

COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2020

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

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

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

Councilmember Long moved minutes from previous council meeting of June 22, 2020 be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Branch. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Service - None

Finance - None

Parks and Recreation - None

Police - Councilmember Agee stated the committee met at 5:40 this evening to discuss updates to the police department policy. Police Chief, Todd Stovall, was present to address the council. Chief Stovall stated the update includes changes to the response to resistance policy and the addition of a duty to intervene policy. These changes and additions were recommended and approved by the Arkansas Municipal League and the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

Councilmember Agee stated the committee recommends adopting these changes.

Motion made to adopts the changes presented by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Agee.

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

Public Health and Ordinances	- None
Fire	- None
Sanitation	- None
Street/Cemetery	- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM #1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING OF BONDS TO FINANCE ALL OR A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER FACILITIES OF THE CITY'S WATER, SEWER, AND ELECTRIC REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2013; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

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

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

Darrell Phillips, General Manager and CEO of Paragould Light Water and Cable was present to address the council. Mr. Phillips explained that this resolution is needed to restructure existing debt to use proceeds to do some needed repairs to the sewer system.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-19)

ITEM #2

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF A CERTAIN STREET

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

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

Mayor Gaskill stated this closing is for a yearly event entitled Smoking Skulls Ride for Knowledge to raise money for school supplies. This closure will be for North 2nd Avenue (Wall Street) between Garland Street and Main Street from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on August 22, 2020.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2020-20)

ITEM #3

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE AND DESIGNATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SERVICES AS A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion made to amend the agenda and add an ordinance to create and designate emergency communication services as a separate department of the city of Paragould, Arkansas and for other purposes made by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Aden. All in favor.

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

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

Mayor Gaskill explained that the E-911 communications has always fallen under the umbrella of the police department, mainly because of its location at the police department. With the construction of the new E-911 center and dispatching for other agencies the E-911 communications should be its own department. E-911 Director, Michael McCammon, was present and explained to the council that this will allow him to apply for grants for the department and reduce the cost and issues with ACIC/NCIC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2020-11)

ITEM #4

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR TORNADO EARLY WARNING SIRENS, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

Mayor Gaskill explained to the council that this ordinance would allow for the repair and update of the tornado sirens by Paragould Communications for \$92,000.00. Mayor Gaskill explained that Paragould Communications is familiar with the existing sirens, they can begin work in a timely manner and is a local company so if problems arise they are here to fix those issues.

Motion made to place the ordinance on the first reading by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Aden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No 2020-12)

Motion made that the emergency clause be adopted separately by Councilmember Gibson; seconded by Councilmember Williams.

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

ITEM #5

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. PROPERTY LOCATED AT 501 BOGIL ROAD

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

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

Owner of the property, John Otto, was present to address the council. Mr. Otto stated that he has finally settled with the insurance company and is in the process of deciding whether to rehab/rebuild or sell the property. Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson was present and

provided the council with documentation and photographs of the property. Mr. Stephenson stated that he has been dealing with this property since December, 2019.

Due to issues with a fire investigation and insurance issues a motion was made by Councilmember Branch to table this matter for 30 days to allow Mr. Otto to decide if he wants to rehab/rebuild or sell; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Agee, yes; Biggs, yes; Branch, yes; Gibson, yes; Long, no; Rowland, no; and Williams, yes. Motion carried six to two. Resolution tabled.

ITEM #6

REPORT FROM VECTOR DISEASE CONTROL, INC.

A report provided by Vector Disease Control stated that for the month of May, 2020. VCDI has utilized six light traps placed in residential and recreational areas throughout the city. The traps collected an average of 0 mosquitos per trap night, for a total of 0 mosquitos. Ten sites were inspected for larval mosquito breeding and none of those sites had larval present. VCDI applied adulticide on four truck nights spraying a total of 132.6 miles (5272.20 acres) using a total of 31.5 gallons of adulticide. VCDI responded to two service request and adulticided all parks and any special events during the month of May.

ITEM #7

REQUEST FROM CURTIS DAVENPORT TO REINSTALL A BILLBOARD SIGN

Motion made to amend the agenda and hear from Curtis Davenport made by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Agee. All in favor.

Mr. Davenport stated that he owns the property located at the corner of South Third Street and U.S. Highway 412 at the overpass. Mr. Davenport has leased property to a third party to place a billboard sign at this location for many years that was grandfathered in when the city adopted an ordinance prohibiting billboards. The contract with the owner of the billboard has expired and a new company wanted to place a LED billboard at this location. Mr. Davenport stated that he has talked with Mayor Gaskill and the City Inspectors office regarding this new billboard.

At the direction of City Inspector, Greg Trout, Mr. Davenport had the old sign removed and purchased a permit for the new sign to be placed in its location. After purchasing the permit Mr. Davenport was then informed that the city has an ordinance prohibiting new billboards.

Mr. Davenport is wanting permission from the council to put up the new LED billboard since there was a miscommunication between city officials.

Motion made to table this matter until an ordinance committee meeting can be held on July 27, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. made by Councilmember Agee; seconded by Councilmember Biggs.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Gaskill stated that he will not be bringing an ordinance to the council requiring our citizens to wear masks at this time but that he would like to encourage everyone to wear a mask, especially when inside a store or restaurant, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

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 7:17 p.m.

Mike Gaskill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Williams, City Clerk