

**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2013**

The city council was called to order by Mayor, Bill Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The prayer was offered by Todd Wright. Those Present and answering roll call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Misty Elam, Josie Reed and Robin Reed and Tommy Laird. Skye Petty and Keith Higginbotham were absent. Those present and not answering role call were Todd Wright, Jennifer Robinson, Brian Rabal, Andrew Huntsinger, Lance Johnson, Delton Bush, Frank Holzkamper and Rick Hudson. Robert Coffelt, Lorene Burns and Terry Sanchez were absent.

- (1) **Council Minutes-** Robin Reed made a motion to adopt the minutes from the September 10, 2013 city council meeting and with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (2) **Planning, Advertising and Promotion and Water & Sewer Minutes-** Tommy Laird made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the August 27, 2013 Planning, July 16, 2013 A&P and August 15, 2013 and September 9, 2013 Water & Sewer minutes with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members Present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (3) **City and Court Financials-** Mayor Edwards stated that we are 75% through the year and we have received 96% of our revenue. He stated that our expenditures are at 72%. Tommy Laird made a motion to accept the September 2013 City and Court financials with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

- (4) **Lauren White- People to People Ambassadors-** Lauren White made a presentation to the council and asked them for ideas for fundraising for her trip to Alaska

- (5) **Department Reports- Police-** Chief Lance Johnson pointed out the stats for September 2013 and asked if there were any questions. He said they have had a lot of reports of suspicious persons. He stated that we have had some big events,

with a shooting, a stabbing and 2 disturbances in one night. He said his officers have been extremely busy. Robin stated that the news interview with officer Nicholson went well. He said that they got a little bit of training in, with pistol and AR qualifying. He stated that he attended the Chief's Conference in Rogers. He stated that he hasn't heard anything on the Tahoe's. He stated that he is short 2 officers right now, with one out for about 2 more months and one out until mid-December. He said they are paying some overtime, shuffling some schedules and declining some vacation time. He mentioned that he hired Dean Anderson as a new officer. Lance stated that they have 1 officer per 1000 residents and the national average is 2 per 1000, so he is truthfully down 50%. Mayor Edwards stated that he was going to ask for another officer in next year's budget and then add 2 officer every year, so that we would have 18 officers by the time the new High School opens, with a possible 19th officer that the school district would pay for. Tommy Laird made a motion to approve the hiring of 1 additional police officer at this time with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Lance stated that he had a candidate from the last round of interviews that he will check with for availability for the position.

Streets/Parks- Street Superintendent Rick Hudson stated that the HWY102 project is looking really good, with completion looking like the first of December. He stated that we put a Band-Aid on a very serious problem at Allen Road and that the engineers have looked at it and we are looking at about a \$200,000.00 repair that we cannot afford at this time. He said the ditch we put in will help divert the water from the highway for now. Rick stated that he met with the school district today and we will need to get started on the designs for the Seba Road expansion. He said they don't have a contract at this time, but that we should have by the next council meeting. He stated that this project needs to be done by the end of May or June. Rick stated that he is working on the Walker Street flooding issues and has a contract to sign tonight. He said the project will have to be done in 3 or 4 stages due to cost, with this first phase being \$110,000.00- \$120,000.00. He said the total cost of the project will be \$300,000.00- \$400,000.00. Rick stated that the overlay projects got pushed off to the end of the month due to construction delays. Rick stated that the in town drainage improvements are almost complete. He stated that we got our permit on the Walking Trail and we are going to get started on that. He said that he met with the school district on the property swap by Centerton-Gamble Elementary and that everything looks good. Mayor Edwards stated that Mr. White is going to donate the property to the school district and the school district is going to donate the property on the North side to the City of Centerton. He said the district and the city split the cost of the research. Rick stated that he is 1 man short and is in the hiring process. He stated that he has a gas roller that he wants to salvage and that he has a diesel roller that he could get for \$500.00- \$1000.00 in addition to the salvage income. Tommy Laird made a motion to allow Rick to salvage the gas roller with a 2nd from Robin Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Rick said he is going to trade off the smaller mower we have for a larger mower to help with the increased mowing load we have taken on.

