



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2024
6:00 PM**

(1) Pledge – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

(2) Prayer – Josie Reed offered the prayer.

(3) Roll Call - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Misty Elam (via Zoom), 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, Financial Director Shannon Zappettini, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Police Chief Cody Harper and Public Works Director Anthony Martinez.

(4) Council Minutes –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2023 City Council Meeting, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the November 21, 2023 CWSD Meeting, December 5, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting and December 4, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. 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 December 2023, as provided in the Council packets. Revenue was at 112.15 % and Expenses were at 101.70 %. She also updated Council on the December 2023 Ambulance Billing.

Tyler from FNB gave an update on the Investment Account, stating that we finished the year at \$10,523,669.00, which was approximately \$459,458.20 (4.58%) in growth.

The December 2023 Court Report was contained in the Council packets.

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

Josie Reed made a motion to accept the December, 2023 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packets.

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

(7) Public Comments –

Chris Mooney- 1325 N. Main Street- Mr. Mooney addressed Council encouraging the city to review its Master Street Plan and other Master Plans. Mayor Edwards stated that those reviews would start with the Planning Commission.

(8) Organization of the Governing Body (A.C.A. 14-43-501) –

Mayor Edwards read the rules of the governing body for the City for 2024.

Clerk Todd Wright was designated as Mayor Pro Tempore.

(9) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinances 2024-01, 2024-02 and 2024-03; and Resolution 2024-01 by Title only, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Josie Reed made a motion to Suspend the Rule Requiring the Reading on three (3) Separate Occasions for Ordinances 2024-01, 2024-02 and 2024-03, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2024-01 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AND UTILITY EASEMENT BY A&M PIZZA REAL ESTATE PER PLAT**

TITLED “RIGHT-OF-WAY/EASEMENT DEDICATION, LOT 2, BLOCK V, CREATING LOT 3 RIDGEFIELD ADDITION” FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN PART OF THE NW CORNER OF THE NW ¼ OF THE NE ¼ OF S-5,T-19-N, R-31-W, FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept ROW and Utility Easement Dedications for A&M (Dominos) Pizza on Monroe Street. He said it was recommended for Council approval at the last PC meeting on 12/19/2023. A map was provided for Council.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any 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.

- **Ordinance 2024-02 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CENTERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 13.05.01 TITLED “PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE”.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to update fees in the Planning Department, as presented. He said there was a Public Hearing at the 12/19/2023 Planning Commission meeting. A copy of the Fee Schedule was provided for Council.

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

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

- **Ordinance 2024-03 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance to amend the recently approved 2024 City Budget. He stated that we left off five (5) positions (1- Street Department, 2- Parks & Recreation, Front Desk Clerk for City Hall and 1- Firefighter) between the Work Session and the Council meeting. These positions were included in the amended 2024 Budget for Council.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any 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 Justin Cowgur. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried. City Attorney Brian Rabal read

the Emergency Clause. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Emergency Clause with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(10) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2024-01 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AN AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM VOIP, PLANO, TEXAS TO LEASE A PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Bill Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to express the willingness of the city to enter into an agreement with Spectrum VOIP, for a Phone System for the Public Works Department. He stated that we did budget for this.

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 Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(11) Appoint a City Council Member to the Centerton Advertising & Promotion Commission -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that we need to appoint a Council Member to the A&P Commission. He said this was tabled last month, with both Amy Rochette and Keith Higginbotham expressing interest. After brief discussion, Keith Higginbotham accepted the appointment opportunity.

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

Council all agreed to Appoint Keith Higginbotham to the Advertising & Promotion Commission.

(12) Acknowledge Receipt of 2022 Audit -

Mayor Edwards asked for Council to acknowledge receipt of the 2022 Audit. He detailed two (2) findings in the Audit and the City's response and corrective action.

Josie Reed made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the 2022 Audit, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(13) Acknowledge Receipt of Amended Federal Audit -

Mayor Edwards asked for Council to acknowledge receipt of the Amended Federal Audit. He detailed the reason for the amendment.

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

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Amended Federal Audit, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(14) Schedule Special Council Meeting to Approve Final Plat -

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, requesting a Special City Council meeting on 1/17/2024 at 6:00pm, on behalf of a developer for review and approval of a Final Plat.

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

Council agreed to hold a Special Council Meeting on 1/17/2024 at 6:00pm.

(15) Other Business – No Council Business

(16) Announcements -

- **1/16/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **1/20/2024 – Coffee w/ Mayor @ 9:00 AM**
- **2/06/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 9:00 AM**
- **2/13/2024 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **2/20/2024 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(17) Adjourn -

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Adjourn at 6:33 PM with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk

