

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 23, 2018**

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 23, 2018 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 Jeremy Biggs, Jackie Branch, Farrell Gibson, Charles Long, Mark Rowland, Susan Williams, Randy Aden and Josh Agee

City Attorney Allen Warmath and City Clerk Andrea Williams were present.

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of March 26, 2018 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**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS – APPLICATION OF EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Gibson; seconded by Councilmember Branch.

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

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that this request is to rezone .06 acres located on Highway 49 South. A map of the property was provided.

Motion made to place the ordinance on the first reading by Councilmember Gibson; seconded by Councilmember Long.

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

Motion made that the rules be suspended and the ordinance placed on the second reading by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Branch

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

Motion made that the rules be suspended and the ordinance placed on the third and final reading by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

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

Motion to adopt made by Councilmember Gibson; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, abstain; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2018-04)

**ITEM #2**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED “2018 ART AND STROLL”**

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

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

Main Street Paragould Executive Director Gina Jarrett was present to request closing of the 100 blocks of Emerson Street and the intersection of Emerson and Pruett Streets, the 100 and 200 south blocks, and the 100 and 200 north blocks of Pruett from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. on May 5, 2018 for 2018 Art and Stroll.

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-14)

### **ITEM #3**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ORDINANCE NO 90-38; ORDINANCE NO. 91-3; ORDINANCE NO. 91.4; ORDINANCE NO. 91-17; ORDINANCE NO. 98-2; ORDINANCE NO. 99-32; ORDINANCE NO. 01-37; ORDINANCE NO. 01-43; ORDINANCE NO. 02-05; ORDINANCE NO. 03-12; ORDINANCE NO. 05-06; AND ORDINANCE NO. 09-08 AS RELATES TO RATES CHARGED FOR ACCESS TO TELEVISION DISTRIBUTION SIGNALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

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

Darrell Phillips, CEO of Paragould Light, Water and Cable and Attorney Robert Thompson were present to address the council. Mr. Phillips explained to the council that PLWC charges a set rate plus the cost of the channels for cable. This ordinance will provide for changes in certain residential and commercial advertising rates pertaining to the television distribution signals offered by PLWC and to provide to customers upon request and to set certain rates for said services, and to provide for the change in the rates for local commercial advertising. PLWC is in the process of updating the cable system to Internet Protocol TV (IPTV). This update should be complete within three years.

Motion made to place the ordinance on the first reading by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Gibson.

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

Motion made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Branch.

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

Motion made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Long.

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

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2018-05)

#### **ITEM #4**

### **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A TAX OF THREE PERCENT (3%) UPON THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF HOTELS AND MOTELS, PRESCRIBING THE USES THEREFORE, CREATING THE CITY OF PARAGOULD ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

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

Mayor Gaskill explained that this tax will be charged on hotel, motel, bed and breakfast and conference rooms. This tax will be paid to the A & P Commission and will be used to promote the City of Paragould. This tax is only on hotels and does not include restaurants.

Councilmember Biggs stated the ordinance committee has reviewed this ordinance and recommends it for approval by the council.

Motion made to place the ordinance on the first reading by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Rowland.

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

Motion made that the rules be suspended and the ordinance placed on the second reading by Councilmember Branch; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

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

Councilmember Biggs request that the ordinance be tabled until May 14, 2018 meeting to have time for public input.

## **ITEM #5**

### **AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE CITY OF PARAGOULD ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

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

Mayor Gaskill explained this committee will promote visitors and tourism for the City of Paragould. The commission will be accountable to the city and vested with powers by law. The committee will be comprised of four members of the tourism industry and at least one shall be a hotel/motel owner, operator or manager; two members of the city council; and one member from the public at large. Once formed the committee will adopt rules and procedures; report to the council quarterly and be audited.

Motion made that the ordinance be placed on the first reading by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

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

Motion made that the rules be suspended and the ordinance placed on the second reading by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Williams,

Councilmember Biggs request that the ordinance be tabled until May 14, 2018 meeting to have time for public input.

**ITEM #6**

**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 – LOCATION OF PROPERTY – 2017 SOUTH 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

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

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

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

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-15)

**ITEM #7**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS TO ATTACH LIENS TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED AT THE ADDRESSES SPECIFIED IN THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING MONIES WHICH ARE OWED THE CITY OF PARAGOULD FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES**

Motion made that the resolution be offered by title, names and addresses only by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

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

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

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-16)

**ITEM #8**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of March, 2018 the fire department responded to 89 incidents, issued 464 burn permits, made 218 business inspections, and completed 636.5 training hours.

**ITEM #9**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of March, 2018 the police department took 1,209 incident reports, made 403 arrests (347 misdemeanor and 56 felony), issued 515 traffic tickets, worked 81 accidents and opened 81 felony cases.

**ITEM #10**

**2016 AUDIT REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE  
REVIEW**

Mayor Gaskill presented the 2017 Audit from the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee to the council for their review. Mayor Gaskill told the council that those responsible for compliance are Mayor Mike Gaskill, Treasurer Georgia Rogers, City Clerk Andrea Williams, District Court Clerk Jamie McClelland and Police Chief Todd Stovall.

The report indicated that audit procedures indicate that all offices were in substantial compliance with Arkansas fiscal and financial laws.

Mayor Gaskill requested to amend the agenda to include the next two items. Motion made by Councilmember Branch to amend the agenda; seconded by Councilmember Gibson. All in favor.

**ITEM #11**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK OF THE  
CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO CABLE  
TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH PARAGOULD LIGHT WATER AND  
CABLE TO ACCESS FRANCHISE FEES ON INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

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

Mayor Gaskill explained that the city entered into a franchise agreement in 1989 when Paragould Light, Water and Cable took over the cable utility for the city of Paragould. At that time a three percent (3%) franchise fee was collected on cable television. This resolution will add the same franchise fee (3%) to the internet access provided by PLW&C.

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-17)

## **ITEM #12**

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF AN EQUIPMENT LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BANCORPSOUTH EQUIPMENT FINANCE, A DIVISION OF BANCORPSOUTH BANK FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEASE-PURCHASING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT**

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

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

Mayor Gaskill told the council that this is the lease for the three larger sanitation trucks that was accepted at a previous meeting and is brought on the recommendation of the finance committee.

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

Roll call: Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; and Agee, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-18)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT:**



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 at 7:10 p.m.

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Paragould City Council

Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Andrea Williams, City Clerk