



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024
6:00 PM**

(1) Pledge – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

(2) Prayer – Todd Wright offered the prayer.

(3) Roll Call - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Misty Elam (Remote), Josie Reed, Keith Higginbotham, Justin Cowgur and Amy Rochette. Darren Warren was absent. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Clerk Todd Wright, City Attorney Brian Rabal, HR Director Jocelyn Diaz, Financial Director Shannon Zappettini, City Engineer Alan Craighead, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Fire Chief Matt Thompson, Police Chief Cody Harper (Remote) and Parks & Recreation Superintendent Joshua Price.

(4) Council Minutes –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2024 and January 17, 2023 City Council Meetings, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD, Planning Commission Board of Zoning Adjustments and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the December 19, 2023 CWSD Meeting, December 19, 2023 and January 16, 2024 Planning Commission Meetings, January 16, 2024 Board of Zoning Adjustments Meeting and January 4, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(5) City and Court Financials -

Financial Director Shannon Zappettini addressed the Council, detailing the Financial Reports for January 2024, as provided in the Council packets. Revenue was at 8.53% and Expenses were at 8.12%. She also updated Council on the January 2024 Ambulance Billing, also stating that Matt Swanson has helped with getting VA Payments.

The January 2024 Financial Report and Court Report were contained in the Council packets.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to accept the January, 2024 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packets.

Council Member Josie Reed asked for an update on the Vandalism to the Pump Track on Seba Road. Parks & Recreation Superintendent Joshua Price gave an update.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

(7) Public Comments –

Chris Mooney- 1325 N. Main Street- Mr. Mooney asked about public input during the Comprehensive Plan revision process. He recommended notifying the public now that the process has begun. Mayor Edwards stated that there would be public notification(s), as well as opportunities for public input.

(8) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinances 2024-05, 2024-07 and 2024-08; and Resolutions 2024-02, 2024-03, 2024-04, 2024-05 and 2024-06 by Title only, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Suspend the Rule Requiring the Reading on three (3) Separate Occasions for Ordinances 2024-05, 2024-07 and 2024-08, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-05 - AN ORDINANCE WAIVING BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 CHEVROLET TAHOE FROM SUPERIOR**

AUTOMOTIVE, SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS FOR THE CENTERTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to waive the bidding requirements to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Fire Department in the amount up to \$53,667.00. He said this is going to replace a 2014 vehicle in the fleet and is a budgeted item. A copy of the quote from Superior Automotive was provided for Council. Fire Chief Matt Thomson said the vehicle is supposed to be available in April of this year.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried. City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Emergency Clause. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-07 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO MARK AND WANDA BALDWIN , FROM MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY (R3-SF) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (C-1).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone land off of N. Main Street from (R3-SF) to (C-1). He said it was unanimously recommended for Council approval at the last PC meeting on 2/06/24. He said there was no public comment. A map was provided for Council.

Council Member Justin Cowgur asked for clarification on (C-1) zoning. Planning Director Lorene Burns detailed the zoning, as well as listing the other properties in the Central Business District along this section of Main Street. Amy Rochette and Justin Cowgur both expressed safety concern with added traffic onto Main Street. Mayor Edwards gave an update of his communications with ARDOT regarding Main Street.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except for Justin Cowgur, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-08 - AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS ON SPECIFIED ROADS, STREETS, EASEMENTS, HIGHWAYS, WAYS OR PLACES USED FOR VEHICULAR TRAVEL, ACCESS OR PARKING.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to lower the speed limit on Greenhouse Road from 45mph to 40mph. He stated that Bentonville shares the road with us and has already approved the reduction. He said a Traffic Study was done, which supported the current 45 mph speed limit, but both cities are willing to reduce to 40mph.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(9) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2024-02 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH REVIZE WEBSITES, TROY, MICHIGAN FOR A WEBSITE AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is for the city to enter into an agreement with Revize Websites for Website Services for the city. He said this is to upgrade our city website. He said he and Mayor's Assistant Nicola Hoofard met with four (4) website companies and they recommend this company to Council. He said they also currently service the Bella Vista city website. He said the cost will be \$15,000.00 to update the site and then \$3300.00/year to maintain.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Amy Rochette made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-03 - A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to express the willingness of the city to utilize 80/20 % Federal-Aid Grant funds for sidewalk projects in the city.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-04 - A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to express the willingness of the city to utilize 80/20 % Federal-Aid Grant funds for sidewalk projects in the city.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-05 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK SAFETY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA FOR PUBLIC SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEM FOR THE CENTERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTERTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to express the willingness of the city to enter into an agreement with Flock Safety for a Public Safety Camera System for the Police and Parks & Recreation Departments. He said the cost is in the budget and will be split between the two (2) departments. Police Chief Cody Harper stated that adding 3 additional cameras to this agreement, to cover the larger city parks, would cost approximately \$11,500.

Council Member Misty Elam recommended purchasing all of the cameras currently needed at this time.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Resolution, adding three (3) additional cameras at approximately \$11,500, with the contract to be reviewed by the City Attorney, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2024-06 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NIKKI PENN COUNSELING AND CONSULTING PLLC BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CENTERTON POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to express the willingness of the city to enter into an agreement with Nikki Penn Counseling and Consulting for Mental Health Services for the Police and Fire Departments. He stated that we are required to provide these services by ACT 537 of 2024.

Fire Chief Matt Thompson detailed the services for Council.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

City Attorney Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(10) Appoint Mark Jones to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Term Expiring July 31, 2026 -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, recommending the appointment of Mark Jones to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Term expiring 7/31/26. He stated that there were four (4) applicants and two (2) of those candidates were interviewed. He stated that the term currently expires 7/31/2024, but recommended extending the term to the next expiration date of 7/31/2026.

Mayor Edwards asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Appoint Mark Jones to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Term expiring July 31, 2026, with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(11) Other Business –

- **Chamber of Commerce** – Josie Reed gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Comprehensive Plan** – Alan Craighead briefly detailed the process of dates for updating the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Park Impact Fees** – Parks Superintendent Joshua Price stated that Director of Public Works Anthony Martinez has sent out RFQ's for the process.

- **SmartGov/Brightly Update** – Planning Director Lorene Burns gave an update on the SmartGov/Brightly software.
- **Animal Shelter** – Mayor Edwards gave an update on construction projects at the Animal Shelter.

(12) Announcements -

- **2/17/2024 – Coffee w/ the Mayor @ 9:00 AM**
- **2/21/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **3/05/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **3/12/2024 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **3/19/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(13) Adjourn -

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 7:21 PM with a 2nd from Amy Rochette. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk