

**CITY OF GENTRY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019**

Public Hearing: Rates & Fees; Water/Sewer, etc.

**Meeting Called to Order 6:30p.m.
Invocation by City Attorney Joel Kurtz.**

Mayor Johnston asked if anyone had any comments or concerns regarding the rates and fees for water and sewer. Council Member Jason Williams stated that in reviewing the past few years' water studies, and given the age of the last study completed, he suggested a new water study be done by Spring of 2020 in order to review and compare the new and old numbers related to increase/decrease of revenue. Mayor Johnston stated he was in full support of a new study after the first of the year, once the Simmons plant had a chance to be up and running at full, or nearly full capacity, should the Council decide to make that request. After no further discussion 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 6:55 p.m. on October 7, 2019. Mayor Kevin Johnston called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANSWERING ROLL CALL:

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

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES: September 9, 2019- Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Janice Arnold- to approve minutes as presented

Second: Cindy Philpott

Roll Call: Arnold- yes Barrett- yes Crawford- yes Erskin- pass
Reams- 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** presented the Calendar of events, stating the Glow Ride was a big success with over 286 participants this year, not to mention the turn out for Pickin’ Time on 59; Trick or Treat on Main which is set for October 31st at 5:30 and, the Christmas Parade which is scheduled for December 14th at 6:30, this years theme being “A Christmas Carol”.
3. **Gentry Senior Activity Center- Maxine Foster-** Presented the October calendar of events and everyone was encouraged to attend.
4. **Gentry Public Schools –Terrie Metz:** Gentry Schools are set up for the Flu Shot Clinic to be held on October 8th, and Donkey Basketball is set for the 28th of October for anyone interested in participating.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **Dawn Hill East Bridge Update-** Progress continues to move forward including working through utility relocations and clean up after the latest rain fall. The 100% drawings have been submitted and requests for advertising for bids is expected to be ready soon.
- 2) **Park Master Plan Update-** Mayor Johnston met with Nathan Street of McClelland and discussions were had on “where to start” since approval of the \$5 million in bonds. A construction management type project could be presented to the Council at a later date.
- 3) **TAP Grant- South Smith Ave. Sidewalk Project Update-** The City has been approved for the \$39,000.00 grant, in which it will be reimbursed for any improvements up to that given amount.
- 4) **Water Storage Facility Update –** Mayor Johnston stated the numbers provided are solid and the type of tower to be incorporated needs to be decided at some point. Further updates are to come.
- 5) **2019 State Aid Street Project Update-** A preconstruction meeting has taken place and work is continuing to move forward. Further updates will continue.
- 6) **Gee Property Purchase Updates-** Mayor Johnston stated the Gee property purchase has been completed with the closing having taken place last Thursday, October 3rd.
- 7) **Hwy 12 & 43 Waterline Relocation Update-** Mayor Johnston stated the pipe is currently being laid and water lines plan to be finished in November.

- 8) **CDBG Project Administrator Resolution**- A Resolution Designating the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District as CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Project Administrator

- 9) **Anti-Displacement Plan Resolution**- A Resolution Establishing an Antidisplacement Plan for the City of Gentry, Arkansas, in Compliance with AEDC (Arkansas Economic Development Commission) Grants Programs

- 10) **ACEDP Grant Application Resolution**- A Resolution Authorizing the City of Gentry to Submit an ACEDP (Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program) Grant Application to the State of Arkansas.

- 11) **Excessive Force Prohibition Resolution**- A Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Excessive Force by Law Enforcement within Gentry's Jurisdiction Against Individuals Engaged in Nonviolent Civil Rights Demonstrations.

- 12) **Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Policy Resolution**- A Resolution Affirming the City of Gentry's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Policy

All 5 Resolutions, beginning with the CDBG Project Administrator Resolution, through the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Policy Resolution, were presented to the Council for review and consideration.

Motion- Crawford- to pass all 5 Resolutions as presented

Second- Thorburn

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

Motion passed.

- 13) **Condemnation Process- 317 S. Collins Ave. Update-** Contact with the property owner has been established and he intends on removing the current tenants and demolishing the property. This matter may be brought back before the Council at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) **Water Rate Tier Structure Ordinance w/ Emergency Clause:** After review and consideration of the presented Ordinance:

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

Second: Erskin

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: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.08 of the Gentry Municipal Code to Establish Additional Water-Rate Tiers for the City of Gentry, Arkansas, to be Effective on the Billing Due November 11, 2019; Declaring an Emergency and For Other Purposes.

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

Second: Reams

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

Motion passed.

Motion: Crawford- 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.

2) **Water/Sewer Rates Ordinance w/ Emergency Clause:** After review and consideration of the Ordinance presented:

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

Second: Thorburn

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

Motion passed. City Attorney Joel Kurtz read by heading only: An Ordinance Establishing Sewer and Certain Water Rates for the City of Gentry, Arkansas, to be Effective on the Billing Due January 10, 2020; Declaring an Emergency and for Other Purposes.

Motion: Williams- to pass on three readings with a single vote, with the suggestion made that the rates and tier structure previously passed will be reviewed after the new study:

Second: Erskin

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

Motion passed.

Motion: Barrett- to pass on Emergency Clause

Second: Williams

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

Motion passed.

- 3) **Condemnation Process Notification- 119 N. Nelson-** Mayor Johnston stated efforts were now underway in addressing property issues with the property owner; further updates are expected next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

* Planning Commission Meeting October 17, 2019 @ 7:00p.m.

* A possible Fall cleanup is in the works for the 1st week of November

*The City of Gentry has been approved for another tree give away, more information will be provided at a later date.

* The City's Sales and Use Tax, as well as County Tax disbursements were listed for 2017-2019.

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

Motion: Barrett- to adjourn this meeting

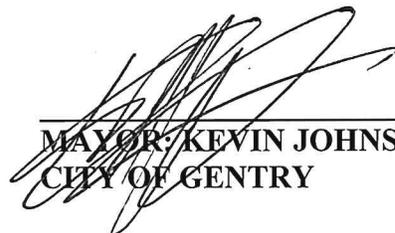
Second: Thorburn

All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned.



CITY CLERK:
JENNY TROUT



MAYOR: KEVIN JOHNSTON
CITY OF GENTRY