Fire- Delton Bush stated that they have had 551 calls this year. He stated that

the skid unit came in and is fitted on the Brush Truck and is in service. He said that about \$14,000.00 his maintenance budget was from the Ladder Truck repairs coming in too late and about \$4000.00 on fixing up the #643 Brush Truck. He stated that the Support Truck has been done for several weeks but is waiting on the system that refills the SCBA bottles. Delton stated that he wanted to surplus the old Support Truck. Robin Reed made a motion to allow Delton to surplus the old Support Truck on Gov. Deals with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Delton stated that Darren is finishing up the 2nd run through the fire hydrants in the city. He stated that they found about 40 hydrants along the way that were not fully functional. He said they are down to 6 that are still in need of repair. Delton explained putting the reflectors on the curbs instead of in the middle of the street. Delton said that he had all of his Fire Prevention materials and will be scheduling Bentonville's Fire Education Trailer for Centerton-Gamble and Lifeway. He said they will do some training at Head Start and Little Feet Street as well. Mayor Edwards pointed out that the council was to review the new Fire Department SOG's and said that Brian Rabal approved them. He asked for the council's approval. Delton said there will be more to come. Tommy Laird made a motion to approve the Fire Department SOG's with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried. Robin asked Delton how his staffing was and Delton stated that they were currently at 41 firefighters. **Building Inspection-** Robert Coffelt was absent, recovering from surgery. The building inspection report was included in the council's packets. Mayor Edwards gave an overview. **Planning-** Lorene Burns was absent. Mayor Edwards gave a brief overview. **Animal Control-** Terry Sanchez was absent, so Mayor Edwards addressed the council. He stated that they currently have 7 dogs at the shelter. **Water-** CWSD Superintendent Frank Holzkamper stated that the Greenhouse Road and Hwy102/Womack Road water projects have begun. He said this project will provide a backup water supply to those 2 areas. He said the Greenhouse Road Sewer project goes out to bid on October 24, 2013. He stated that the Decatur Sewer project received final approval from the State last week. He said it is in the engineer's hands and hopes to be digging after the first of the year. Frank stated that Darren and Jim got their D-3 licenses and Deborah is getting Backflow Prevention certified. **Administration-** Jennifer stated that she was starting work for the departments for the budget process. She said she, Robin and Bill went to Budget training in Little Rock and will be going for HR training next Wednesday. **Chamber-** PJ addressed the council and stated that they have lost some board members and have some new ones coming. He said they are starting a networking meeting at Domabella's on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Edwards asked the Chamber to pay for their business license for this year. **Mayor-** Mayor Edwards reminded the council about the Storm Sirens and stated that Bart Hester had committed \$50,000.00 to the project and has sent grant paperwork to the Mayor. Mayor Edwards stated that Dan Douglas committed \$25,000.00 to our walking trail project and that paperwork has been sent in. Mayor Edwards stated that the city has also applied for some State Aid grants for some overlay projects. Mayor Edwards stated that there will be a public hearing

on October 22nd at 5:30 p.m. for the Master Street Plan, Zoning Map and Land Use Map. Mayor Edwards pointed out the timeline for the 2nd High School from the District that was included in the council's packets. The Mayor reminded everyone that next month we will put RFQ's out for the City Prosecuting Attorney position and we will do interviews at our next council meeting. Mayor Edwards stated that he would like to have our first budget meeting on October 29th at 6:00 p.m.

- (6) **Resolution 2013-23- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATE OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON FOR THE YEAR 2013 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2014.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution. Josie Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Misty Elam. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried
- (7) **Resolution 2013-24- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH MORRISON SHIPLEY ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution regarding engineering for drainage repairs. Tommy Laird made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Robin Reed. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.
- (8) **Resolution 2013-25- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ACCEPT DONATION OF TRACTS OF LAND BY THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS, STATE OF ARKANSAS.** Mayor Edwards addressed the council and explained the need for this resolution to accept the donation of 2 parcels of land 1) 577 Main Street, 2)700 Block of Walker Street. Robin Reed made a motion to read the resolution by title only with a 2nd from Josie Reed. Brian Rabal read the resolution by title only. Tommy Laird made a motion to adopt the resolution with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members present voted in favor and the motion carried.

(9) Termination Appeal- Ken Harrell- Executive Session- Mayor Edwards addressed the council and stated that Ken was an employee of the Street Department and that he was terminated on 9/30/13. He stated that Ken came to him, as per our Personnel Manual, and ask for an appeal hearing with the council. Mayor Edwards stated that he asked Ken to put something in writing to present to the council at tonight's meeting. Ken did not notify him that he would not be present for this meeting, but is not present. Mayor Edwards stated that due to his non-appearance, we uphold the termination and consider the appeal process satisfied.

(10) Other Business- Mayor Edwards stated that there was no other business.

(11) Announcements- Robin Reed stated that the Annual Winter Conference is January 29-31, 2014 and will be held in Rogers, Ar. at the Embassy Suites.

There was no more business or announcements. Josie Reed made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk