

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Gentry, Arkansas, met in person and virtually, at the Council Chambers and, at various other locations, at 6:30 p.m. on February 7, 2022. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. City Attorney Joel Kurtz gave the invocation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

Janice Arnold-Present
Jason Barrett-Present
Michael Crawford-Present
Dan Erskin-Absent
David Page- Present
Jimmy Thorburn-Present
Cindy Philpott-Present
Jason Williams-Present

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others in attendance: Mayor- Kevin Johnston, City Attorney- Joel Kurtz, City Clerk- Jenny Trout, Fire Chief-Vester Cripps, Police Chief- Clay Stewart, Rick Craft, Robert Swanson, Chamber of Commerce Director- Janie Parks, Randy Moll (virtually), Larry Gregory (virtually), and others.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: January 3, 2021- Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Williams- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Page

Roll Call: Arnold-yes Barrett-yes Crawford-yes Page-yes
 Philpott-yes Thorburn-yes Williams-yes

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

1. **Public Comment (Items Not on Presented Agenda):** None.

*At this time Mayor Johnston stated due to the broadband meeting being held at the library, Chamber of Commerce Director- Janie Parks, would be arriving at a later time and we would come back to Chamber of Commerce matters when she was able to join.

2. **Main Street Gentry Chamber of Commerce – Janie Parks**

3. **Gentry Public Schools- Terrie Metz:** Ms. Metz was unable to attend due to her attendance at the broadband meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Benton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution:** A Resolution Adopting the Benton County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration:

Motion: Barrett- to pass the resolution

Second: Arnold

Roll Call: Erskin- call dropped Page-yes Philpott-yes Thorburn-yes
 Williams-yes Arnold-yes Barrett-yes Crawford-yes

Motion passed.

- 2) **Tract Split Appeal (Swanson):** City Attorney Joel Kurtz addressed council members and explained the reason for the appeal, as this matter was previously presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission which denied the request, due to the original conception of the tracts in question, years ago. (**See section 5 of attached "A"**) Planning Commission advised Mr. Swanson he could appeal its decision, should he desire to do so.

Mr. Swanson stated he had made contact with some of the adjoining land owners and had obtained letters from those he'd contacted. He also stated planning and zoning commission had told him if he obtained signatures from the adjacent land owners, and no objections were made regarding the tract split, that planning and zoning would support his request. This statement was inaccurate. (It is stated within the January 17, 2022 planning and zoning meeting minutes, that Mr. Swanson was advised he had the right to appeal the planning and zoning commission's decision, should he choose to do so. **See #3 of attached "B"**) Planning and Zoning Commissioner Jim Kooistra can be heard on the audio recording of the same meeting, telling Mr. Swanson that any information obtained should be presented to City Council for his appeal.

Mayor Johnston informed council that he had researched the matter and had found no mention of the original land transaction, taking place in any of the planning and zoning commission meeting minutes ranging from 1993-1995. Mayor Johnston also advised council they had three options to consider: 1) to overturn the decision of the planning and zoning commission; 2) to uphold the decision of the planning and zoning commission; or 3) to refer back to planning and zoning for further discussion and consideration.

Motion: Crawford- to refer this matter back to planning and zoning commission to consider the letters Mr. Swanson has to present from adjacent land owners

Second: Thorburn

Roll Call: Crawford-yes Erskin-yes (joined again-v) Page-yes Philpott-yes
 Thorburn-yes Williams-yes Arnold-yes Barrett-yes

Motion passed.

* Let it be noted: council recommended Mr. Swanson have the letters he obtained from the adjacent land owners notarized.*

3) **Resolution Authorizing Land Exchange (N. Byers Ave. to N. Giles Ave.):** A Resolution Authorizing Exchange of 0.103 Acres of Land Within the City of Gentry, Arkansas for a Utility Easement, was presented for review and consideration:

Motion: Williams- to pass the resolution as presented

Second: Thorburn

Roll Call: Thorburn-yes Williams-yes Arnold-yes Barrett-yes
 Crawford-yes Erskin-yes Page-yes Philpott-yes

Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

***Planning Commission Meeting, February 17, 2022 @ 7:00p.m.:**

***City Sales and Use & County Tax numbers for 2020-2022 were listed**

At this time Mayor Johnston recognized Chamber of Commerce Director, Janie Parks who presented her report containing updates from December 2021 and January 2022. Janie also voiced a special thank you to all those who contributed to the Neighbors for Neighbors program and the “Closet” project at the Gentry High School. Special thanks mentioned; Steve and Cheryl Smith, Berta Norris and, Ryan and Elizabeth Miller.

Gentry’s Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet is pending (TBD); the Gentry Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16, 2022 at 2:00p.m. in the city park; Gentry’s Chamber Fishing Derby is set to take place June 4, 2022 from 9:00a.m. to 12noon at the Flint Creek Nature Park and, Freedom Fest is scheduled for July 4, 2022 from 12:00noon to 10p.m. at the city park.

Janie also let the council know she had completed the required training and course material to sit for the Community Development Council’s Certification test, and presented a copy of her certificate designating her as a Professional Community and Economic Developer!

Mayor Johnston voiced his appreciation the city workers for keeping the city’s streets safe and as clear as possible and, for those who showed their appreciate for city workers during the snowstorm. He thanked those that had provided food, as well as other forms of kindness at that time, specifically: David & Cindy Philpott, David Page, Natan Moseley, and others.

State Representative Delia Haak made an appearance and voiced her feelings of gratitude and pride for the City of Gentry, its Mayor and all city officials.


There being no other new business Mayor Johnston entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Barrett

Second: Williams

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT



MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY