



**CITY OF CENTERTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2022
6:02 PM**

- (1) Pledge** – The Pledge Allegiance was recited.
- (2) Prayer** – Todd Wright offered the prayer.
- (3) Roll Call** - Those Present and answering Roll Call were Mayor Bill Edwards, Keith Higginbotham, Darren Warren, Josie Reed (via Zoom), Justin Cowgur, Misty Elam and Amy Rochette. Those present and not answering Roll Call were City Clerk Todd Wright, City Attorney Brian Rabal, Financial Assistant Shannon Zappettini, HR Director Jocelyn Diaz, Planning Director Lorene Burns, Police Chief Cody Harper, Fire Captain John Gavin, Interim Director of Public Works Lance Johnson, Chief Building Inspector Robert Coffelt and Animal Control Director Cody Wilson.
- (4) State of the City Address – Mayor Edwards –**

State of the City Address—2022

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Centerton City Council, and fellow citizens, as your Mayor I am honored to report to you the State of the City and its future needs. I am grateful for the opportunity that the citizens have given me to serve the City of Centerton over the past 12 years as your mayor. I am happy to announce that the City of Centerton is financially sound, and thru fiscal conservation, Staff and City Council, who are good stewards of the taxpayer's money has balanced its budget over the past 12 years. The 2021 Financial Statement has been presented, and as you have seen, we are in a good financial condition.

2021 has been a challenge with COVID-19 for our employees, but everyone has taken precautions by the use of protective equipment and following the COVID protocols. We have continued to see new storefront and home-based businesses open in our community. In 2021 the city issued 170 Business Licenses and we have seen several new businesses open. The city is also aware of over 120 home-based businesses in our community for a total of 300 individuals doing business in our city. The 2020 census has been received by the city and our current population is 17,792 which is an 87% increase from the 2010 census, which makes us the 25th largest city in Arkansas and the 5th largest city in our area.

Stay tuned for updates on many more new businesses coming to our growing community as we have several under construction and several making inquiries to be part of our city.

Next, I would like to report on multiple road projects going on in and around our city. First, the Traffic Light installation at Main Street and Seba/Town View Road is complete and operational. There were delays due to the height of the electric wires and the pole height on the Northwest corner and ARDOT, but the contractors have been working together to resolve this issue. The city is working with the City of Bentonville to redesign Greenhouse Road and the engineer is in the process of designing the road. There will be additional information provided to the community as we receive it.

The city is also working with ARDOT on the expansion of Highway 102 (West Centerton Blvd), from Main Street to Highway 279 south. The project was set to go out for bid in September 2023, however the plan showed a roundabout near Sun Meadow Drive, which would cause 5 local businesses to be displaced. I am working with ARDOT for alternative solutions for this location and a Public Hearing will be coming soon for the residents to offer input. The project will include 5 lanes and a sidewalk on both sides of the roadway, the sidewalk on the south side of the road will be a 10-foot side path, which the city has agreed to help fund. This will offer additional sidewalks in our community.

The Public Works Department have placed new asphalt in overlays and newly constructed roadway sections. Also new gravel base was installed, maintaining our existing roads and in constructing new roadway sections. The city has worked to add amenities to our Sports Complex. We have added new benches, and picnic tables throughout the city. We constructed a new full basketball court, dog park and parking area. The splash pad has been completed and the first season was successful. We have added new equipment to our fleet making our work more productive and safer.

Our Planning Department has been very busy with several projects active at one time. At any given time there are 12-15 different subdivisions, and several commercial projects in some phase of development. The city has also adopted several updated codes as the city continues to grow. This will give a direction for the future. The Planning Department, due to the workload, has added an additional Planner and currently the Planning Department is at full staff. The city has also hired a Staff Engineer to assist the different departments and help move project forward, and to work with Staff and Developers.

Centerton has seen a huge impact on building in our city, with a total of nearly 8000 inspections in 2021, giving us a total of almost \$1,000,000 in Building Permit Fees for the year. We have seen a huge increase in 2021, with many commercial projects coming to the city, bringing many more services and restaurants to our community. For 2021 we had 596 new Residential Permits and 9 Commercial Permits, with most permits now are done online, along with scheduling, which streamlines the process.

The Code Enforcement Division has been extremely busy with a large number of grass complaints in 2021 along with a large number of sidewalk inspections. Since implemented, the officer has been very proactive in identifying violators, which has kept the number of complaints down for the year.

The city gave away over 500 trees in October and also received over 1000 trees thanks to a grant from the Wal Mart Family Foundation, which has really enhanced the appearance of the community. Another group of trees is planned to be given away during Arbor Day.

The Centerton Police Department recorded over 17,065 total calls for service, and the department has recently changed radio systems to the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN). All radios have been installed and issued to the officers.

The Centerton Fire Department responded to over 1589 calls for service in 2021 and is currently staffed with 23 Full- Time Firefighters, 5 Part-Time Firefighters and 5 Volunteers. Training continues on a continuous basis and our department also hosts training. The city added Ambulance Service to the community with a contract with Northwest Hospital, housing 2 ambulances in the city. The city is currently working to add living quarters to Station 2 on Highway 72 to house an ambulance and crew at this location. The department has been working hard with ISO. The fire rating is now ISO 2, with a goal of going to ISO 1 with the addition of a future training facility for both the Police and Fire Departments.

The Centerton Water and Sewer Department is currently installing new sewer line to the south part of the community and work has been completed on a new 3-million gallon water storage tank. A new office building was built just north of City Hall to house the Water Department, due to the rapid growth of the department.

Centerton Animal Control, in 2021 had 264 impounds of Centerton dogs and 202 impounds of Bentonville dogs. The partnership with the City of Bentonville has been great, and many owners are able to reunite with their pets. The Shelter also had 153 adoptions and 307 were released to their owner. The Shelter uses Facebook to post dogs picked up, and there is a great response from the community, not only reuniting pets but also adopting them from the Shelter. The Shelter is featured once a month on KNWA Pet of the Month and also on KFSM Channel 5.

The city has built a New City Hall and Court Facility. As the city has grown, the need is here for this facility, and this will serve the community well. The city also purchased 20 acres of land, which we are brainstorming ideas for. We are also looking for ideas for the old City Hall building, as we want to keep a presence downtown.

Lastly, I appreciate the opportunity to work with each of you and for the citizens of our community over the past 12 years. No Administration is complete without the support of the Centerton City Council and a loyal Staff of great employees. Our city has many hard-working employees from the Department Heads to the troops that carry out the daily activities and duties to help keep our city running smooth and efficiently. Thanks for a Job Well Done!!!

(5) Council Minutes –

Josie Reed made a motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2022 City Council Meeting and the February 16, 2022 Special City Council Meeting, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

CWSD, Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Minutes –

Darren Warren made a motion to Acknowledge Receipt of the Minutes of the January 18, 2022 CWSD Meeting and the February 1, 2022 and February 15, 2022 Planning Commission Meetings, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(6) City and Court Financials- Mayor Edwards stated that 16.67 % through the year we have received 22.95 % of our Budgeted Revenue. He stated that our Expenditures were at 14.10 %. He detailed some of the financials, such as City Sales Tax, County Sales Tax, Street Fund and Miscellaneous Expenses.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to Accept the February, 2022 City & Court Financials, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(7) Department Reports -

The Department Reports were in the Council Packet.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

(8) Ordinances –

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to Read Ordinances 2022-18, 2022-19, 2022-20, 2022-21, 2022-23, 2022-24 and 2022-25 and Resolutions 2022-01, 2022-06 and 2022-08 by Title only, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Josie Reed made a motion to Suspend the Rule Requiring the Reading on three (3) Separate Occasions for Ordinances 2022-18, 2022-19, 2022-20, 2022-21, 2022-23, 2022-24 and 2022-25, with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-18 - AN ORDINANCE REDISTRICTING CITY WARDS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to redistrict our city's Municipal Wards. He said this is due to the recent Census results, to balance the city's new population of 17,792, within its Wards. He presented the Council with two (2) proposals provided by the Northwest Arkansas Planning Commission.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Darren Warren made a motion to adopt Proposal #1 with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-19 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO TRI-STAR CONTRACTORS, FROM AGRICULTURE (A-1) TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R3-SF) AND HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone 20.08 acres on Centerton Blvd, from A-1 to R3-SF and C-2. He said it was heard at the 2/15/2022 Planning Commission Meeting and it was recommended for approval by the City Council. He detailed some of the PC discussion. A map including the property was provided, as well as the Zoning Map and Land Use Plan.

Amy Rochette questioned compatibility with the Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Edwards stated that those questions were discussed by the Planning Commission, but they felt that the rezone request was compatible with the adjacent zoning. Planning Director Lorene Burns stated that developers in Centerton are still developing residential homes, over commercial development. She said some developers are still looking to develop Commercial Use, but the amount recommended on the Comprehensive Plan has been shown to be excessive in some areas. She said the city is also not currently offering any incentives for commercial development. Rochette stated that there appears to be continued zoning for Residential Use and not enough protection of Commercial and Industrial Use land. Mayor Edwards pointed out that there is Commercial Use included in this rezone request. Burns said the City Council has also recently overturned the Planning Commission in its attempt to keep some property for Industrial Use.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except for Amy Rochette, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-20 - AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CENTERTON CITY LIMITS, BELONGING TO TRI-STAR CONTRACTORS, FROM AGRICULTURE (A-1) AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (C-3) TO MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R3-SF), RESIDENTIAL TOWNHOME MULTI-FAMILY 12 (RTH-MF12) AND HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to rezone 142 acres off of Kinyon Road, west of Keller Road, from A-1 and C-3 to R3-SF, RTH-MF12 and C-2. He said it was heard at the 3/01/2022 Planning Commission Meeting and it was recommended for approval by the City Council. He detailed some of the PC discussion, including the corner of the intersection to be left for future Commercial Rezoning. A map including the property was provided, as well as the Zoning Map and Land Use Plan.

Amy Rochette asked for clarification that the Land Use Plan already showed this area as Multi-Family. Mayor Edwards stated that it shows Medium-High Density Residential and High-Density Residential Use in this area, as well as the Commercial Use at the intersection. City Clerk Todd Wright pointed out that Council should continue to expect seeing requests come in with Commercial Use being protected at major intersections and along crucial corridors. Rochette said she didn't feel we are protecting Commercial Use as much as we should.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Darren Warren made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, except for Amy Rochette and Justin Cowgur, who voted NO, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-21 – AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT OF THE MORNINGSIDE ESTATES PHASE 4 SUBDIVISION, CREATING RESIDENTIAL LOTS 168-257, CITY OF CENTERTON, S32-T20N-R31W, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept the Final Plat of the Morningside Subdivision Phase 4. He said this subdivision is on Keller Road, and there are 90 Residential Lots in this Phase. He said this item was recommended for City Council Approval by the Planning Commission on 3/08/2022, just prior to this Council Meeting.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Amy Rochette made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Misty Elam. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-23 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY BELONGING TO FRANKIE L. AND VIRGINIA M. HAMILTON, TO THE CITY OF CENTERTON, APPROVING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES TO BE EXTENDED TO SAID AREA; ASSIGNING SUCH AREA TO WARD 3; AND ZONING AS AGRICULTURAL (A-1).**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept a voluntary annexation of land off of West Hwy 102 and Morning Mist Street from the County, into the City of Centerton.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Keith Higginbotham made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Josie Reed. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-24 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE AMENDED FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT OF THE BROOKSIDE ESTATES SUBDIVISION, CREATING RESIDENTIAL LOTS 1-142 AND LOTS A AND B, CITY OF CENTERTON, S10-T19N-R30W, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to amend the previous approval on 1/18/2022 of this final plat, to include a statement from Carrol Electric to be included in the re-filed Plat.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Darren Warren. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

- **Ordinance 2022-25 - AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF RIGHT OF WAY BY JEFF QUAM, PER LOT SPLIT TITLED TRACT SPLIT OF THE NW ¼ OF THE NE ¼ OF S5-T19N-R20W, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Ordinance is to accept ROW dedication on the corner of Monroe Street and Hwy 102, due to a Tract Split.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Ordinance by title only. Amy Rochette made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with a 2nd from Keith Higginbotham. There was a roll call. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(9) Resolutions –

- **Resolution 2022-01 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS, AND THE BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT, REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE CONVENIENCE CENTER.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to adopt an agreement between the City of Centerton and the Benton County Waste District, regarding the operation of the Convenience Center, which was tabled at our previous two (2) City Council Meetings, due to additional questions by Council. Council had asked for a representative from Solid Waste to make a presentation to Council. Mayor Edwards had said their representative said they would be willing to do that.

Wendy Bland, Director of Benton County Solid Waste, made an overview presentation to Council, detailing function of the Convenience Center, operating costs, and ongoing litigation, which has created need for funding assistance. There was discussion about which local cities are assisting with funding, and which aren't, and why. She said they were able to restructure and use some grant funding to help offset some of the outstanding funding needs, and were now asking Centerton for \$12,016.35 in assistance. She said the amount is based on population.

There was discussion by Council about cities that are not participating, and possible penalties, which it was decided that was not currently possible, or benefits for contributing cities. Council asked that notice be given to surrounding cities, in time to allow for them to plan for assistance in next year's budget, if the funds are needed. There was discussion.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to read the Resolution by title only, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Justin Cowgur made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution 2022-07 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, AN AGREEMENT WITH DUDE SOLUTIONS, CARY, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR PLANNING PROJECT SOFTWARE FOR THE CENTERTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to allow the city to enter into an agreement with Dude Solutions for Planning Project Software. He said that the item was tabled at last meeting, as Council had questions.

Dude Solutions had three (3) representatives present via Zoom, to give a presentation to Council. Items covered included:

- Term length (from 1 year to 5 years) and Pricing Options and Concessions
- Software Capability
- Technical Support
- Unlimited Data Storage
- Options for Growth and Expansion
- Compatibility with other software
- Setup timeline

Planning Director Lorene Burns said they have gone through the program demo and feel this software will fit our needs, at a reasonable cost, and is similar to what Rogers and Bentonville are using. She said they looked into at least five (5) other software programs, as was discussed in the previous Council Meeting.

City Clerk Todd Wright asked what other cities in Arkansas are using SmartGov, and stated that it would be beneficial in the long-term if the software programs in the city were compatible with each other. Brian Murphy with Dude Solutions said Centerton would be the first city in Arkansas on SmartGov. He also said the software has potential for growth into other departments in the city and is able to share data with other software programs.

Council discussed contract term lengths and costs, as presented. Brian Murphy with Dude solutions explained the different costs. There was also discussion about contract termination options. Darren Warren recommended the 5-year contract term, due to cost savings and expansion ability to possibly add Engineering, Building Safety and Public Works, etc.

Keith Higginbotham asked when the software would be available for use, if the contract begins 4/01/2022. Jeff with Dude Solutions said the contract term starts 30 days after execution of the contract, and six (6) months is generally how long it takes for implementation. He detailed that process.

Justin Cowgur made a motion to go with a 5-year Term, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

City Attorney Brian Rabal said the resolution has language for a 3-year Term and recommended tabling the item this evening and re-writing it for a 5-year Term for Council approval at the next City Council Meeting.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any other questions. There were none.

The Item was Tabled for re-write of the Resolution and to be brought back before Council at the 3/16/2022 Special City Council Meeting.

- **Resolution 2022-08 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON AN AGREEMENT WITH AAA BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC. TO LEASE 2 COPIERS FOR THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF CENTERTON, ARKANSAS.**

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that this Resolution is to lease two (2) copiers for use in the Police Department and Fire Department. He said this is an additional \$189.00/month for both copiers.

Mayor Edwards asked the Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Brian Rabal read the Resolution by title only. Josie Reed made a motion to adopt the Resolution, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(10) Authorize Purchase of 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup for Centerton Public Works –

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, asking for their permission to purchase a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup for Public Works. He said we had budgeted for a ¾ ton truck, but there are none available. He said the State Bid price is \$34,936.00, but this truck will be \$2000.00 less. Lance Johnson said they will use this as a Service Crew Truck.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to purchase a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 for the Public Works Department, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(11) Authorize Purchase of four (4) Ford Vehicles for Centerton Police Department –

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, stating that we received notice that the four (4) Dodge Police Vehicles previously approved by Council, were not available, and asked for their permission to purchase four (4) Ford Interceptors at \$34,947.46 each. He said they are in-stock and are ready to be picked up. He said as was planned before, three (3) of these will come out of the General Fund and one (1) out of the ACT988 fund. Chief Harper said he had checked Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, for vehicles. Harper said he has \$41,000.00 budgeted for equipment for the new vehicles.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to purchase four (4) Ford Interceptors for the Police Department, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(12) Revise Eligible for Rehire Policy – Jocelyn Diaz –

HR Director Jocelyn Diaz addressed the Council, stating that applicants for open positions are currently hard to come by, and she would like to revise the policy; allowing the consideration with recommendation by the HR Department, the Mayor to reduce or override the waiting period for eligible former employees to meet the staffing needs of the city. She said they would need to be former employees that fit all of the requirements of being eligible for rehire. She said this policy change would only allow for application for an open position. She said their benefits, if hired, would start over. City Attorney Brian Rabal recommended that the revision statement be placed as the 2nd paragraph in the Rehire section.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to approve revision of the Eligible for Rehire Policy, with a 2nd from Josie Reed. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

(13) Schedule Special City Council Meeting for March 16, 2022, for Final Plat Request –

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, asking for their permission to hold a Special City Council Meeting via Zoom on 3/16/2022 at 6:00 PM to hear a Final Plat Approval request.

Darren Warren made a motion to hold a Special City Council Meeting on 3/16/2022 at 6:00 PM, for the purpose of hearing a Final Plat Request, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

(14) Review American Rescue Plan Funding Requests –

Mayor Edwards addressed the Council, giving an update on American Rescue Funds for the city, detailing Funds Received, Expenditures and Earmarked Funds. A spreadsheet was provided for Council.

Mayor Edwards said we have received several requests for American Rescue Funds by Non-Profit Groups, and we are allowing for presentations this evening. He said Council is not required to vote on this tonight.

Presentations were made by the following Non-Profit Groups (including amounts):

- **Centerton Farmer’s Market – Steve Mitchell - \$1345.18**
- **Journey Ministries – Samantha Schaffer - \$30,000.00**
- **NWA Women’s Shelter – Stacy Seger – \$54,600.00**
- **Centerton Cares – Wendy Henson - \$80,000.00**
- **Urban Flock / CLVR – Clay Layne - \$125,000.00**
- **H2O Food Pantry – Elizabeth Dumas - \$40,000.00**
- **Lifepoint Church – Mike Brinson - \$30,000.00**

No action was taken by Council this evening. Council agreed to review the presentations and discuss at the 4/12/2022 City Council Meeting.

(15) Public Comments –

Jason McCoy – 1261 Clydesdale – Mr. McCoy agreed with the use of American Rescue Funds for employees, but questioned the use of those funds for Centerton Utilities. He said he would have liked for those funds to have been used for the community. He questioned the need for a revision to the Rehire Policy. He asked that Council state the reason for this evening’s Executive Session.

Luke Charlton - 13946 Noah Road – Asked for support of a state-wide initiative to amend the Arkansas Constitution, to add Medical Freedom. He said they needed 89,000 signatures to get “Arkansas Medical Freedom Amendment” on the November 2022 Ballot. He had a petition with him, and said their website is www.defendarkansas.us.

(16) Other Business – None

(17) Executive Session –

Mayor Edwards called an Executive Session to discuss Hiring or Promoting to fill the open positions of Financial Director and Director of Public Works.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:51 PM, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Keith Higginbotham made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to the City Council Meeting at 11:15 PM, with a 2nd from Misty Elam. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Misty Elam made a motion to have Mayor Edwards open the Director of Public Works position to be posted both internally and externally, with a 2nd from Darren Warren. All Council Members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Misty Elam made a motion to move Shannon Zappettini to the position of Finance Manager, with a salary of \$48,000.00, with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council Members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Misty Elam said the open position for Financial Director will remain open both internally and externally

(18) Announcements -

- **3/15/2022 – Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **3/16/2022 – Special City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **4/05/2022 - Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 PM**
- **4/12/2022 – City Council Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

(19) Adjourn -

Misty Elam made a motion to Adjourn at 11:18 PM with a 2nd from Justin Cowgur. All Council members voted in favor and the motion carried.

Bill Edwards, Mayor

Todd Wright, City Clerk