

COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2019

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall with Mayor Gaskill presiding.

The meeting was called to order with prayer led by Councilmember Charles Long.

Those present were Josh Agee, Jeremy Biggs, Jackie Branch, Farrell Gibson, Charles Long, Mark Rowland, Susan Williams and Randy Aden.

City Clerk Andrea Williams was present. City Attorney Allen Warmath was absent. Deputy City Attorney Robert Thompson was present.

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of March 25, 2019 be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Williams. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Service	- None
Finance	- None
Parks and Recreation	- None
Police	- None
Public Health and Ordinances	- None
Fire	- None
Sanitation	- None
Street/Cemetery	- None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A COMPLAINT IN EMINENT DOMAIN AND MOTION FOR ORDER OF POSSESSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Aden.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes.

Attorney Robert Thompson explained to the council that this property, located at 109 Academy Drive, has been condemned by the city. He has been in contact with the property owner, Danie Riddle, and she agreed to sell the property to Paragould Light Water and Cable for \$30,000.00. However, Ms. Riddle will not sign an agreement and did not show up for the closing.

Darrell Phillips, CEO of Paragould Light Water and Cable explained to the council that PLWC needing to purchase this property to build a water booster station to be able to run a line and build a water tower at Crowley's Ridge College.

Code Enforcement Officer, J. D. Stephenson, was present and stated the land is the only thing of value and that the house is beyond repair and needs to be demolished. The property is currently not being utilized by anyone.

Attorney Robert Thompson explained to the council that he will file a complaint in Greene County Circuit Court, \$25,000.00 will be deposited into the court registry and ask a Judge to transfer the title to the city. Ms. Riddle may respond to the complaint to negotiate a price or may collect the \$25,000.00 to close the case.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Gibson seconded by Councilmember Rowland.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2019-19)

Deputy City Attorney Robert Thompson left the meeting and City Attorney Allen Warmath has joined the meeting.

ITEM #2

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A BUILDING AND/OR STRUCTURE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, A NUISANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE VII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS SEC. 10-240 THROUGH 10-247. PROPERTY LOCATION: 623 EAST MAIN STREET

Motion made that the resolution be offered by title, name, address and legal description only by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes.

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, was present and provided the council with documentation and photographs of the property.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Agee. Councilmember Agee stated to the council that he is no relation to the property owner, Patricia Agee.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2019-20)

ITEM #3

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A BUILDING AND/OR STRUCTURE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, A NUISANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE VII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS SEC. 10-240 THROUGH 10-247. PROPERTY LOCATION: 1201 BARTON LANE

Motion made that the resolution be offered by title, name, address and legal description only by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes.

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, was present and provided the council with documentation and photographs of the property.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2019-21)

ITEM #4

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED “PARAGOULD FARMERS’ MARKET”

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Long.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes.

Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, was present to answer any questions the council may have.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2019-22)

ITEM #5

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED “2019 ART AND STROLL”

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Aden.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes.

Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould, was present to answer any questions the council may have.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Branch.

Roll call: Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Aden, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2019-23)

ITEM #6

REQUEST TO APPROVE AN APPOINTMENT TO THE PARAGOULD HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD: JOSH ROGERS (APPOINTMENT TO COMPLETE UNEXPIRED TERM OF JOHN MALONE)

Mayor Gaskill explained that John Malone has requested to be removed from the council due to time restraints. Josh Rogers has agreed to complete Mr. Malone's term.

Motion made to appoint Josh Rogers to the Paragould Housing Authority Board by Councilmember Branch; seconded by Councilmember Long. All in favor.

ITEM #7

MAIN STREET YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

Gina Jarrett, Executive Director of Main Street Paragould was present to address the council. Ms. Jarrett stated that in downtown in 2018 there were eight new business, 28 more jobs and 777.5 hours volunteered. The report states that there were \$71,872.68 in façade renovations, \$398,848.03 in rehabilitations, \$123,900.00 in properties sold and \$14,462.80 in public improvements. Events held in downtown Paragould in 2018 were Paragould Farmers' Market, 8th Annual Angel Run, Pedal the Ridge Cycling Event and the Get Downtown Festival, the Greene County Office of Emergency Management Safety Summit, two Boutique Crawls and 72 bookings at the Collins Theatre.

ITEM #8

MONTHLY REPORT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of March, 2019 the fire department answered 204 incidents, issued 418 burn permits, made 235 business inspections, completed 1047.5 training hours and one public education visit. Training topics included EMT class (There are eight members participating in an online EMT class through Black River Technical College) and two members completed HazMat chemistry course in West Memphis. Other training topics included firefighting strategy and tactics, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, and emergency vehicle driving.

ITEM #9

POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of March, 2019 the police department took 1166 incident reports, made 545 arrests (485 misdemeanor, 43 felony and 17 DWI), wrote 473 traffic tickets and worked 58 accidents. The report noted 53 felony cases were opened.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Biggs stated that the A & P Commission meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the Council room.

ADJOURMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, Councilmember Branch moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilmember Williams. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Williams, City Clerk