

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2023 5:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 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. Greg Gaddis gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Steven M. Cooper. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Brett Kirkman, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, and Dale Brewer. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore. Council member Mike Chalenburg was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (29) resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Searcy to utilize Federal-Aid Transportation Alternatives Program or Recreational Trails Program funds to develop or improve Riverside Park, (34-1-v) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for the receipt and use of White County and Advertising and Tourism Promotion funds for the White County Courthouse lighting project and (34-1-w) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for flooring repairs at the Lightle Senior Citizens Center. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cargile to suspend the rules and add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Kirkman.

The minutes of the regular October 10, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, and Morris.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report, which lists the following balances as of October 31, 2023: General Fund: \$13,055,897.77; Street Fund \$3,097,997.97; LOPFI Fund \$251,500.75; Act 833 Fund \$137,608.46; Airport Fund \$244,569.27. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$16,787,574.22. He also reported the following balances as of October 31, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$11,895,471.12; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$482,381.57; Court Automation Fund \$128,543.30; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$119,853.48. He also reported a total of \$7,967,004.41 year-to-date in City 0.50% and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$740,611.12 from the same time in 2022. Also reported was \$7,943,011.31 year-to-date in City 1.00% Sales Tax revenue received.

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Item (6) on the agenda was the recognition of Arkansas State Representative Les Eaves as a Distinguished Legislator. This recognition was presented by Jack Critcher, Legislative Liaison for the Arkansas Municipal League.

Item (7) was for the appointment of Clint Butler to fill a five-year term on the Searcy Housing Authority Board of Directors. This term is set to expire on March 30, 2028. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the appointment of Clint Butler to fill a five-year term on the Searcy Housing Authority Board of Directors. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell.

Item (8) on the agenda was for an update regarding the Sanitation Department recycling program. The discussion centered on the cost of the curbside recycling program and any possible changes that need to be made. Another part of the equation is the Sanitation Department is currently in the process of making the move to the new Sanitation facilities. All of the details for the relocation of the Sanitation Department is yet to be determined. The Council indicated that at this time not enough information has been presented to make a knowledgeable decision regarding this program. This item was tabled until more information could be obtained.

Item (9) was for an update regarding the Pleasure Avenue sidewalk project and for the approval to solicit for bids on the project. Engineer Bear Davidson explained that, as requested, he has added connecting sidewalk south down Sowell Street to the Southwest Middle School as a bid alternate at an estimated cost of \$35,000. He noted that this would bring the estimated cost fairly close to the \$750,000 that has been indicated to spend by the Council. Until the project goes out to bid the actual cost is unknown. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to authorize the solicitation of bids for the sidewalk project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (10) on the agenda was for setting a time and date for a public hearing regarding the closing and vacating of a portion of the Central Avenue right-of-way. Mrs Hale made a motion to set a time and date of December 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Searcy City Hall. Mr. Raney seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (11), (12), and (13) were for the approval for the appropriation and expenditure of the following amounts:

(11) \$2,454.53 for flooring at the Lightle Senior Citizens Center

(12) \$15,149.00 for solar powered lights for Berryhill Park

(13) \$5,500.00 for fiber connectivity for the new Parks and Recreation Department maintenance facility

Mayor Faulkner noted that these were included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

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Item (14) was for the approval regarding additional costs for Police Department AXON body cameras and tasers. These additional costs are associated with the Police Department having additional personnel that have been added since the original agreement with AXON was entered into. Mayor Faulkner noted that these additional costs were included in the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (15) on the agenda was for the discussion and approval regarding the IWorq Public Works and Citizen Engagement modules. The cost of this software would be \$13,000 annually. Information Technology Director Steven Gifford noted that he had done some research on offerings from differing companies and that in his opinion this IWorq software was the best offering especially since the city already uses IWorq software. The Code Enforcement Department already uses the IWorq software for the business license program and various permitting purposes for the City of Searcy. Council member Howell questioned the benefit of obtaining this software. The Council asked to have more information regarding this software. Mayor Faulkner noted that the cost of this software was included in the budget adjustment ordinance. He also noted that the budget adjustment ordinance can be amended to remove the appropriation for this software when the ordinance is considered later in the meeting.

Item (16) was for the approval to create a Drainage Crew Supervisor position. This position is to be filled by the current Engineer Assistant Jesse Galban. The position will have a salary of \$62,000 annually. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Kirkman, to approve the creation of the Drainage Crew Supervisor position. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (17) on the agenda for the approval to create a Street Crew Supervisor position. This position is to be filled by Sammy Watson, Jr. The position will have a salary of \$55,000 annually. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the creation of the Street Crew Supervisor position. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (18) was for the authorization to provide for a one-time bonus for city employees. This bonus would provide for a one-time bonus of \$2,000.00 to full-time city employees and a one-time bonus of \$750.00 to part-time city employees. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to authorize a one-time bonus for city employees. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Kirkman. Mayor Faulkner noted that there is a budget appropriation ordinance for the cost of this bonus to be considered later in the meeting.

