

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 26, 2018**

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 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 Josh Agee.

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

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

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of February 12, 2018 be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Williams. All in favor.

**REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Public Service	- None
Finance	- Councilmember Long stated that the finance committee met at 5:30 this evening to discuss the amended budget. The committee has item number two on tonight's agenda.
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 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 ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES**

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

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

Documentation and photos were provided to the council by Code Enforcement Officer J.D. Stephenson.

Ms. Cox and Felicia Goerzen were present to address the council regarding the property at 813 Gentry. The property belongs to Ms. Goerzen's father and she was unaware that it had been condemned. Ms. Goerzen has been rehabbing the property and has invested approximately \$10,000 into it at this time. Ms. Goerzen stated that she thought she could put the construction materials out by the street and the sanitation department would pick them up. She stated that she would pay this lien and would haul off the additional material herself.

Ms. Goerzen also asked the council to consider removing the condemnation from the property due to the large amount of work she has put into the property. She provided photos and documentation as to money spent on this project.

Mayor Gaskill told Ms. Goerzen that he will have Code Enforcement Officer J.D. Stephenson contact her regarding the condemnation.

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

Roll call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-08)

**ITEM #2**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2017 AMENDED MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

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

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

The following amended budget was presented to the council with explanations of overages:

**City of Paragould  
2017 Amended Budget Recap**

	2017 Original Budget	2017 Amended Budget
<b><u>Revenues and Bank Balances:</u></b>		
<b><u>Revenues &amp; Transfers In:</u></b>		
General Fund	11,922,458.38	12,754,330.91
Act 988 Emergency Vehicle Fund	63,350.00	55,470.18
ACEDP Grant #790-08905-15 Fund	8,101.00	5,040.00
Airport Grant Fund	-	200,487.00
City Beautiful Fund	5,250.00	5,534.39
Court Automation Fund	34,000.00	32,073.05
Economic Development Fund	1,220,000.00	1,257,118.94
Linwood Cemetery Trust Fund	9,200.00	9,262.47
Mission Outreach Grant #790-08875-05 Fund	58,568.66	10,946.66
Police Grant Fund	-	-
Street Crimes Unit/Police Drug Fund	9,555.00	12,544.41
Street Fund	3,800,259.00	3,572,279.68
Subtotal	17,130,742.04	17,915,087.69
<b><u>Available Bank Balances:</u></b>		
General Fund	11,789,599.94	11,789,599.94
Act 988 Emergency Vehicle Fund	45,362.50	45,362.50
ACEDP Grant #790-08905-15 Fund	0.01	0.01
Airport Grant Fund	-	-
City Beautiful Fund	15,020.67	15,020.67
Court Automation Fund	117,551.66	117,551.66
Economic Development Fund	1,517,404.11	1,517,404.11
Linwood Cemetery Trust Fund	324,270.09	324,270.09
Mission Outreach Grant #790-08875-05 Fund	0.01	0.01

Police Grant Fund	1.00	1.00
Street Crimes Unit/Police Drug Fund	10,225.13	10,225.13
Street Fund	9,456,695.25	9,456,695.25
Subtotal	23,276,130.37	23,276,130.37
<b>Total Estimated Revenues &amp; Bank Balances</b>	<b>40,406,872.41</b>	<b>41,191,218.06</b>

**Appropriation- Expenditures & Transfers Out:**

General Fund:

Administration & Miscellaneous	1,259,794.75	1,225,838.71
Fire Department	2,338,175.84	2,189,565.35
District Court	141,320.84	145,870.08
Police Department	3,677,044.49	3,645,961.89
Police Department (Jail Expenditures)	19,000.00	12,144.73
Animal Control	96,948.64	96,549.24
Cemetery	76,862.52	76,756.12
Mosquito Control	158,620.50	156,455.20
Sanitation Department	1,825,168.33	1,754,555.42
Parks Department	1,612,498.71	1,798,219.73
Airport Department	283,422.65	438,991.18
Emergency 911 Department	357,411.45	442,308.39
Emergency Dispatch Center	1,841,243.96	2,284,590.58
Transfer OUT	-	-
Subtotal- General Fund	13,687,512.68	14,267,806.62

**Appropriation- Expenditures & Transfers Out (cont'd):**

Act 988 Emergency Vehicle Fund	63,000.00	99,698.00
ACEDP Grant #790-08905-15 Fund	8,101.00	5,040.00
Airport Grant Fund	-	200,486.00
City Beautiful Fund	11,400.00	3,134.97
Court Automation Fund	33,000.00	42,799.92
Economic Development Fund	990,000.00	990,000.00
Linwood Cemetery Trust Fund	4,200.00	4,262.47
Mission Outreach Grant #790-08875-05 Fund	58,568.66	10,946.66
Police Grant Fund	-	-
Street Crimes Unit/Police Drug Fund	7,000.00	15,352.37
Street Fund	3,721,680.77	2,813,788.97
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>18,584,463.11</b>	<b>18,453,315.98</b>

**Unappropriated Funds:**

General Fund	10,024,545.64	10,276,124.23
Act 988 Emergency Vehicle Fund	45,712.50	1,134.68
ACEDP Grant #790-08905-15 Fund	0.01	0.01
Airport Grant Fund	-	1.00
City Beautiful Fund	8,870.67	17,420.09

Court Automation Fund	118,551.66	106,824.79
Economic Development Fund	1,747,404.11	1,784,523.05
Linwood Cemetery Trust Fund	329,270.09	329,270.09
Mission Outreach Grant #790-08875-05 Fund	0.01	0.01
Police Grant Fund	1.00	1.00
Street Crimes Unit/Police Drug Fund	12,780.13	7,417.17
Street Fund	9,535,273.48	10,215,185.96
<b>Total Unappropriated Funds</b>	<u>21,822,409.30</u>	<u>22,737,902.08</u>
	21,822,409.30	22,737,902.08

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

Roll call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2018-09)

**ITEM #3**

**RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE PARAGOULD HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mayor Gaskill recommended re-appointed Jimmy Wilson to another five year term on the Paragould Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Motion made by Councilmember Gibson to re-appoint Jimmy Wilson to the Paragould Housing Authority Board of Directors; seconded by Councilmember Aden.

Roll call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, abstain; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes. Motion carried seven to zero.

**ITEM #4**

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

State of the City 2017  
February 26, 2018

The City of Paragould has had another very positive year. The overall budget came in under our original expense and revenue did exceed what we had anticipated. Sales tax was up again this year along with interest income, tax property, state turnback and permits also.

There were two additional expenses, which were not in the budget, which had been completed with insurance and grant money. The Airport was able to buy property and it was completely funded by grants. Repair work at the aquatic center was mostly funded by insurance. These two items show an increase in those two budgets but also show increase in their revenue.

In 2017, the new 911 Dispatch Center building was completed in December, and now we are in the process of putting all of the dispatch equipment in. This dispatch center will have the latest technology and can grow up to 12 dispatchers if ever needed. The time frame for starting dispatching from the new center is April.

The Street Department has funded the completion of the Rector Road sidewalk. It now goes from the bridge at the 8-mile creek on Vance Street to the Health Center on Rector Road. This department also spent \$896,000.00 in street overlays, repairs and the striping of streets. They also continue to work on drainage issues.

Earlier this year curbside recycling took place for the first time. We have sold 587 recycling bins in 2017 and we still have people interested as we are continuing to sell bins. Some of the schools in town have also done this and the kids at school will learn recycling.

Building permits were up in 2017. There were 116 new residence permits along with 10 quadplex and 9 duplex. There were also 26 remodels and 11 additions. We also had 8 new commercial, 11 commercial addition and 17 commercial remodel. Industrial had 3 additions and 2 remodels. There were 72 storage-building permits.

The Economic Development funding has purchased land on the new bypass for commercial development and also industrial property for the future growth. The Economic Development funding is used to increase jobs and opportunities for the City of Paragould to have continued growth.

Condemnation is still something that is making a difference in the looks of the city. The first year we budgeted \$100,000 and had to quit before the end of the year because the expenses reached the budget early. Last year we had more condemnations and only spent two thirds of the budget. People are working with us on property that needs to be condemned. There were 70 cases opened in 2017, 13 were removed by owner, 16 by the city and 35 were sold or repaired and 6 were pending.

This year, 2018, we are still looking at property for a new #1 Fire Station. The goal is to move it to an area that will provide plenty of space for all equipment and also an area for continued training. A new fire engine had been bid and approved by the city council and it has been ordered. It will be received this year. The Fire Department is continuing to do training every month to be able to help protect the citizens of Paragould.

The Public Works are out looking at streets for improvement such as overlay or widening if possible. Restriping the streets is something that is looked at every year to keep the streets safe. The Parks department will be placing the first playground equipment at the Community Center area. This is designed and placed for kids to have something to play on. We have playground equipment at every park and this will be a positive addition to the Community Center Park. The bike and walking path project has been looked at for a couple of years, and we had the 8 Mile Creek surveyed last year. That info has been presented to the designer and we will be looking at the ability to place it. If successful, that project will be done.

This year the Police Department will be adding 5 new vehicles and will put the department in a strong position. They have also hired additional people for the new Dispatch Center, including a manager. All dispatchers will be certified to insure that 911 dispatching will be done very professionally and protective. The equipment in this building will provide ultimate information for a 911 call and the entire county is mapped.

Once again, as I do every year, I would like to thank all of the employees and their commitment to take care of the city. This is also a time to commend the City Council for being progressive and conservative. I appreciate their efforts to help take care of the city and maintain funding for all departments.

I am very proud to work for, and support, the citizens of Paragould.  
It is an ongoing goal to maintain the City of Paragould during its growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Gaskill  
Mayor  
City of Paragould

**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 6:41 p.m.

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Paragould City Council



Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Andrea Williams, City Clerk