

**CITY OF GENTRY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 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 6:35 p.m. on August 2, 2021. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. City Attorney Joel Kurtz gave the invocation.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jason Barrett

**Others in attendance:** Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Chris Bakunas (virtually), Randy Moll (virtually), Police Chief Clay Stewart, Fire Chief Vester Cripps

**REVIEW OF MINUTES: July 12, 2021- Regular Virtual Council Meeting**

**Motion:** Philpott- to accept the minutes as presented

**Second:** Crawford

<b>Roll Call:</b> Arnold-yes	Crawford-yes	Erskin-pass	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** presented the August Chamber report which included: Downtown Gentry Revitalization Plan Town Hall Meeting held on July 20, 2021. This matter will continue to progress in stages. For example, 1) Survey; 2) Stake-holders meetings (smaller groups of people with particular interests) and; 3) Town Hall (final suggestions).

The Splash Pad ribbon cutting date is still unclear.

Glow Ride is set for September 11<sup>th</sup> at dusk.

Pickin' Time on 59- September 23<sup>rd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>.

Gentry Cruise Night- September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Parade- December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Ribbon Cuttings for Krein Development and Razorback Pizza are set for August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 and 10:30, respectively.

And, the Chamber added four (4) new business members in the month of July.

3. **Gentry Public Schools** – None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1) **Park Master Plan Update:**

- a) **Splashpad:** Chris Bakunas stated there has been some delay with sod installation due to COVID and, pressure issues- which are being checked and could possibly require a booster pump
- b) **Sports Complex:** Progress continues. Justin Spafford was unable to attend this meeting, so Mayor Johnston and Chris Bakunas filled in. Suggestions had been provided by Justin prior to the meeting, and those documents were presented to council members for review and consideration.

i. **Pledged Donation (Internal/Bridge Loan):** after consideration:

**Motion:** Crawford- to loan ourselves the money and, pay our selves back, through the donations

**Second:** Philpott

**Motion Amended:** Crawford- to amend motion to include “up to a limit of \$200,000.00”

**Second:** Philpott

**Roll Call:** Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes      Reams-yes      Philpott-yes  
   Thorburn-yes      Williams-yes      Arnold-yes

**Motion passed.**

ii. **Additional Improvement Items:** Suggestions that the Bleacher and Shade System, along with Score Boards, Aggregate Pathways, and Backstop Netting, might be among the first areas covered, were discussed

**Motion:** Crawford- to move forward with these suggested areas

**Second:** Thorburn

**Roll Call:** Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes      Reams-yes      Philpott-yes  
   Thorburn-yes      Williams-yes      Arnold-yes

**Motion passed.**

2) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Mayor Johnston stated progress continues and the raising of the tank has been moved up from August 20<sup>th</sup>, to August 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>.

3) **117 N. Smith Ave. Cleanup Update:** The property has been demolished and the property owner is currently seeking an asbestos certificate in order to remove the remaining debris. Mayor Johnston will continue to update council.

4) **119 N. Nelson Ave. Cleanup Update:** Mayor Johnston stated everything is scheduled to begin and he hopes to have a completed update for council next month.



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

**Second:** Philpott

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**

- 3) **Purchasing Amendment Ordinance:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3.04 of the City of Gentry Municipal Code Regarding Purchases, Sales, and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration. City Attorney Joel Kurtz briefed council members on the reasons for the amendment.

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

**Second:** Williams

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

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

**Motion:** Crawford- to pass on three readings with a single vote, with one change stated in Section 3.04.02; changing “his” to “the Mayor’s” within the body of explanation

**Second:** Arnold

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**

- 4) **Position of Mayor Amendment Ordinance:** An Ordinance Amending the City of Gentry Municipal Code Regarding the Office of the Mayor, and for Other Purposes, was presented for consideration.

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

**Second:** Erskin

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

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

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

**Second:** Thorburn

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**

- 5) **COVID Vaccination Incentive Resolution:** A Resolution Regarding City Efforts to Respond to the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, was presented for review and consideration.

**Motion:** Arnold- to pass the resolution as presented

**Second:** Williams

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**

- 6) **Catastrophic Leave Bank Amendment Ordinance:** An Ordinance Amending the City of Gentry Catastrophic Leave Bank Policy, was presented for review and consideration.

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

**Second:** Crawford

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

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

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

**Second:** Crawford

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.** Consideration for emergency was given.

**Motion:** Williams- to pass on emergency clause

**Second:** Thorburn

**Roll Call:** Williams- yes      Arnold-yes      Crawford-yes      Erskin-yes  
                 Reams-yes      Philpott-yes      Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS**

**\*Planning Commission Meeting, August 19, 2021 @ 7:00p.m.:**

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

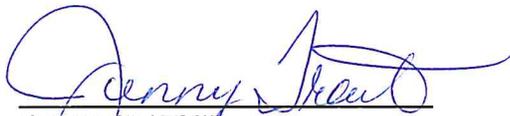
There being no other new business Mayor Johnston entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Crawford

**Second:** Thorburn

**All in favor. None opposed.**

**Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.**



**CITY CLERK:  
JENNY TROUT**



**MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON  
CITY OF GENTRY**