

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Gentry, Arkansas, met in a virtual session at the Council Chambers and, at various other locations at 6:30 p.m. on October 5, 2020. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. Given the circumstances it was agreed the invocation would be by-passed during these sessions.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

Janice Arnold	Jason Barrett	Michael Crawford
Kristi Reams	Cindy Philpott	Jimmy Thorburn

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Erskin; Jason Williams

Others in attendance: Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Police Chief Clay Stewart, Randy Moll, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, Larry Babcock, Fire Chief Vester Cripps, Jerry Martin, Larry Gregory with Garver, and Kevin Faught with Stephens.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: September 8, 2020- Regular Virtual Council Meeting

Motion: Cindy Philpott- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Jimmy Thorburn

Roll Call: Arnold-yes Barrett -yes Crawford- yes
 Reams- yes Philpott- yes Thorburn- yes

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- 1. Public Comment (Items Not on Presented Agenda)** No new comments
- 2. Main Street Gentry Chamber of Commerce – Janie Parks** was unable to join.
- 3. Gentry Public Schools – Terrie Metz** was unavailable, Jason Barrett spoke on her behalf stating a drive thru flu clinic for students and staff of Gentry Public Schools is set for October 6, 2020 from 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. in the Gentry Intermediate School Bus Tunnel at 302 W. Second Street. Homecoming is Friday, October 9, 2020 and US Senator Tom Cotton is set to visit the Primary and Intermediate campuses this Friday as well.

***It is noted at this time Council Member Jason Williams joined the meeting.**

Motion: Crawford- to pass the Resolution presented in the amount \$4,227,000.00

Second: Arnold

****at this time Kevin Faught with Stephens asked if council would consider pushing the October 13th Special Council meeting to October 20th, stating scheduling conflicts; Council agreed to this request. ****

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

Motion passed.

- 3) **Condemnation Resolution- 119 N. Nelson Ave.:** A Resolution Declaring the Structures Located at 119 North Nelson Avenue in the City of Gentry to Constitute a Nuisance and Condemning said Structures; Providing a Period of Time for the Property Owner to Abate said Nuisance; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration: Property owner Larry Babcock was present to answer questions. After discussion:

Motion: Arnold- to accept the resolution as presented

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

- 4) **Condemnation Process Update 317 S. Collins Ave.:** Mayor Johnston announced the structure had been demolished and removal was underway; future updates to come.
- 5) **Petition to Vacate Ordinance (E. Arkansas to Railroad Ave.)** An Ordinance Vacating an Alley Running North and South between East Arkansas Street and North Railroad Avenue; and for Other Purposes, was presented. At this time Mayor Johnston asked that the Council consider tabling this matter until next month.

Motion: Barrett- to table this Ordinance until a later date

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

- 6) **Sunday Sales of Alcohol Special Election Resolution:** A Resolution Calling a Special Election on the Question of Authorizing Off-Premises Sale of Alcohol on Sundays within the City of Gentry; and Prescribing other Matters Pertaining Thereto, was presented for review and consideration. City Attorney Joel Kurtz was available to answer any questions. After discussion:

Motion: Williams- to accept the resolution as presented

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **2020 Millage Rate Resolution:** The City of Gentry, Arkansas 2020 Millage Resolution was presented for review:

Motion: Barrett- to adopt the resolution

Second: Arnold

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

Motion passed.

- 2) **State Aid Street Program:** Mayor Johnston stated this information was for review and further information would be provided in the future.
- 3) **Hwy 59/59S Intersection Improvement:** Mayor Johnston stated a request from McKee Foods had been received to inquire with ARDOT about a stop light being placed in this area; future updates to come. Mayor Johnston also stated the City is still awaiting a response from ARDOT regarding reconsideration of intersection Hwy 59 & 12, in the way of payment responsibility.
- 4) **Ballot Issue #1:** Mayor Johnston wanted to inform everyone that this is a ½ cent sales tax on fuel for the state of Arkansas and, that this is **not** a new tax, just a continuing one and how beneficial this is for the City of Gentry as a whole. Voting during the general election was encouraged.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

***October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

***Planning Commission Meeting, October 15, 2020 @ 7:00p.m.**

***Citywide Clean-Up Event, October 17-18, 2020 8a.m.-4p.m.**

***CAC Ribbon Cutting Event, October 29, 2020 @ 10a.m.**

***City Sales and Use & County Tax numbers for 2018-2020 were listed**


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

Motion: Thorburn- to adjourn this meeting

Second: Williams

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



**CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT**



**MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY**