

**CITY OF GENTRY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021**

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 January 4, 2021. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order. The invocation was by-passed.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cindy Philpott

**Others in attendance:** Mayor Kevin Johnston, City Clerk Jenny Trout, Police Chief Clay Stewart, Randy Moll, City Attorney Joel Kurtz, Maxine Foster, Rick Craft and Mike Parks.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES: December 7, 2020- Regular Virtual Council Meeting**

**Motion:** Jason Barrett- to accept the minutes as presented

**Second:** Kristi Reams

**Roll Call:** Arnold-yes    Barrett -yes    Crawford-pass    Erskin-yes  
Reams- 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** announced that neighbors for neighbors was a great success, serving over 200 people in need. She also wished to say a big “thank you” to all those that contributed and were involved in donations of items and of their time. Those mentioned were: McKee Foods, Harps Foods, the GFA Pantry, First Baptist Church and City Hall. Janie also stated that leftover funds of approximately \$3,000.00 have been earmarked for the donation to the Children’s Advocacy Group.

Janie also noted another \$2,000.00 was donated making it possible to pay for an additional 88 past due water utility accounts. The Chamber is currently hopeful the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration will be able to be had this year and preparations are underway.

The Quilt Show has been cancelled in wake of the pandemic, and information regarding the Easter Egg Hunt will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

3. **Gentry Public Schools – Terrie Metz** was unavailable. Jason Barrett spoke announcing school was back in session this week, after the Christmas holiday break.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1) **Park Master Plan Update:** Mayor Johnston stated the drawings for the sports complex are now 100% complete and, he's hopeful advertising for bids will be set sometime in February. In regard to the splash pad finalizing details are in the works. More details will be provided as they become available.
- 2) **Water Storage Facility Update:** Mayor Johnston stated the City had officially closed on the purchase of the property before the end of 2020 and construction can now move forward.
- 3) **317 S. Collins Update:** Mayor Johnston announced the majority of the lot has been cleaned up and the basic foundation for the new structure is now visible with minor clean up continuing.
- 4) **119 N. Nelson Update:** Mayor Johnston stated clean-up is proceeding and progress continues to be made by the property owner.
- 5) **117 N. Smith Ave. Update:** Mayor Johnston stated the current owner is continuing to remove items and Mayor Johnston will continue to monitor the progress as well as the possibility of the sale of said property.
- 6) **104 N. Collins Purchase Option:** At this time Mayor Johnston again brought forth this property and the fact it had been offered to the City of Gentry for purchase for \$75,000.00, addressing the Council Members for any suggestions or comments: The Mayor was asked if the City were to purchase the property, what would be done with it? Mayor Johnston replied by stating it could possibly become a temporary Administration building at some point or, if the land were cleared, possibly a parking lot.

**Motion:** Arnold- Do Not purchase the building

**Second:** None

**Motion fails for lack of a second.**

**Motion:** Crawford- to buy the building for \$75,000.00

**Second:** Thorburn

**Roll Call:** Williams-yes

Arnold-No

Barrett-yes

Crawford-yes

Erskin-yes

Reams-yes

Thorburn-yes

**Motion passed.**



2. **2021 Regular Council Meeting Schedule :** Mayor Johnston presented council members with an outlined schedule for the 2021 meetings: after consideration it was noted meeting dates for the months of July & September would be as follows: 7/12/21 & 9/13/21, respectively:

**Motion:** Barrett- to accept the meeting schedule as presented

**Second:** Williams

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

**Motion passed.**

3. **Council Meeting Procedural Rules & Format:** At this time Council Member Jason Williams asked Mayor Johnston if there would be sub-committee meetings scheduled at some point. The Mayor stated he will be providing updated committee lists at the February Council meeting. After consideration, it was decided no changes would be made at this time regarding Council's current meeting and procedural rules and format.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS**

**\*Planning Commission Meeting, January 21, 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:** Thorburn

**Second:** Williams

**All in favor. None opposed.**

**Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.**

  
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CITY CLERK:  
JENNY TROUT

  
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MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON  
CITY OF GENTRY