

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021**

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 July 12, 2021. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. City Attorney Joel Kurtz gave the invocation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

Janice Arnold	Jason Barrett	Michael Crawford
Kristi Reams	Cindy Philpott	Jason Williams

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Erskin; Jimmy Thorburn

Others in attendance: Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Fire Chief Vester Cripps, Chamber of Commerce Director Janie Parks, Police Chief Clay Stewart, Randy Moll and, Larry Gregory with Garver. Those attending virtually were: Chris Bakunas, Ryan Brown and Justin Spafford.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: June 7, 2021- Regular Virtual Council Meeting & the June 9, 2021 Special Council Meeting:

Motion: Williams- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Philpott

Roll Call: Arnold-yes	Barrett-pass	Crawford-yes
Reams-yes	Philpott-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 the fishing derby was a great success this year, as well as Freedom Fest. A big “Thank You” was voiced for all those volunteers and staff, who not only participated, but donated time/money/sponsorships, in order to make it happen. Some of those mentioned were: Fire Chief Vester Cripps and the Gentry Fire Department, ALL City staff, Gentry Police Department, Rob Smith (electrical), Mark Smithson, SRM Productions, Big Michael Kauffman (M.C.), Jimmy Thorburn, Meeks Lumber, Nick Perkins, Sadie, Mike Parks, McKee Foods, Simmons Foods, Grand Savings Bank, Smith Drug, Mid-America Cabinets, Sonic, McDonalds, NW Health, Harps, Gentry United Way and, Brower’s & Associates. It was estimated there were between 13,000 and 14,000 attendees at this year’s festivities.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **ARPA Funds:** Mayor Johnston provided information regarding the status of the American Recovery Plan Funds. \$800, 000.00 has been designated to the City of Gentry. Half of that amount should be disbursed to the city this month. Funds must be fully obligated by December 21, 2024 and must be fully completed by December 2026. Council agreed to move forward with the Waste-Water Master Plan, for the majority of the funds to go toward sewer, infrastructure, water and possibly broad ban.

- 2) **Simmons Sponsorship Pledge:** Mayor Johnston advised the Council Members that Simmons Foods officials had approached him regarding a pledge of \$500,000.00 to be contributed to the Park Master Plan Funds would be disbursed in equal amounts of \$100,000.00 per year, over the next 5 years, in exchange for naming rights of the Splashpad and the soccer fields.

After lengthy discussion and, consideration of additional options, the Council decided it might be best to gather more information, specifically related to the City's financials, before a definitive decision could be made. Mayor Johnston will continue collecting information and providing the necessary updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

***Planning Commission Meeting, July 15, 2021 @ 7:00p.m.:**

***Street Closure/Waterline Replacement:** Mayor Johnston announced the waterline on Main St., in front of Arvest Bank, had developed a leak a while back. Thanks to the Public Works Crew, that leak had been repaired and a great job was done in doing so.

***City Sales and Use & County Tax numbers for 2019-2021 were listed**

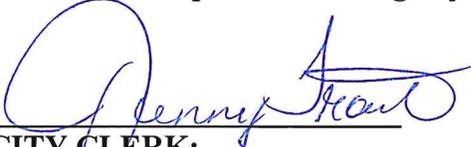
There being no other new business Mayor Johnston entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Williams

Second: Barrett

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT



MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY