

COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2019

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 13, 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 Josh Agee.

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

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

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of April 22, 2019 be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Williams. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Service

- None

Finance

- Mayor Gaskill stated the finance committee met last Thursday morning to discuss the distribution of the one cent sales tax.

Currently the sales tax is distributed 75% to the General fund and 25% to the Street fund. Mayor Gaskill told the council that due to the state half cent sales tax that cities received 15% of and the three cent gas tax that all goes to the Street fund the committee recommends moving all of the one cent sales tax to the General fund for a period of two years, May 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember Agee to change the 75%/25% distribution of the one cent sales tax to 100% General fund; seconded by Councilmember Long.

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

Parks and Recreation

- None

Police - None

Public Health and Ordinances - None

Fire - None

Sanitation - None

Street/Cemetery - Councilmember Gibson stated the committee met at 5:30 this evening to discuss purchasing a Leeboy 700C paver for \$117,543.50 and tack distributor for \$12,512.00. Public Works Director Terry McAbee was present and stated that this equipment is supposed to meet the state bid requirement. Mr. McAbee was told to check with the company to insure that the state bid specs are met.

Councilmember Biggs made a motion to approve the purchase of a Leeboy 700C paver for \$117,543.50 and a Leeboy tack distributor as long as the state specs are met; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS. PROPERTY LOCATION: 1705 CLOVER CIRCLE

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

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

Attorney Roger Colbert was present representing John and Linda Wallace. Mr. Colbert stated Mr. and Mrs. Wallace are requesting a rezone at 1705 Clover Circle from R1 to C1. Mr. Colbert told the council that this rezone was presented to the planning commission on May 2, 2019. The stipulations of this rezone include a six foot privacy fence to be located on the east property line that will be maintained by the property owner and there will be no access granted from the subject property to Clover Circle. Five members of the planning commission were present on May 2nd and all five voted in favor of this rezone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2019-05)

ITEM #2

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS. PROPERTY LOCATION: 1400-1500 BLOCKS OF HIGHWAY 49 NORTH

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

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

Attorney Roger Colbert was present representing Ralph Blankenship. Mr. Blankenship is requesting a rezone from AG to C-3. Mr. Colbert stated this rezone was presented to the planning commission on May 2, 2019. Five members of the commission were present and all five voted in favor of this rezone. No opposition appeared.

Motion made that the ordinance be placed on the first reading by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Gibson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2019-06)

ITEM #3

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD CERTIFYING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX
BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(D) OF THE
CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003)**

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

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

Sue McGowan, Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Director and CEO was present to address the council. Ms. McGowan stated that Prysmian Group,

formerly Prestolite and General Cable, is expanding and purchasing \$2.8 million dollars in machinery and are requesting to participate in the tax back program.

Motion made to adopt resolution certifying Prysmian Group in the tax back program made by Councilmember Gibson; seconded by Councilmember Long.

Roll call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried seven to one. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2019-26)

ITEM #4

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS

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

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

Mayor Gaskill explained the council that this is for a 80/20 in kind labor federal aid grant for the recreational trail that the City of Paragould and the Greene County Future fund are building.

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

Roll call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2019-27)

ITEM #5

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 title, address and parcel only by Councilmember Aden; seconded by Councilmember Gibson.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, provided the council with documentation of clean up cost for the property.

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

Roll call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2019-28)

ITEM #6

POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of April, 2019 the police department took 1288 incident reports, made 573 arrests (499 misdemeanor, 65 felony and 9 DWI), wrote 512 traffic tickets and worked 92 accidents. The report noted 833 felony cases were opened.

ITEM #7

MONTHLY REPORT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Gaskill told the council that for the month of April, 2019 the fire department answered 241 incidents, issued 360 burn permits, made 90 business inspections, completed 1265.65 training hours and three public education visits. Training topics included EMT class (There are eight members participating in an online EMT class through Black River Technical College) and two members attended a 40-hour tank car specialist course in Longview, Texas sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad. The firefighters also completed annual fire hose service testing in accordance with NFPA 1962, which involves pressure testing each section of fire hose within the department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Gaskill stated the next regular scheduled council meeting is May 27th, which is a Memorial Day. Mayor Gaskill stated this meeting will be moved to Tuesday, May 28th in honor of the holiday.

Mayor Gaskill informed the council that work has started on the mausoleum. The stained glass windows have been removed and taken for repair.

Mayor Gaskill also reminded the council that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be in Paragould May 30-June2, 2019. The location has changed from Harmon Park to the Greene County Fairgrounds.

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 7:01 p.m.

Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Williams, City Clerk