COUNCIL MEETING

February 23, 2026

Paragould City Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall, with Mayor Agee presiding.

The invocation was led by Council Member Jared Pickney.

The meeting was called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were Jackie Branch, Jared Pickney, Tim Roswell, Dustin Rumsey, Susan Wooldridge, Neal Adams, Pat Austin, and Brad Baine.

City Attorney Robert Thompson and City Clerk Kylie Reynolds were also present.

Council Member Wooldridge moved to approve the minutes from the previous council meeting, held on January 29, 2026, as transcribed; seconded by Council Member Austin. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance	- None
Parks and Recreation	- None
Public Safety	- None
Ordinances	- None
Public Works	- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM # 1

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. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 521 NORTH 3RD STREET AND IS OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BRIDGES, WHO DIED JANUARY 18, 2025.

The resolution was offered at the November 17, 2025, council meeting.

Ms. Hailey Petit, representing Penny Mac, was present via Zoom with an update on the property. Ms. Petit stated they were waiting for an insurance claim from a fire at the residence. She also stated that foreclosure is in process and the expected sale date is May 1, 2026.

Motion that the resolution be tabled until the May 11, 2026, council meeting made by Council Member Baine; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes. Motion carried eight to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM # 1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 717 NORTH 15TH AVENUE.

Motion that the ordinance be offered by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

A representative for Mr. Alex Jones was present, stating the rezone is being requested for a replat of the property. Planning and Development Director Kevin Lang was present, stating the owner was selling a small piece of the property to a larger piece of property to provide street access. Mr. Lang also stated Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to approve the rezone.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the first reading made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Branch.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading made by Council Member Branch; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

Motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading made by Council Member Wooldridge; seconded by Council Member Adams.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

Motion that the ordinance be adopted by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2026-10)

ITEM #2

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Agee stated he wanted guidance from the ARML on this ordinance and asked for it to be removed from the agenda at this time.

Motion to remove item from the agenda made by Council Member Rumsey; seconded by Council Member Austin. All in favor.

ITEM # 3

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH SAME; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO OBTAIN REAL PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 110 EAST HUNT STREET AND IS OWNED BY S.A. RECYCLING, LLC.

Motion that the resolution be offered by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

A similar resolution was presented to the council and adopted at the October 13, 2025, council meeting. At that time, the appraised value was $227,000. Mayor Agee stated that negotiations had begun, but the property owner did not respond by year-end.

Mayor Agee stated that a new appraisal has been completed on the property, and under the new zoning code, the property now appraises at $656,000. If approved, the property will be purchased with funds from the economic development fund, which has a balance of approximately $800,000.

Motion that the resolution be adopted made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, abstain; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, no. Motion carried six to two. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2026-09)

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 CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE VIII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS SEC. 10-240 THROUGH 10-247. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 409 TECH STREET AND IS OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF JUANITA WALL, DECEASED.

Motion to read the resolution by the last registered owner and address made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

The council was provided with documentation and photos of the property. No one appeared in opposition.

Motion that the resolution be adopted made by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2026-10)

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. THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 202 SOUTH 8TH AVENUE AND IS OWNED BY LOUIE ROGERS.

Motion that the resolution be offered by Council Member Adams; seconded by Council Member Roswell.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes.

The council was provided with documentation and photos of the property. Mr. William Strong appeared on behalf of his grandfather, Louie Rogers. Mr. Rogers stated he is in the process of rehabilitating the property.

Motion to table the resolution for 30 days to allow the owners time to obtain proper permits made by Council Member Baine; seconded by Council Member Austin.

Roll Call: Branch, yes; Pickney, yes; Roswell, yes; Rumsey, yes; Wooldridge, yes; Adams, yes; Austin, yes; Baine, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution tabled until April 13, 2026.

ITEM # 6

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE REPORT.

Mayor Agee stated that auditors come in around June to audit the city's financial documents and ensure compliance with state law. There were no findings.

ITEM # 7

PROCLAMATION FOR USE YOUR V.O.I.C.E. AWARENESS DAY.

Sawyer Ann Jackson was present to explain V.O.I.C.E. The proclamation was read and signed by Miss Jackson and Mayor Agee, proclaiming March 31, 2026, as Use Your V.O.I.C.E. Awareness Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Special guests in attendance were members of Troop 4G and Troop 4B from Jonesboro, along with scout leader Jason Drake. Mr. Drake stated they were working on their citizenship in the community merit badge, and one requirement is to attend a city council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, Council Member Roswell moved for the meeting to be adjourned; seconded by Council Member Branch. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Josh Agee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kylie Reynolds, City Clerk