

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 10, 2022**

Paragould City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall with Mayor Agee presiding.

Invocation was led by Councilmember Susan Williams.

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

Those present were Neal Adams, Randy Aden, Brad Baine, Jessie Blevens, Jeremy Biggs, Lindsey Boggs, Mark Rowland, and Susan Williams.

City Attorney Robert Thompson and City Clerk Andrea Williams were present.

Councilmember Williams moved the minutes from previous council meeting of September 26, 2022, be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Adams. All in favor.

Councilmember Adams moved the financial statements for the month of September, 2022, be approved as presented; seconded by Councilmember Rowland. 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 - None

Sanitation - None

Street/Cemetery - None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**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, CHAPTR 10, ARTICLE VIII. CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS SEC. 10-240 THROUGH 10-247 – PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1910 REYNOLDS ROAD**

Motion made that the resolution be offered by name and address only by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Boggs.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Mayor Agee reminded the council that this resolution was on the last agenda and Mr. Dortch was advised to speak with Planning and Zoning Director, Kevin Lang, regarding posting a bond to rehabilitate the property. Mr. Lang was present and told the council that the estimated cost to demolish the property was \$13,000 due to there being three buildings on the property. Mr. Dortch has not posted a bond and did not appear this evening to address the council.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-84)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM #1**

**PRESENTATION TO JACKIE ROSS**

Mayor Agee and Councilmember Biggs presented Jackie Ross, Development Director for the Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas, with a plaque and thanked him for his dedicated career serving others. Mr. Ross has worked for the Mission Outreach for over a decade and Councilmember Biggs stated that Mr. Ross has played a big role in securing grants to renovate the homeless shelter. He works hard to help the homeless and impoverished community of Greene County.

**ITEM #2**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Williams; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Planning and Zoning Director, Kevin Lang, was present to answer any questions the council may have. He stated the State of Arkansas adopted the 2021 Mechanical Code in August and to avoid confusion the city should follow the same code. Mr. Lang stated that this is the first update of the Mechanical Code since 2010.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, 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: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Motion made that the ordinance be adopted by Councilmember Adams; seconded by Councilmember Blevens.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-34)

### **ITEM #3**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE FEES FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES OF THE PARAGOULD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT; TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the ordinance be offered by Councilmember Adams; seconded by Councilmember Blevens.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Kim Baldrige, was present to answer any questions the council may have. Mayor Agee explained that the Parks Committee met on September 26, 2022, to discuss the fees for the new pavilions. The only fee changed in this ordinance is the fee for use of the pavilions. The fee will now be \$25 for a half day and \$50 for a full day. This change will take effect January 1, 2023.

Motion made to place this ordinance on the first reading by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Blevens.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-35)

#### **ITEM #4**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR EQUIPMENT FOR CITY SOFTBALL FIELDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Kim Baldrige, was present to answer any questions the council may have. Mayor Agee explained to the council that this is specialized equipment that can not be purchased locally. These items were included in this year's budget and are needed to maintain the softball and baseball fields.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, 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 Aden.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-36)

#### **ITEM #5**

#### **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSING AND USE OF A CERTAIN STREET – REYNOLDS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL**

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Williams; seconded by Councilmember Boggs.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Shannon Wooldridge with Reynolds Park Baptist Church was present and addressed the council. She stated the church is having a fall festival and is wanting to close South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from East Garland to East Main on November 5, 2022, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Ms. Wooldridge stated the church will also be using part of the field at Labor Park for this festival and they are concerned for the safety of children crossing the street.

Several council members voiced concerns about closing streets for events until guidelines are established.

Resolution failed due to lack of a second.

**ITEM # 6**

**A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE TAX RATE TO THE COUNTY CLERK**

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Adams; seconded by Councilmember Blevens.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Mayor Agee explained to the council that this resolution is required by law each year to certify the tax rate to the County Clerk. Mayor Agee stated that the rate is the same as last year (2.4 mills for the General fund and .4 mills for the fireman's pension) and is not an increase in taxes.

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-85)

**ITEM #7**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF PARAGOULD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Motion made that the resolution be offered by Councilmember Adams; seconded by Councilmember Baine.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Mayor Agee stated that this resolution will allow him to enter into an agreement with the EDC for a small business and workforce development innovation center located at 200-212 North Pruett.

Motion made that the resolution be adopted by Councilmember Baine; seconded by Councilmember Blevens.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-86)

**ITEM #8**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH MAIN STREET PARAGOULD, INC.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Mayor Agee stated that this resolution will allow him to enter into an agreement with Main Street Paragould, Inc. for daily oversight and maintenance of the Powerhouse Pavilion. He stated that the Parks committee met on September 26, 2022, regarding this matter and support it unanimously. He stated that this is a year-to-year lease with a 30 day opt out clause.

Motion made to adopt this resolution by Councilmember Biggs; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-87)

**ITEM #9 and #10**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY 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 to offer the resolutions by name, address and total only by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Aden.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes.

Planning and Zoning Director, Kevin Lang, was present to answer any questions the council may have. This resolution is to recoup money the city has spent to clean up nuisance properties. The council was provided with documentation of the cost.

Motion made that the resolutions be adopted by Councilmember Baine; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

Roll Call: Adams, yes; Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Biggs, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; and Williams, yes. Motion carried eight to zero. Resolutions adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-88 and 2022-89)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Agee told the council that the department incident numbers for September 2022 were in their agenda packet.

Mayor Agee also reminded the council and public that Greene County is still under a burn ban.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the council, Councilmember Williams moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilmember Blevens. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:52 p.m.

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Josh Agee, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Andrea Williams, City Clerk