

COUNCIL MEETING

July 12, 2022

Paragould City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of City Hall with Mayor Agee presiding.

Mayor Agee told the council of the passing of Jimmie Lou Fisher and read her obituary. Ms. Fisher was a long time resident of Paragould and former Greene County Treasurer, Arkansas State Auditor, State Treasurer and Democratic Nominee for Arkansas Governor.

Invocation was led by Craig Parten of Grace Community Bible Church in River Ridge, Louisiana.

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

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

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

Councilmember Williams moved minutes from previous council meeting of June 13, 2022, be approved as transcribed; seconded by Councilmember Adams. All in favor.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Service	- None
Finance	- Councilmember Rowland called for a finance committee meeting Friday, July 29, 2022, at 7 a.m. for a semiannual review of the budget.
Parks and Recreation	- None
Police	- None
Public Health and Ordinances	- Mayor Agee called for an ordinance committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on before the next meeting on July 25, 2022.
Fire	- None
Sanitation	- None

Street/Cemetery - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS – PROPERTY LOCATED AT 907, 909 AND 911 THIEL ROAD – PROPERTY OWNER – RALPH BLANKENSHIP

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

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

Attorney Roger Colbert was present representing Mr. Blankenship. Mr. Colbert explained that this property containing 4.01 acres is located at 907, 909 and 911 Thiel Road and is currently AG. Mr. Blankenship is requesting it be rezoned to C-3. Mr. Colbert stated this rezone was presented to the planning commission on July 7, 2022. Four members were present and one abstained due to a conflict. No one appeared in opposition. Since there was not a quorum Mr. Colbert is bringing this rezone to the council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-30)

ITEM #2

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR NEW EQUIPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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

Mayor Agee explained to the council that this ordinance was previously passed to lease a rear loading sanitation truck but because of the wait on the truck the bank and interest rate have changed and needs to be revisited.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-28)

ITEM #3

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT CHANGES TO FEES CHARGED IN CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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

Planning and Zoning Director, Kevin Lang, was present to address the council. Mr. Lang stated that this ordinance has been discussed by the ordinance committee several times. This ordinance will establish fees for a roofing permit, fence permit and demolition permit. The intent is to make sure that the requirements for these jobs are being followed. Mr. Lang stated that roofers must register with the state licensing board and have a privilege license. The fence permit is to ensure that all set back requirements are being met. And the utility company has asked for the demolition permit to ensure that all utilities are being capped off and safely disconnected before a demolition takes place.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Ordinance adopted. (Ordinance No. 2022-29)

Motion made that the emergency clause be adopted separately by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Emergency clause adopted

ITEM #4

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS – 2022 STREET SPLASH DOWNTOWN

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

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

Mayor Agee stated this is a festival that will be held downtown on July 30, 2022. There will be lots of water activities for children including removing the plugs from the fire hydrant so they may play in the water in the street.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-50)

ITEM #5

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSING AND USE OF CERTAIN STREETS – GET DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL

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

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

Mayor Agee stated that this will be the 6th Annual Get Downtown Festival will be held September 16 – 17, 2022. Sydney Watts, Chair of the Get Downtown Festival, was present to answer any questions the council may have.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-51)

ITEM #6

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION

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

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

Mayor Agee explained this grant is an 80/20 match grant that will be used to build a connectivity trail addition from the Senior Center on North 12th Street to the current trail. This trail will run north up 12th Street to Morgan, east on Morgan to Westview Baptist Church. Westview Baptist Church will grant an easement to connect the trail behind the church.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No. 2022-52)

ITEM #7

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK 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 that the resolution be offered by owner's name, address, parcel number and fee only made by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, provided the council with photographs and documentation. No one appeared in opposition.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2022-53)

ITEM #8

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK 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 that the resolution be offered by owner's name, address, parcel number and fee only made by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, provided the council with photographs and documentation. No one appeared in opposition.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2022-54)

ITEM # 9

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK 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 that the resolution be offered by owner's name, address, parcel number and fee only made by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Adams.

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

Code Enforcement Officer, J.D. Stephenson, provided the council with photographs and documentation. No one appeared in opposition.

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

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. Motion carried seven to zero. Resolution adopted. (Resolution No 2022-55)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Agee told the council the Donnie Chaney, owner of the property located at 705 and 707 South 3rd Street was present to address the council. Mr. Chaney asked to be heard regarding the condemnation that was placed on the properties. Mr. Chaney stated that he did not receive notification of the condemnation. Code Enforcement Officer Omer Overbay provided the council with current photographs of the properties. Mr. Chaney stated that he has partially taken the property at 707 South 3rd Street down and been told by ADEQ that there are asbestos issues with the property at 705 South 3rd Street. He stated that he would like to have the city remove the debris from 707 and rehab the house at 705.

Motion to have the city remove the debris from 707 and have the inspector's office evaluate the house at 705 to see if it is structurally sound to rehab made by Councilmember Rowland; seconded by Councilmember Baine.

Roll Call: Aden, yes; Baine, yes; Blevens, yes; Boggs, yes; Rowland, yes; Williams, yes; and Adams, yes. All in favor.

Mayor Agee introduced Bob Barber with the Orion Group. Mr. Barber introduced Allison Mouch, Oliver Seabolt, Ryan Slade, and Burt Kuyrkendall also with the Orion Group. Mr. Barber stated they were working with Discover Paragould 2042 to determine how and in what areas the city should grow in the next 20 years. Mr. Barber stated there would be a meeting Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the Paragould Community Center to present a concept plan.

Mr. Agee stated that the council was given the financial statement, departmental incident report, Vector Disease Control report and a Paragould Walk audit report that was performed by The University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development and Crafton Tull.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, Councilmember Williams moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Councilmember Adams. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:36 p.m.

Josh Agee, Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Williams, City Clerk