

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Bethany Palmer gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Tommy Centola. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Brett Kirkman, David Morris, Chris Howell, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore. Council member Rodger Cargile was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (18-1-d) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for comprehensive floodplain study engineering services and (18-2-c) budget adjustment ordinance authorization to expend funds for comprehensive floodplain study engineering services. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Kirkman to suspend the rules and add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg and Kirkman.

The minutes of the regular December 12, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of December 31, 2023: General Fund: \$12,669,723.47; Street Fund \$2,604,835.71; LOPFI Fund \$292,385.10; Act 833 Fund \$138,949.68; Airport Fund \$266,147.81. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$15,972,041.81. He also reported the following balances as of December 31, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$10,749,428.04; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$466,602.22; Court Automation Fund \$119,946.67; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$124,849.95. He also reported a total of \$9,635,770.64 year-to-date in City 0.50% and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$940,633.84 from the same time in 2022. Also reported was \$9,618,146.29 year-to-date in City 1.00% Sales Tax revenue received.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the reappointment of David Cole to a five-year term on the Searcy Airport Commission with the term set to expire on December 31, 2028. A motion was made Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the reappointment of David Cole to a five-year term on the Searcy Airport Commission with the term set to expire on December 31, 2028. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell.

Item (7) was for the reappointment to three-year terms on the Searcy Planning Commission with the terms set to expire on February 8, 2027 for the following:

- Mike Cleveland
- Larry DeGroat

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- Jamie Mobley

A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Raney to approve the reappointment of Mike Cleveland, Larry DeGroat, and Jamie Mobley to three-year terms on the Searcy Planning Commission with the terms set to expire on February 8, 2027. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale.

Item (8) on the agenda was for a review of the City of Searcy Governing Body procedures for calendar year 2024. City Attorney Will Moore explained that there are no changes to the procedures to be considered for 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Raney to acknowledge and approve that there are no changes to the procedures. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Hale. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, and Raney.

Item (9) was a request for funds in the amount of \$5,500.00 from the Engineering Department for a GPS Data Collector. City Engineer Mark Lane noted that the data collector has stopped working and that it is time for an upgrade for this. He also noted that the information provided with this piece of equipment is used by various departments across the city. Mayor Faulkner noted that this request for funds is included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (10) was request for funds from the Youth Baseball/Softball Department in the amounts of \$130,000.00 for baseball/softball field improvements and \$70,000.00 for equipment for the baseball and softball programs. Baseball/Softball Director Damon Johnson explained that he has researched companies that provide the sort of services needed on the existing baseball and softball fields. Companies were located in Dallas, Texas, St. Louis, Missouri, and Hardy, Arkansas. Also noted was the fact that the sports season is fast approaching and Mr. Johnson requested that the process of formal bidding for the field improvement services be waived by the Council. Mayor Faulkner noted that the appropriations for both items (9) and (10) are included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting as well as a resolution to enter into an agreement with Specialized Outdoor Services of Hardy, Arkansas.

Item (11) was a request to waive Boundary Street Improvements along a portion of Park Avenue for the proposed large-scale development for the Freeway Storage project. City Planner Richard Stafford noted that the city’s Code of Ordinances allows an option for the city to waive the cash in lieu or bond payment for the boundary street improvement along Park Avenue if the five-year requirement to hold the cash until improvement is made is not going to happen. Mr. Stafford also noted that the railroad tracks along the south side of Park Avenue is also a factor in not improving Park Avenue. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Morris to waive Boundary Street Improvements along a portion of Park Avenue for the proposed Freeway Storage project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

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Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to expend \$840,000.00 funds and to enter into an agreement with RL Persons Construction for the 2024 pedestrian/sidewalk improvement project. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the resolution for the authorization to expend \$840,000.00 in funds and to enter into an agreement with RL Persons Construction for the 2024 pedestrian/sidewalk improvement project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2024-01**

Item (13) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, specifically a 2010 Chevrolet in the Police Department. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg and Kirkman. **Resolution 2024-02**

Item (14) was a resolution for authorization to enter into an agreement with Pugh Communications LLC for marketing and communication services. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the resolution for authorization to enter into an agreement with Pugh Communications LLC for marketing and communication services. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. **Resolution 2024-03**

Item (15) was a resolution approving a certain agreement and authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Specialized Outdoor Services for renovations and improvements to the youth baseball and softball fields. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2024-04**

Item (16) on the agenda was an ordinance authorizing the name change of the Searcy Municipal Airport to Searcy Regional Airport. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2024-01**

Item (17) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Employee Handbook. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore then read

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the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg and Kirkman. **Ordinance 2024-02**

Item (18) on the agenda was a budget ordinance in the absence of an adopted budget for calendar year 2024 to:

Section 1. The following sums are appropriated in the absence of a budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas:

- a. Appropriate \$50,000.00 to ‘TRANSFER TO LOPFI FUND’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-38) in the General Fund and appropriate \$50,000.00 to ‘TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND’ revenue account (05 4-000-80-22) in the LOPFI Fund for payment of LOPFI obligation;
- b. Appropriate \$464,631.05 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT’ revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$464,631.05 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION’ expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for construction services on the new Library Building renovation project;
- c. Appropriate \$4,853.60 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT’ revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$4,853.60 to the ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION’ expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
- d. Appropriate \$13,517.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Engineering Department ‘COMPREHENSIVE FLOODPLAIN STUDY’ expenditure for engineering services for the comprehensive floodplain study;
- e. Appropriate \$5,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Engineering Department ‘GPS-GIS EQUIPMENT’ expenditure account (#01 5-130-53-02) for GPS Data Collector equipment;
- f. Appropriate \$130,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Baseball/Softball Department ‘FIELD IMPROVEMENT’ expenditure account (#01 5-087-05-01) for baseball and softball field improvements;
- g. Appropriate \$70,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the

Baseball/Softball Department 'TOOLS/EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-087-02-03) for baseball and softball field equipment;

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to expend the following sums:

- a. \$464,631.05 to Hart Construction, LLC for construction services for the new library renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- b. \$4,853.60 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- c. \$13,517.00 to Halff Associates, Inc. for engineering services for the comprehensive floodplain study (#01 5-130-06-06);
- d. \$130,000.00 to Specialized Outdoor Services for baseball and softball field improvements (#01 5-087-05-01);

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale. **Ordinance 2024-03**

Item (19) on the agenda was an ordinance adopting the budget for operation of the City of Searcy for the calendar year 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2024-04**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: February 13, 2024

/s/ Mat Faulkner
MAYOR OF SEARCY

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ATTEST:

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/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK
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