

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2025**

Paragould City Council met in a regular session on Monday, January 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall, with Mayor Agee presiding.

The invocation was led by Council Member Jared Pickney.

The meeting was called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were Neal Adams, Pat Austin, Brad Baine, Jackie Branch, Jared Pickney, Tim Roswell, Dustin Rumsey, and Susan Wooldridge.

City Attorney Robert Thompson and City Clerk Kylie Reynolds were also present.

Council Member Austin moved to approve the minutes from the previous council meeting, held on December 15, 2025, as transcribed; seconded by Council Member Adams. All in favor.

Council Member Branch moved the financial statements from December to be approved as presented; seconded by Council Member Wooldridge. All in favor.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Finance	- None
Parks and Recreation	- None
Public Safety	- None
Ordinances	- None
Public Works	- None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ITEM # 1**

**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 VIII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS SEC.10-240 THROUGH 10-247. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 521 NORTH 3RD STREET AND IS OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BRIDGES, WHO DIED JANUARY 8, 2025.**

The resolution was offered at the November 17, 2025, council meeting.

Mayor Agee stated the lawyer representing the mortgage company has requested 30 more days.

Motion to table the resolution for 30 days made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Branch. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM # 1**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE RULES OF PROCEDURES FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Mayor Agee stated that every year, the first order of business is to set out the rules and regulations for the manner in which items are added to the agenda and the city council meetings are conducted.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Baine; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Rumsey.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-01)

## **ITEM #2**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE SALARY FOR THE CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY OF THE CITY OF PARAOGULD, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Mayor Agee stated that state law requires the city council set the salaries for the city clerk and the city attorney every year.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Pickney; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-02)

### **ITEM # 3**

#### **AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE CITY OF PARAGOULD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Mayor Agee stated the city sometimes conducts business with council members or city employees. This is offered as an ordinance for transparency to the general public.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Pickney; seconded by Council Member Branch.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Baine; seconded by Council Member Branch.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Motion carried six to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-03)

Motion to adopt the emergency clause separately made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Emergency clause adopted.

#### **ITEM # 4**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CITY EMPLOYEES TO ISSUE CITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE PARAGOULD CITY CODE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Roswell; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Mayor Agee stated this would make the process of issuing code violation citations more efficient. City Attorney Robert Thompson stated the two sections' language is identical to the animal code enforcement section and will allow non-law enforcement officers to issue citations in the same manner as is done for animals. Chief of Police Chad Henson and Sergeant Nate Herget were present for any questions.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Branch; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Branch; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Roswell; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-04)

**ITEM # 5**

**AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Mayor Agee stated a balance of \$107,000 is in the Act 988 fund account. These funds are used to purchase first responder vehicles. The pickup truck at the Emergency Dispatch Center will go to Public Works and will be replaced by a Tahoe. The other Tahoe will go to the Paragould Police Department.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Branch; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Roswell; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Roswell; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-05)

Motion to adopt the emergency clause separately made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Adams, abstain; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, abstain; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes. Emergency clause adopted.

**ITEM # 6**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR THE FY2026 BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT.**

Motion that the resolution be offered by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes.

Mayor Agee explained this is a 100% funded, \$500,000 grant that, if awarded, would go to the city to sub-grant to property owners of a brownfield site to assist in filing paperwork for Brownfield Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments. Terracon assisted Grant Administrator Tara Sexton in writing the grant and identifying potential properties.

Motion that the resolution be adopted made by Council Member Baine; seconded by Council Member Wooldridge.

Roll Call: Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2026-1)

**ITEM # 7**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, TO ATTACH LIENS TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS RESOLUTION, TO CORRECT FORMER RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Motion to read by the last known owner, address, and total amount owed made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Rumsey.

Roll Call: Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes.

The council was provided with documentation and photographs of the properties. No one appeared in opposition.

Motion that the resolution be adopted made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes; Branch, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2026-2)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the council, Council Member Wooldridge moved for the meeting to be adjourned; seconded by Council Member Branch. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

  
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Josh Agee, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kylie Reynolds, City Clerk