

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 10, 2020**

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 2020 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 Mark Rowland.

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

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

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of January 27, 2020 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	- Councilmember Biggs stated the committee met at 5:30 this evening to discuss permits for new and relocation of buildings, as well as a sign ordinance. The committee will bring these matters back before the council at a later date.
Fire	- None
Sanitation	- None
Street/Cemetery	- None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM #1**

**AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR NEW TRASH COLLECTION EQUIPMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

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

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that this is the sanitation truck that was approved by the council at the last meeting. The ordinance is needed to comply with audit requirements.

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

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

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

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, 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 Agee; seconded by Councilmember Branch.

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

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

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance N0. 2020-05)

**ITEM #2**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED "SAINTS AND SINNERS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ANGEL RUN FOR ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL"**

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

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

Mayor Gaskill told the council that this is a yearly event that would be held on March 28, 2020 from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. There were several members of the Saints and Sinners present to answer any questions the council may have.

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

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-03)

### **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'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE VIII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDING SEC.10-240 THROUGH 10-247. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 700 EAST LAKE STREET**

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

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

Owner of the property, Dawn Leah Cox, was present and requested an extension of this condemnation. Ms. Cox stated that she didn't understand the time frame in the letter she received in August, 2019. She stated the property has been vacant with no utilities since 2013. She is planning on taking the property down herself and would like more than 30 days.

Councilmember Biggs made the motion to table this matter until March 9, 2020; seconded by Councilmember Aden. All in favor.

### **ITEM #4**

**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'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10,**

**ARTICLE VIII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDING SEC.10-240 THROUGH 10-247.  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1111 RECTOR ROAD**

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

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

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, was present and provided the council with documentation and photos of the property. The property owner did not appear.

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

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; and Biggs, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-04)

**ITEM # 5**

**STATE OF THE CITY**

State of the City 2019  
Paragould, Arkansas  
February 24, 2020

The City of Paragould has had another positive year. Revenue exceeded our revenue budget overall and provided opportunities to continue to improve the city. Last year with the beginning of the new Fire Department it did extend our budget and if it was not happening our revenue would have extended. On occasion things come up in departments that make a difference and department heads work hard to stay within revenue budget.

The 911 Center had it first full year and the Sheriff's department did finally include itself in January 2019. The 911 had 88,045 dispatches last year and are dispatching 20 organizations in the entire Greene County, and every city in the county.

Alcohol Beverage Control  
Arkansas Game & Fish  
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center  
Arkansas State Police  
Black River Technical College  
Delaplaine Fire Dept  
Greene County Coroner  
Greene County OEM  
Greene County Rescue Squad  
Greene County Sheriff's Office  
Lafe Fire Department  
Marmaduke Fire Department  
Marmaduke Police Department  
Northeast Greene County Fire Dept

Oak Grove Fire Department  
 Paragould Emergency Services  
 Paragould Fire Department  
 Paragould Police Department  
 South Greene County Fire Dept  
 Western Greene County Fire Department

The Paragould Police Department had another improvement year.....

- 1) 6 New Patrol Calls with in car computer systems
- 2) Computers (in-car) .... this gives us the ability to work accidents, reports, and tickets in car that saves time.
- 3) Drone and FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared Radar)  
 ----several mission so far with great success because it can detect any regular temperature issues such as people who are out in areas
- 4) AED's for each shift officer to help save lives
- 5) Trauma Kits for each shift officer
- 6) Stop the Bleeding Training----Trauma first aid for each officer

The Paragould Fire Department has continued to train employees to emergency and will respond dispatches.....

- 1) Responded to 2757 incidents in 2019
- 2) Have a total of 19 EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians)
- 3) Have added 2 additional Hazardous Materials Technicians to our roster for a total of 38.
- 4) Added new AEDs to our equipment.
- 5) Completed over 11,000 total hours of training in 2019.
- 6) Completed 1026 Fire Inspections in 2019.
- 7) Performed over 40 Public Education visits including station visits making contact with well over 4000 children and adults speaking about fire safety, performing fire extinguisher and stop the bleed training. Also, your aware that the new number one fire department building will be completed this year.

The Inspectors Office had another positive year as we continue to change the inspections and approvals of construction. In 2019.....

<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Qty Issued</u>
Building Permits	1,031
Electric Permits	915
Plumbing Permits	1,162
HVACR / Mechanical Permits	648
<u>Gas Permits</u>	<u>47</u>
Total Permit Fees	3803

There was 104 residence, 21 duplex, 11 quadplex and 8 triplex. There was also 8 new commercial, 11 commercial addition, 16 commercial remodel, 4 carports, 3 garage, 2 mobile homes. There were also 25 permanent signs, 12 pools, 5 porch/deck, 4 residential addition and 47 storage buildings. The inspector's office is included in every public construction or recovering throughout the city. Meetings are held to make sure things follow the ordinance. Groups are inspectors, public works, fire department, PLWC and engineer.

The Public Works continue to improve the City of Paragould. We had discussed these last year as they had received the pot-hole truck that repairs and is available year-round. Another equipment will overlay the streets when immediate issues are available. These two pieces of equipment were used last summer and are improving the streets. The trash pickup has been great for the city and they are continuing to do more than trash cans to make sure the city is moving forward in good shape. The Public Works is in charge of streets, sidewalks, ditches, trash, dogs, cemetery, and continuing to work and improve all equipment in the city.

The State Aid Street committee has approved the overlaying of McDaniel Road and Oak Dr this year in the area of the Community Center, and we will only have to pay 10 percent of the \$250,000.00 and all the amount over the \$250,000.00.

The Condemnation of the City of Paragould, by the Code Enforcement, continues to remove buildings that are no longer safe and are helping to make the city more attractive. In 2019 there were 47 condemnations, 16 demolished by the city, and 24 were removed by the owners and there were 7 repaired by the owners. There were also 504 property cleanups. These are things that take place every year. In the month of June, the Condemnation will have been in place for 12 years.

The Airport is continuing to improve the safety of airplanes landing. Also including buildings that owners have rented and we also provide gas to airplanes. As you know the Air Evac have left the City of Paragould and we still have the property that would be available to another emergency system.

The Parks of the City of Paragould have been a great piece to have. The Community Center gets improved every year and still looks new. All of the parks have been upgraded over the years to have a place the citizens can go to enjoy. There is a dog park being built at Harmon Park and will be completed this year. It is another opportunity for the citizens of Paragould. Here is what is available at each park,

Community Center/ Aquatic Center : indoor basketball, volleyball, racquetball, ping pong, indoor walking track /with exercise equipment, silver sneakers class, floor aerobics, indoor aquatic center with therapy pool, water aerobics, outdoor water park, 2 softball fields, 11 soccer fields, outside walking track and a children's all- inclusive playground which won the Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association Facility of the Year Award for 2018.

Labor Park: indoor basketball, volleyball, pickleball, softball field, outside walking track, children's playground, splash pad, skateboard park, outdoor basketball, outdoor volleyball, pavilions and grilling areas.

Harmon Park: inclusive playground, outside basketball, 2 tennis courts, outside pavilion, building available for event rentals, horseshoe pit, outside grilling areas, walking track at football field and a new dog park.

Reynolds Park: 11 RV Pads, playground, fishing lake and dock, walking path, horseshoe pits, outside soccer field, outside volleyball, outside basketball, 5 outside pavilions, outside grilling areas, building available for event rentals.

Woodside Glen: playground equipment, basketball court, horseshoe pit, grilling and covered picnic area, walking path

Centennial Park: green space area, used for various uptown events.

Bland/Threlkeld Baseball Complex: 10 ball fields, playground areas, concession stands.

Rotary Softball Park: 7 ball fields, playground area, walking path, concessions stand.

Been notified by ArDOT, the State Highway Department, that the bypass will be finished this year by September. They are continuing the 4-lane road to Walnut Ridge west and also to begin the 4-lane to Utility Trailer north. The ½ cent sales tax, state wide, has helped improve the progression of the streets. The re-elections for this tax are in November, before the time the tax is up. The City of Paragould gets 15 percent of the money from its town, that ArDot collects, and that amount in 2019 was \$608,599.00 and we spend more than that in Public Works for streets because of the additional revenue from that ArDot sales tax. This will not be a new sales tax; it is one that has been here for several years to help upgrade the streets in our city and state. This tax is a benefit to the city and state and if this tax does not pass, not only will the city lose that money, the State will lose there's also and streets will be more difficult to upgrade.

The Police, Fire Department and 911's goal is continuing to help protect the citizens of Paragould. The Inspectors, Public Works department and the Code Enforcement is working to upgrade the City of Paragould. The Parks system has a goal to continue to provide fun and health for all citizens.

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. We also have many volunteers that are also committed to this city.

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:**

Councilmember Agee gave an update on the Hiking/Biking trail. He stated that it is possible that bids will be taken in April and work will begin in May.

Mayor Gaskill reminded the council and citizens of the upcoming census and its importance to our city and state.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the council, Councilmember Biggs moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilmember Williams. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:44 p.m.

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Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Andrea Williams, City Clerk