

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 5:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2023. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input in determining the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass cutting expenses and the abatement of other nuisances that have been incurred by the City of Searcy. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

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

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

City Attorney Will Moore presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of September 30, 2023: General Fund: \$11,765,962.34; Street Fund \$2,988,200.84; LOPFI Fund \$225,601.77; Act 833 Fund \$114,681.23; Airport Fund \$233,467.13. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$15,327,913.31. He also reported the following balances as of September 30, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$11,967,765.00; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$453,012.22; Court Automation Fund \$122,479.69; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$119,853.48. He also reported a total of \$7,156,673.86 year-to-date in City 0.50% and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$695,051.52 from the same time in 2022. Also reported was \$7,148,644.47 year-to-date in City 1.00% Sales Tax revenue received.

Item (5) was for the appointment of Tonia Hale to the Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission to fill an unexpired term previously held by Mike Chalenburg. The term is set to expire on April 30, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cargile to approve the appointment of Tonia Hale to the Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission with the term set to expire on April 30, 2024. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding the Flock System cameras and software for the Searcy Police Department. Mayor Faulkner noted that the amount for

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the cost of the system is included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (7) was for the authorization to accept the RFQ (Request for Qualification) listing for architectural and engineering on-call services. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to accept the RFQ listing for architectural and engineering services. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the authorization to negotiate a contract with Halff Engineering for floodplain studies services. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale for the authorization to negotiate a contract with Halff Engineering for floodplain studies services. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (9) was for the authorization to advertise for bids for the new dog park and basketball courts at the Carmichael Community Center. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize the advertisement for bids for the new dog park and basketball courts at the Carmichael Community Center. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the authorization to purchase commercial sanitation bins. The bins have a cost of \$33,369.49. Mayor Faulkner noted that the amount for the cost is included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (11) was for the authorization for the purchase of Power DMS accreditation software for the Police Department. The cost for the accreditation software is \$10,512.44. Mayor Faulkner noted that the amount for the cost is included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (12) on the agenda was for the authorization to purchase the Smith property located along South Main Street. The cost of the property will be \$25,000 per acre and there is approximately 57 acres in this property. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to authorize the purchase of the Smith property. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (13A) was for the presentation and acceptance of the City of Searcy Federal Funds Awards Single Audit Report for calendar year 2022. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to accept the Federal Funds Single Audit Report for calendar year 2022. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (13B) on the agenda was a Searcy Planning Commission request to proceed with work on a comprehensive land use plan. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to approve the request from the Planning Commission regarding a

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comprehensive land use plan. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (14) was a resolution for authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, vehicles in the Police Department. 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 authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, vehicles in the Police Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-53**

Item (15) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, Sanitation Department vehicles and equipment. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-54**

Item (16) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, Street Department equipment and vehicle. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-55**

Item (17) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform an agreement with Polk Stanley Wilcox for architectural and engineering design for the property on South Main Street and portions of the existing Sports Complex. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Mayor Faulkner noted that the cost of the services to be provided by Polk Stanley Wilcox will be \$119,853.48 and will come from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-56**

Mr. Kirkman arrived at the Council meeting at this time.

Item (18) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform an agreement for a Department of Justice/Justice Assistance Grant for patrolling city parks and bike trails. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-57**

Item (19) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement (Contract of Obligation) with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality for financial assurances related to the Searcy Compost Center and the Searcy Transfer Station. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Morris to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-58**

Item (20) was a resolution for the authorization to waive bidding, appropriate \$23,500, and to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with B. Lynn Design for animated holiday projections on the White County Courthouse. Mayor Faulkner noted that this will be a collaborative effort with the White County Quorum Court and the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission to share costs. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cargile to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-59**

Mr. Brewer arrived at the meeting at this time.

Item (21) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Kirkman to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney and Brewer. **Resolution 2023-60**

Item (22) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, replacing an appendix to Chapter 14 providing for a modification of Sanitation rates for residential and commercial users. 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney and Brewer. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney and Brewer. **Ordinance 2023-44**

Item (23) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to:

Section 1. The budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, is amended in the following manner:

- a. Appropriate \$14,860.00 to the General Fund ‘POLICE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$14,860.00 to the Police Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for the receipt and use of a donation from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to be used for AED’s;
- b. Appropriate \$23,500.00 to the Mayor’s Department ‘HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-09) for the Court House Lighting Project;
- c. Appropriate \$10,512.44 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘POWER DMS SOFTWARE’ expenditure account

- (#01 5-063-05-01) for Police Department accreditation software;
- d. Appropriate \$27,900 from General Funds unappropriated reserves to the Police Department expenditure account (#01 5-060-0-08) for Flock Safety Services;
 - e. Appropriate \$33,369.49 from General Funds unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department expenditure account (#01 5 090-05-03) for the purchase of 6 & 8 yard bins;

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

- a. \$27,510.07 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$116,841.97 to Hart Construction, LLC for construction services for the new library renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- c. \$10,512.44 to Power DMS for Police Department accreditation software (#01 5-063-05-01);
- d. \$19,450.00 to Davidson Engineering for SREDC Queensway Industrial Site Study (#01 5-010-05-40)
- e. \$27,900 to Flock Group, Inc. for Flock Safety Services (#01 5 060 -04-08)
- f. \$23,500.00 to B.Lynn Design for the Court House Lighting Project (#01 5-010-05-09)
- g. \$33,369.49 WasteEquip for the purchase of 6 & 8 yard bins (#01 5 090-05-03)
- h. \$5,001.24 to Hoffmann Architectural for Library Renovation Project Architectural Service (14 5-020-54-02)

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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney and Brewer. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, 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, Cargile, Hale, Raney and Brewer. **Ordinance 2023-45**

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At this time Mayor Faulkner opened the floor for more discussion regarding the intersection of Elm Street and Pleasure Avenue. This discussion centered around possibilities of some sort of traffic control such as a 4-way stop, traffic signals, among others. City Planner Richard Stafford noted that Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is going to be doing traffic studies throughout the city which will give better information as to traffic counts and traffic flow. Mayor Faulkner noted that as more information is gathered, he will relay this information to the Council.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: November 14, 2023

/s/ Mat Faulkner
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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