

**CITY OF GENTRY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Gentry, Arkansas, met in a regular session at the Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. on April 6, 2020. 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	Dan Erskin
Kristi Reams	Jimmy Thorburn	Jason Williams	Cindy Philpott

**Absent Members:** None

**Others in attendance:** Police Chief Clay Stewart, Fire Chief Vester Cripps, Randy Moll and Janie Parks.

At this time Mayor Johnston announced the beginning of the

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**PETITION TO VACATE RIGHT-OF-WAY, MOONGATE ESTATES SUBD.**

There being no one present to speak, or raise questions regarding said Hearing, the Hearing was closed at this time and Council resumed with the regular scheduled meeting.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES: March 2, 2020- Regular Council Meeting**

**Motion:** Janice Arnold- to approve minutes as presented

**Second:** Thorburn

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

**Motion approved.**

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

- 1. Public Comment (Items Not on Presented Agenda)** Special thanks was voiced to Falyon Cordeiro for making protective face masks for all those at the meeting.
- 2. Main Street Gentry Chamber of Commerce – Janie Parks** presented the calendar of events stating in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chamber Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled, and there could be some contingencies regarding Freedom Fest set for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Businesses have also closed due in part to the virus, including Garden Gate flower shop and, new businesses have cancelled ribbon cutting ceremonies at this time.

3. **Gentry Senior Activity Center-** Maxine Foster was not present this meeting, but it was stated the Center is still providing Meals on Wheels.
4. **Gentry Public Schools** – Jason Barrett, on behalf of **Terrie Metz**, announced the schools had established WiFi spots in designated areas for students to be able to access in order to do their class work online. The Council expressed its thanks to the schools for doing a good job handling this crisis.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1) **Dawn Hill East Bridge Update:** Mayor Johnston was happy to announce progress that old bridge is gone and work is continuing.

2) **Park Master Plan Update:**

a) **Potential Land Purchase Options-** Mayor Johnston stated options 1, 2 and 6 were still available and, after discussion and review of cost projections from Flintco, LLC for 3 potential sites, and the original proposed site, the decision was made to move forward with negotiations regarding site 1; the property located on N. Collins

**Motion:** Barrett- to move forward with negotiations for site 1

**Second:** Crawford

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

**Motion passed.**

b) **Splash Pad-** review of a proposed site for the splash pad was had, and general approval was met by all

3) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Mayor Johnston provided a brief update on the status.

4) **Petition to Vacate North Manor Drive Ordinance:** An Ordinance Vacating North Manor Drive; and for Other Purposes was presented for review and consideration:

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

**Second:** Arnold

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

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

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

**Second:** Williams

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

**Motion passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Purchase of Radios for PD & FD Resolution:** A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of New Radios for the Police and Fire Departments was presented for review and consideration:

**Motion:** Arnold- to accept the Resolution as presented

**Second:** Erskin

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

**Motion passed.**

- 2) **Police Unit Purchase Resolution:** A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Dodge Durango Police Pursuit Vehicle was presented for review and consideration:

**Motion:** Crawford- to pass Resolution as presented

**Second:** Thorburn

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

**Motion passed.**

- 3) **School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding Resolution:** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gentry Public Schools Regarding Provision of a School Resource Officer was presented for review and consideration:

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

**Second:** Philpott

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

**Motion passed.**

- 4) **Waiver of Utility Late Fees Ordinance w/Emergency:** An Ordinance Providing for the Discretionary Waiver of Utility Late Fees; Declaring an Emergency; and for Other Purposes was presented for review and consideration.  
After lengthy discussion and questions asked regarding concern for discretion; the meaning of “good cause” and the roll of the Finance Director:

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

**Second:** Thorburn

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

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

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

**Second:** Erskin

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

**Motion passed.**

**Motion:** Crawford- to pass on Emergency Clause

**Second:** Barrett

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

**Motion passed.**

- 5) **Virtual Meeting Ordinance w/Emergency:** An Ordinance Allowing for Virtual Attendance at Council Meetings During Times of Emergency; Authorizing the Planning Commission to Permit Remote Participation; Declaring and Emergency; and for Other Purposes.

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

**Second:** Reams

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

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

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

**Second:** Crawford

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

**Motion passed.**

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

**Second:** Thorburn

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

**Motion passed.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS**

**\*Planning Commission Meeting, April 16, 2020 @ 7:00p.m.**

**\* Non-essential businesses continue to be closed, as well as parks/playgrounds.**

**\* City Sales & Use & County Tax for 2018, 2019 & 2020 were listed.**

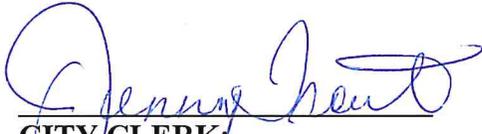
**There being no other new business the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion:** Erskin- to adjourn this meeting

**Second:** Williams

**All in favor. None opposed.**

**Motion Approved.**

  
CITY CLERK:  
JENNY TROUT

  
MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON  
CITY OF GENTRY