

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

Public Hearing

Meeting Called to Order 6:30p.m.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)- Rural Services Block Grant Community Project Prioritization: Representative Kathryn Baker provided information regarding the possibility for the City of Gentry to receive a grant for a Community Development Project. If the grant is approved, the City would receive notice of approval sometime in June or July of 2020. If not approved, the City would be able to resubmit its application at a later date. After some Q and A among those present and Ms. Baker, Mayor Johnston closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The City Council of the City of Gentry, Arkansas, then met in a regular session at the Council Chambers at 6:45 p.m. on September 9, 2019. 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
Cindy Philpott
Jimmy Thorburn
Jason Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristi Reams; Dan Erskin

Others in attendance: City Clerk Jenny Trout, Fire Chief Vester Cripps, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, Mayor Kevin Johnston, Maxine Foster, Ray Arnold, Mark Smithson, Interim Police Chief Clay Stewart, and Randy Moll.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: August 5, 2019- Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Janice Arnold- to approve minutes as presented

Second: Michael Crawford

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

Motion approved.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

1. **Public Comment (Items Not on Presented Agenda)** No new comments
2. **Main Street Gentry Chamber of Commerce – Janie Parks** was absent.
3. **Gentry Senior Activity Center- Maxine Foster-** Presented the September calendar of events and everyone was encouraged to attend.
4. **Gentry Public Schools –Jason Barrett** spoke on behalf of **Terrie Metz:** Gentry School will be having early release days September 12th and 13th for parent teacher conferences.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Dawn Hill East Bridge Update-** Progress continues to move forward including utility relocations which are currently underway. Mayor Johnston anticipates speedy movement going forward.
- 2) **Park Master Plan Update-** Mayor Johnston anticipates further information after the Special Election to be held September 10th.
- 3) **Water Storage Facility Update –** Mayor Johnston stated the Simmons plant is continuing to work on building their own facility and full operations of the plant are expected to begin after the first of the year.
- 4) **Gee Property & Larsen Property Purchase Updates-** Mayor Johnston stated the Larsen property purchase has been completed and the Gee property purchase is expected to be wrapped up before the next Council meeting.
- 5) **2019 State Aid Street Project Update-** Several items of work are in progress including, ditches, shoulders, etc. Further updates will continue.
- 6) **Hwy 12 & 43 Waterline Relocation Update-** Mayor Johnston stated all easements have been acquired and a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for later this month; further updates are to come.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Goslee Rezone Ordinance

Motion: Arnold- to Suspend rules and read by heading only

Second: Barrett

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

Arnold- yes Barrett- yes Crawford- yes

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

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

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

2) **Utility Billing Software Purchase Resolution**

Mayor Johnston presented the Council with a Resolution Authorizing the City of Gentry to Execute a Sales Agreement with Continental Utility Solutions, Inc. to Purchase a Utility Software Billing System and Related Hardware and Services; and For Other Purposes, along with the proposed contract, for review and consideration.

Motion: Barrett- to accept the Resolution

Second: Arnold

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

Motion passed.

3) **NWA Crisis Stabilization Unit Memorandum of Understanding Resolution**

Mayor Johnston presented the Council with a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Washington County, Arkansas Regarding the Northwest Arkansas Crisis Stabilization Unit, for review and consideration.

Motion: Williams- to accept the Resolution

Second: Philpott

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

Motion passed.

4) **Nationwide Termination Resolution**

Mayor Johnston presented the Council with a Resolution Approving Termination of City of Gentry Retirement Plan with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Motion: Barrett- to accept Resolution

Second: Crawford

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

Motion passed.

5) **Condemnation Process Notification- 317 S. Collins Ave.**

This matter was simply brought to the attention of the Council at this time. Mayor Johnston stated further property issues were going to be addressed and this matter may return at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

* **Special Election-** Park Improvements Bond Issuance; September 10, 2019

* Planning Commission Meeting September 19, 2019 @ 7:00p.m

* Coffee with a Cop Event- October 2, 2019, 8:30-9:30a.m. (Chief of Police Clay Stewart did offer to provide “soda pop” for those not liking coffee.)

* October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month w/Oct. 4th Go Pink Day

*Public Hearing- Water/Sewer & Other Various Rates & Fees, Oct. 7th @ 6:30pm

* **Special Announcement**

At this time, Mayor Johnston recognized Interim Police Chief Clayton Stewart and presented a brief history of Officer Stewart’s long and impressive work history. Including recognition of his “Top Gun” awards as well as the 2018 Citizen of the year award. Mayor Johnston then asked Officer Stewart to step forward as Officers and Staff of the Gentry Police Department filled the room, he welcomed and congratulated Officer Stewart, announcing his appointment as the new Chief of Police for the City of Gentry. Chief Stewart then took a moment to state his hopes for the future of the City of Gentry, and to thank all those who were present.

* The City’s Sales and Use Tax disbursements were listed for 2017-2019

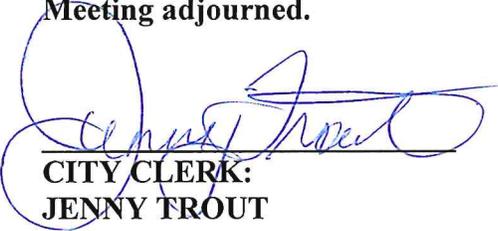
There being no other new business the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Arnold- to adjourn this meeting

Second: Philpott

All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT


MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY