

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 6:30 p.m. on September 8, 2020. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. Given the circumstances it was agreed the invocation would be by-passed during these sessions.

PUBLIC HEARING

Petition to Vacate Alley (E. Arkansas to Railroad Ave.)

There being no one present to represent or question this petition Mayor Johnston closed the public hearing.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

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

Others in attendance: Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Police Chief Clay Stewart, Randy Moll, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, Maxine Foster, and Larry Babcock.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: August 3, 2020- Regular Virtual Council Meeting

Motion: Janice Arnold- to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Michael Crawford

Roll Call: Arnold-yes Barrett -yes Crawford- 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** informed the Council of new businesses coming to Gentry on Hwy. 59; a ribbon cutting was held at the old barber shop on Main last week; Pickin' Time on 59 is set for September 24th -26th and is still currently a go, although the Glow Ride has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the annual Trick or Treat on Main remains undecided.
- 3. Gentry Public Schools – Terrie Metz** stated they had made it through the first 2 weeks of school and would continue to forge ahead.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Dawn Hill East Bridge Update:** Mayor Johnston was happy to announce the bridge is officially open and he had received a Thank You book from the Seventh-day Adventist Church just today.
- 2) **Park Master Plan Update:** A revised estimate has been received and by removing lighting and synthetic turf, etc., the new estimate is just over \$50,000.00.
 - a) **10721 Browning Rd.:** Mayor Johnston stated details are still being worked through regarding a sports complex and a meeting is tentatively set for October 1st; additional details are hopeful for the next council meeting.
 - b) **Splash Pad:** Mayor Johnston the City's grant application was received, and drawings and plans are at 90% complete. Completion of drawings and plans is expected sometime next week.
 - c) **TAP Grant Update (S. Smith Trail Improvement):** Mayor Johnston stated at this time the City is still waiting on ARDOT regarding the review of right-of-way.
 - d) **Walton Family Tree Grant:** Mayor Johnston stated the City's application was submitted and approved. The grant totaled \$137,000.00, providing the City with 117 trees to plant and 200 trees to be given away.
- 3) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Mayor Johnston presented Council with a Preliminary Schedule of Events and stated the bid opening is set for September 29th. Additional information to be provided at the October 5th council meeting, if available.
- 4) **Condemnation Resolution- 119 N. Nelson Ave.:** A Resolution Declaring the Structures Located at 119 North Nelson Avenue in the City of Gentry to Constitute a Nuisance and Condemning said Structures; Providing a Period of Time for the Property Owner to Abate said Nuisance; and for Other Purposes, was presented for review and consideration: After discussion:

Motion: Barrett- to table this Resolution for 30 days in order for the property owner to proceed with demolition, and bring back to the Council exactly as is, at the October Council Meeting in order to readdress

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed.
- 5) **Petition to Vacate Alley (E. Arkansas to Railroad Ave.): An Ordinance Vacating an Alley Running North and South Between East Arkansas Street and North Railroad Avenue; and for Other Purposes:** There being no earlier comments, Mayor Johnston stated there are some utilities that lie within the area which would require an easement in order to protect said utilities. He suggested this matter be tabled for another date.

Motion: Arnold- to table the Petition until the October 5th Council meeting in order to make attempts to secure the easement in order to protect the utilities

Second: Erskin

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

Motion passed.

- 6) **Hwy. 59 & 12 Intersection Improvements Update:** Mayor Johnston presented a letter received from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), for review. This correspondence provided an estimate of costs for improvement of this intersection. The estimated cost is \$1,609,875. After any federal aid received, and the required match covered by the department, the City of Gentry would be responsible for \$1.172 million. This estimate, as well as concerns, have been submitted to the State Highway Department for review and hopefully, questions answered. Mayor Johnston stated he will continue to search for answers/solutions to this matter. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Gentry Senior Activity Center- Maxine Foster** was present in chambers with Mayor Kevin Johnston as he announced the center was still closed during this pandemic and will remain closed after its passing. Instead, the center will be “umbrellaed” under the Library. The Center will officially close as the Gentry Senior Center and reopen as the Gentry Community Center. The City has applied for a grant for \$25,000.00, in order to make the needed improvements to the building.
- 2.) **Police Committee Meeting-** Regarding parking for trailers, etc. on properties: this matter has stalled in order to review and possibly update the city’s ordinance. This will be revisited at a later date.
- 3.) **Recycling-** Mayor Johnston announced that Benton County Solid Waste is cancelling the recycling trailers for city use. The City is currently working with Allied Republic for additional options. A solid waste fund has been accumulated to help offset the costs; further information to come.
- 4.) **Sunday Sales of Alcohol Resolution-** A Resolution Directing Placement of a Petition Seeking Authorization of Off-Premises Sale of Alcohol on Sundays within the City of Gentry on the Ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election was presented for Council review and consideration:

Motion: Thorburn- to pass the Resolution as presented

Second: Erskin

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

Motion passed.

- 5.) **Sale of Fire Truck:** Mayor Johnston announced the fire truck that had been up for auction was sold for \$3,550.00 and was purchased to be utilized as a parade truck for the new owners.
- 6.) **Disposal of Equipment:** For items valued under \$20,000 such as desks, pickup trucks, etc., to be placed on the online auction, Mayor Johnston asked the Council for permission to move forward with the sale of such items without having to bring those items before the Council first. There were no objections; all members were in favor of this plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

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

***Special Council Meeting October 13, 2020 @ 6:30p.m.**

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

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

Motion: Barrett- to adjourn this meeting

Second: Crawford

All in favor. None opposed.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT



MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY