

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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 6:35 p.m. on December 7, 2020. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. The invocation was by-passed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

Janice Arnold	Jason Barrett	Dan Erskin	
Kristi Reams	Cindy Philpott	Jimmy Thorburn	Jason Williams

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Crawford

Others in attendance: Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Police Chief Clay Stewart, Randy Moll, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, Maxine Foster Mr. James Ferguson, Ron Homeyer, Terrie Metz, and others.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: November 2, 2020- Regular Virtual Council Meeting

Motion: Jason Barrett- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Cindy Philpott

Roll Call: Arnold-yes Barrett -yes Erskin- yes
 Reams- yes Philpott- yes Thorburn- yes Williams- 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** announced that in conjunction with the United Way, neighbors for neighbors is seeking donations of non-food items such as shampoo, deodorant, razors, sock, etc. Donations can be made at the Gentry Library, City Hall, Pioneer Pizza, or at the Chamber of Commerce. Also, through a generous corporate donor and the United Way, \$5,000 was donated to assist those with past due water bills. Over 70 past due accounts were paid and brought current. There has been \$300,000 granted for walking trail improvements.
- 3. Gentry Public Schools – Terrie Metz** stated this Thursday night is Senior night for basketball and coronation is set for Friday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Park Master Plan Update:** Mayor Johnston stated the sports complex is being reviewed and the splash pad drawings should be nearing completion. More details will be provided as they become available.
- 2) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Mayor Johnston stated progress continues, and there is a possibility of a reduction in cost of the foundation. Further information to follow.

a. Land Purchase Authorization Resolution:

A Resolution Authorizing Purchase of 2.00 Acres of Land and Related Easements; and for Other Purposes was presented for review and consideration:

Motion: Williams- to accept the resolution as presented

Second: Philpott

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

 Williams-yes Arnold-yes Barrett-yes

Motion passed.

- 3) **2021 Budget Resolution: A Resolution Accepting and Adopting a Budget for the City of Gentry for the Year Commencing January 1, 2021, and Ending December 31, 2021, and Appropriating Money for Each and Every Item of Expenditure Therein Provided for, and for Other Purposes,** was presented for review and consideration:

Motion: Barrett- to accept the Resolution

Second: Thorburn

Roll Call: Reams-yes Philpott-yes Thorburn-yes Williams-yes

 Arnold-yes Barrett-yes Erskin-yes

Motion passed.

- 4) **Elected Official/Planning Comm'r 2021 Salary Ordinance w/Emergency,** was presented for review and consideration:

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

Second: Erskin

Roll Call: Philpott-yes Thorburn-yes Williams-yes Arnold-yes

 Barrett-yes Erskin-yes Reams-yes

Motion passed; City Attorney Joel Kurtz read by heading only.

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

Second: Barrett

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

Motion passed.

Motion: Barrett- Motion to pass on emergency clause

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

- 5) **117 N. Smith Ave. Update:** Mayor Johnston stated some progress was being made in the potential sale of the property; additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

At this time Mayor Johnston asked the Council about adding 2 additional items to the New Business portion of the evening's agenda.

Motion: Thorburn- to add items 5 & 6 to the agenda

Second: Erskin

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

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Sunset Ridge Subdivision Phases 2B & 4 Final Plat Approval Ordinance**

An Ordinance Accepting the Final Plat of Sunset Ridge Subdivision Phases 2B and 4, Gentry, Arkansas; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration:

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

Second: Barrett

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

Motion passed. City Attorney Joel Kurtz read by heading only

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

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

2) Benton County Solid Waste Interagency Service Agreement Resolution:

A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Interagency Service Agreement with the Benton County Regional Solid Waste Management District; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration:

Motion: Williams-to pass the resolution as presented

Second: Reams

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

Motion passed.

3) Rezone Ordinance (Klassen R-1 to C-2):

An Ordinance Amending Appendix B of the City of Gentry Municipal Code Regarding Zoning of Certain Lands Located within the City; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration:

Some of those present in chambers with the Mayor were: Connie Jepsen, Lanie Ball, and others. Chairman Mike Parks of the Gentry Planning Commission, also joined the meeting virtually. Ms. Jepsen, Ms. Ball and Mrs. Arnold all spoke against the rezone ordinance, voicing concerns of encroachment of commercial property into residential areas. Chairman Mike Parks provided feed back on behalf of the planning and zoning commission on positive reasons for the rezone. After lengthy discussion:

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

Second: NONE

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion: Arnold- to reject the rezone ordinance

Second: Barrett- to reject the ordinance presented

Roll Call: Williams-No Arnold-yes Barrett-yes Erskin-No
 Reams-yes Philpott-yes Thorburn-No

Motion failed for lack of majority.

Motion: Williams- to table this matter until the next scheduled council meeting and to return this issue to planning and zoning for further consideration and review

Second: Reams

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

Motion passed.

4) **“Hold Over” and Oath of Office for Council Members**

Mayor Johnston informed all members Oaths of Office for members who ran for reelection would be taken on January 1st, and the position held by Mr. Dan Erskin would continue on in “hold-over” position.

Motion: Thorburn- to retain Mr. Erskin as a hold-over

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

- 5) **104 N. Collins Ave.:** Mayor Johnston announced the property at 104 N. Collins Ave. had been presented to the City of Gentry for purchase in the amount of \$75,000. After consideration it was recommended further information be gathered in regard to the property and presented to the council at a later date.

- 6) **Disposal of Police Department Equipment:** Mayor Johnston explained various police departments do their best to assist one another, if possible, when in need of equipment. Providing an example of the City of Bentonville gifting a used vehicle to the City of Gentry at one point. The Mayor continued by saying the City of Sulphur Springs Police Department was in need of cage partitions for two of their vehicles. Police Chief Clay Stewart had located two such partitions and Mayor Johnston asked Council for their approval in gifting these to the City of Sulphur Springs:

Motion: Barrett- to gift the partitions to the City of Sulphur Springs

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

***Planning Commission Meeting, December 17, 2020 @ 7:00p.m.**

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

Additional comments/questions: Council Member Cindy Philpott asked the Mayor if there had been any progress on the property located on S. Collins Ave., as well as the property at 119 N. Nelson. Mayor Johnston stated the property owner for S. Collins Ave., should be removing the remaining debris this week and, the property owner for the 119 N. Nelson property is working daily on removal of the structure there.

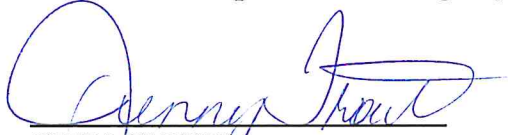
There being no other new business Mayor Johnston entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Thorburn- to adjourn this meeting

Second: Philpott

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT


MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY