

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 September 12, 2022. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. City Attorney Joel Kurtz gave the invocation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Janice Arnold

Others in attendance: Mayor- Kevin Johnston, City Attorney- Joel Kurtz, City Clerk- Jenny Trout, Chamber of Commerce Director, Janie Parks, Fire Chief, Vester Cripps, Terrie Metz, Officer Jorge Reyes, Randy Moll (virtually) and, Larry Gregory with Garver.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: August 1, 2022- Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Williams- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

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

1. **Main Street Gentry Chamber of Commerce – Janie Parks** presented her monthly report to the council and included Pickin' Time on 59 is September 22nd-24th. the Gentry Chamber of Commerce Glow Ride is scheduled for September 24th at 7:00 p.m. The Downtown Revitalization Town Hall Meeting will be October 4th at 6:00 p.m., all are encouraged to attend. Trick or Treat on Main Street will be October 31st, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the Gentry Christmas Parade is set for December 10th line up is at 5:30 p.m., start time is 6:30 p.m. and, the Gentry Chamber of Commerce Quilt Show will be January 13-20, 2023 in the McKee room of the Gentry Public Library.

2. **Gentry Public Schools-** Terrie Metz stated it had been a great start to the new school year and, all was going well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Park Master Plan Update:** Mayor Johnston stated punch list items were under finalization concerning the sports complex. The splash pad list had been completed and cameras were being installed in both areas.

Mayor Johnston also mentioned consideration might be given to replacement of the Edwards pavilion and the idea of a tuj lub courts, during the next budget cycle.

- 2) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Larry Gregory with Garver told council members punch list items were wrapping up, as well as some site issues. He also stated the water tank had been nominated for "tank of the year". Further information on voting date/time, will be provided once it becomes available.
- 3) **Wastewater Master Plan Update:** Mr. Gregory also announced the smoke testing had been completed and the report should be available next month.
- 4) **Ambulance Service Update:** Mayor Johnston discussed the fact that NW Pari-med had opted to end its contract after late January 2023. Statements of Qualifications have been received from both Pafford EMS and NW EMS, for consideration.
- 5) **State Aid Street Program Update:** Mayor Johnston shared with council that the cap amount available for the grant request had been raised from \$250,000 to \$300,000. The Mayor stated the City will continue pursuing these avenues in hopes of receiving grant approval in order to improve city streets. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2022 Millage Rate Resolution:** City of Gentry, Arkansas 2022 Millage Resolution was presented for review and consideration. After review:

Motion: Barrett- to accept the resolution as presented

Second: Philpott

Roll Call: Erskin-yes Page-yes Philpott-yes Thorburn-yes

 Williams-yes Barrett-yes Crawford-yes

Motion passed.

2. **2023 Water/Sewer Rates Ordinance:** An Ordinance Establishing Sewer and Water Rates for the City of Gentry, Arkansas, to be Effective on the Billing Due January 10, 2023; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration. After review:

Motion: Crawford-to suspend the rules and read by heading only

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed. City Attorney Joel Kurtz read by heading only

Motion: Barrett- to pass on three readings with a single vote

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

3. **Subdivision Sidewalk Specification Ordinance:** An Ordinance Amending the Gentry Municipal Code to Revise the Specifications for Sidewalks in Subdivisions; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration. After review:

Motion: Williams- to suspend the rules and read by heading only

Second: Crawford

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

Motion passed. City Attorney Joel Kurtz read by heading only. After discussion:

Motion: Crawford- to pass on three readings with a single vote

Second: Philpott

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

Motion passed.

4. **Apple Valley LLC, Rezone Ordinance:** An Ordinance Amending Appendix B of the City of Gentry Municipal Code Regarding Zoning of Certain Lands Owned by Apple Valley, LLC, and Located within the City; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration. After discussion:

Motion: Barrett- to refer back to planning commission for further consideration

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

5. Safety Committee Topics:

- a. Pedestrian Safety Improvements Along Pioneer Lane**
- b. Neighborhood Speed Limits/Additional Stop Signs**
- c. Thru Trucks on West Main St.**
- d. Park Amenity Naming/Numbering System**

Mayor Johnston enlightened council members on the various topics listed, which had been presented before the safety committee for consideration. It was determined among all council members, these items should be sent back to the street committee for further consideration and review. Future updates will be provided.

6. Grand Savings Bank Building:

Mayor Johnston announced that in light of the new Grand Savings Bank presently under construction, the possibility for the City of Gentry to purchase the current Grand Savings Bank building, had been brought forth for consideration. Further updates to come.

7. Land Adjacent to South Park Land:

Mayor Johnston stated the City of Gentry has been presented with an offer to purchase 6 acres of adjacent park land lying to the South and, suggested this might be an item to be included in up coming budget discussions.

8. City Hall Hours:

The Mayor discussed with council the possibility of changing the hours of operation at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday -Friday. Consideration for changing those hours to 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and, reducing the lunch break from one hour to thirty minutes for each employee, was requested. After discussion with City Attorney Joel Kurtz, it was decided a resolution amending the employee handbook would be required. Mr. Kurtz will prepare the resolution to be presented at a later date for review.

9. Building Permit Fees:

Mayor Johnston brought forth the suggestion of waiving permit fees for specific buildings within the city limits, more specifically- public entities such as public schools, noting those non-residential buildings requiring surcharges by the state, would not be included. City Attorney Joel Kurtz will draft the necessary document(s) reflecting all information, for review at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

***Planning Commission Meeting, September 15, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.**

***Citywide Fall Cleanup Event is set for October 22nd- 23rd from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Hazardous household waste will only be handled on Saturday. Plans of another tree give away during the cleanup event, are also in the works.**

At this time Mayor Johnston stated new information was received with regard to Act 605; the required water rate study. Council members will be required to participate in 8 hours of water rate study training, unless that member has held their council position for 10 years or more. Mayor Johnston will provide all members with the necessary information needed to take the required classes.

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

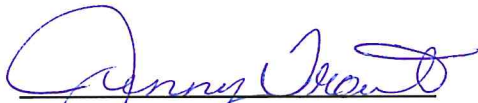
There being no other new business:

Motion: Barrett

Second: Crawford

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



**CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT**



**MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY**