

COUNCIL MEETING

June 22, 2020

The Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 22, 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 Charles Long.

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

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

Councilmember Branch moved minutes from previous council meeting of June 8, 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	- None
Fire	- Councilmember Long stated the committee had item number three on tonight's agenda.
Sanitation	- None
Street/Cemetery	- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF A CERTAIN STREET

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

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

Main Street Paragould Director, Gina Jarrett, was present to address the council. She explained to the council that this resolution would authorize closing the 100 block of north Pruet Street on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to allow Chow at 118 and Skinny J's restaurant to set tables up in the street for additional seating. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the restaurants are only allowed to open at 66% capacity at this time. This will allow these restaurants to use outdoor tables for overflow seating.

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

Roll Call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; and Rowland, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-15)

ITEM #2

A RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A CARES ACT AIRPORT GRANTS AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

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

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

Mayor Gaskill stated this grant is for \$30,000.00 and is to be used for cleaning and supplies to battle Covid-19 at the airport.

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

Roll Call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; and Rowland, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-16)

ITEM #3

PRESENTATION OF BIDS RELATING TO THE PARAGOULD FIRE STATION DRIVEWAY

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that bids were taken to build the driveway at the new fire station on Highway 49 North. The driveway was not included in the bids for the building due to issues with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). Originally the plan was to have two entrances to the fire department but ARDOT wouldn't allow that but has agreed to expand the one driveway.

Bids were received from Tate General Contractors for \$167,614.00 and from Greene County Excavator, Inc. (GCE, Inc.) for \$95,000.00. Motion made to accept the low bid from GCE, Inc. for \$95,000.00 from Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Branch.

Roll Call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; and Rowland, yes. Motion carried eight to zero.

ITEM #4

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Motion made that the agenda be amended and the resolution be offered by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Branch. All in favor.

Mayor Gaskill announced to the council that he is retiring on December 31, 2020 and this resolution is needed to accept his resignation so that the election of a new mayor may be placed on the November 3, -2020 ballot.

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that since he was elected in 1997 he has always had a project in the works. From the Eight Mile Creek widening, to building and repairing the sidewalks all over town, to building the new community center, fire stations and E-911 center. Mayor Gaskill stated that he will be 65 years old in August and the new number one fire station will be completed in September. With the projects that he has set out to complete now finished he feels like it is time to pursue other interests.

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

Roll Call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; and Rowland, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-17)

ITEM #5

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE UPCOMING VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS, DUE TO THE ANNOUNCED AND ACCEPTED RETIREMENT AND RESIGNATION OF MAYOR MIKE GASKILL EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF DECEMBER 31, 2020, TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2020, FROM 7:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M., TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MAYOR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2022

Motion made that the agenda be amended and the resolution be offered by Councilmember Biggs, seconded by Councilmember Branch. All in favor.

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that this resolution will place the election for the Mayor of the city of Paragould on the ballot on November 3, 2020. He stated that the filing period will begin July 29th at noon and end August 5th at noon.

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

Roll Call: Williams, yes; Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; and Rowland, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-18)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Biggs told everyone that MOR Media is bringing back the Big Bang 4th of July Fireworks Show with the help of the Paragould A & P Commission. The fireworks show will be held on July 4th at Rotary Park at 9:30 p.m.

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 6:55 p.m.

Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Williams, City Clerk