truck out of the station since Keith was removed. He said that he doesn't sleep well at night. He said he doesn't care if the Chief is his cousin. He said that he is concerned for his closest kin because of this service. Jimmy stated that the problem is retaliation. He said that he has some facts and some hearsay. He said that Keith has been fired twice. He said that you don't fire people with his record when there are worse out there. He said that we have a very inexperienced fire service in this town right now. He said the ones with experience are very seldom there, except for Jeff. He said there are only 4 that are here for medical runs and they are not always available. He said that no one will come to council because they are afraid of retaliation. He mentioned a confrontation he had with former councilman Randy Thomas. Jimmy stated that this 911 address change thing is insane. Todd told Jimmy he had a couple of minutes left to speak. He said he called 911 and they don't want anything to do with it. He said the county keeps asking him about it and he hates to FOI everything and bring up the past. Jimmy said he had a couple more things and Todd told him he had one minute. Jimmy stated that he wanted the council to get some info from him and do some homework because it needs to be fixed.

(10) **Public Comments-** Judy Coffelt asked if it has been presented to council to change the addresses in Centerton. Mayor Griffith stated that it had been brought up in a budget meeting. Judy stated that it would be a horrible undertaking and that she knew of no reason to do it. She stated that she hoped a lot of research would be done first and said that it would cost a mint to do it. Jeff Coffelt said that it was discussed last year and that there was some money budgeted and some money spent for mapping for readdressing and that research has been done because of the lack of consistency of addresses in Centerton. He said the reason it has not been brought back up is because of the Census. Jeff and Judy discussed back and forth. Sara had a couple of questions. Her first question was whether there was still such a thing with the Police Department as Business checks. She stated that she used to get cards in her door but has not had one in the last 4 years. She stated that she has had a problem with kids in the area. She also expressed concerned with the Fire Department and having young kids driving the Fire Trucks. Her second question was how City Council members were selected.

Mayor Griffith stated that by State Statute the 2 open positions will have to be filled by the next council meeting, that someone will be appointed. Todd asked if she meant in general, to which Mayor Griffith stated that they are elected by the people and that the appointments will be voted on by the council.

Mayor Griffith asked if there was any other business and there was not. Tommy Laird made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bobbie Griffith, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk/ Recorder