Item (19) was for the discussion regarding paying down the compensable time accumulated by city employees. There was discussion regarding various ways to accomplish this. Mayor Faulkner stated that this would be tabled for further discussion until the December monthly Council meeting.

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Item (20) was for a presentation of a preliminary calendar year 2024 budget proposal. Mayor Faulkner noted that this is a starting point for establishing the budget for 2024.

Item (21) was a resolution to authorize the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically Police Department equipment. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the resolution to authorize the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically Police Department equipment. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, and Morris. **Resolution 2023-61**

Item (22) was a resolution to authorize the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically an Airport vehicle. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2023-62**

Item (23) was a resolution authorize the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically Swim Center equipment. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Raney to approve the resolution authorize the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically Swim Center equipment. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Resolution 2023-63**

Item (24) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Halff Engineering for comprehensive drainage studies. 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”: Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Resolution 2023-64**

Item (25) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Relativity, LLC for the acquisition of software for use by the Searcy Police Department. 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”: Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-65**

Item (26) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Express Evaluations. 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, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2023-66**

Item (27) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector 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

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and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Kirkman.

**Resolution 2023-67**

Item (28) was a resolution defining fixed assets and procedures for completing a capital asset schedule. 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”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, and Morris.

**Resolution 2023-68**

Item (29) was a resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Searcy to utilize Federal-Aid Transportation Alternatives Program or Recreational Trails Program funds to develop Riverside Park. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell.

**Resolution 2023-69**

Item (30) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the comprehensive plan and zoning code with respect to the zoning classification of land area located at 505 South Elm Street. This ordinance amends from Medium High Density Residential to Open Display Commercial and from R-1 (Multi-unit Residential) to C-4 (Open Display Commercial). A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Raney, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. 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”: Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2023-46**

Item (31) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances for rabies and identification tags. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, 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 Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Kirkman.

**Ordinance 2023-47**

Item (32) on the agenda was an ordinance appropriating funds for a one-time employee bonus. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, and Morris. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting

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“yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2023-48**

Item (33) on the agenda was an ordinance providing for the payout of accrued employee compensable time. From the discussion in item (19) on the agenda, this ordinance was not considered.

Item (34) 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 \$7,250.00 to ‘HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-10) and appropriate \$7,250.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department ‘HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-18) for the receipt and use of a donation for Holiday of Lights;
- b. Appropriate \$15,314.16 to ‘POLICE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$15,314.16 to the Police Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for the receipt and use of donations;
- c. Appropriate \$8,258.00 to the General Fund ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$8,258.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of donations;
- d. Appropriate \$4,183.56 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-13) disputed charges on the American Express card;
- e. Appropriate \$622,932.04 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to the Street Department ‘ISSUE #1 MUNICIPAL TURNBACK PAVING’ expenditure account (#02 5-900-05-15) for the 2023 street paving program;
- f. Appropriate \$27,535.29 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘BODY CAMERAS/TASERS’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-53-18) for the purchase of Police Department body cameras

- and tasers;
- g. Appropriate \$47,950.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'COMPUTER SOFTWARE/SUPPORT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-04-04) for Police Department RMS software;
  - h. Appropriate \$15,314.00 to the General Fund '15PBJA23GG03047 JAGX GRANT' revenue account (#01 4-000-99-62) and appropriate \$15,314.00 to the Fire Department '15PBJA23GG03047 JAGX GRANT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-56-35) for the receipt and use of grant funds for patrolling city parks and bike trails;
  - i. Appropriate \$8,524.29 from 0.25% Fire Protection Services Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'ENGINE 1 ENGINE REBUILD' expenditure account (#18 5-070-53-08) for an engine rebuild for Engine 1;
  - j. Appropriate \$15,149.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'BERRYHILL LIGHTING' expenditure account (#01 5-080-53-14) for solar lighting at Berryhill Park;
  - k. Appropriate \$5,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-080-02-01) for installing fiber connectivity to the new Parks maintenance facility;
  - l. Appropriate \$4,854.44 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund 'LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT' revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$4,854.44 to the 'LIBRARY RENOVATION' expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
  - m. Appropriate \$183,700.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Engineering Department 'COMPREHENSIVE FLOODPLAIN STUDY' expenditure account (#01 5-130-06-06);
  - n. Appropriate \$6,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT/SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-010-04-05);
  - o. Appropriate \$36,526.50 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to the

- Street Department 'SIDEWALKS' expenditure account (#02 5-900-54-02) for engineering services on the sidewalk improvement project;
- p. Appropriate \$119,853.48 from the American Recue Plan Act Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'ARCHITECT/ENGINEER DESIGN MAIN & SPORTS COMPLEX PROPERTY' (#21 5-010-05-02) for design services for the South Main Street property and portions of the existing Sports Complex;
- q. Appropriate \$1,427,410.75 from the General Fund unappropriated reserves to 'SMITH PROPERTY PURCHASE' expenditure account (#01 5-010-55-05) to purchase property on South Main Street;
- r. Appropriate from General Fund unappropriated reserves the following for the salary and associated costs for the Drainage Crew Supervisor/Assistant to the City Engineer position in the Engineering Department:
- #01 5-130-01-01 'SALARY' - \$755.80
  - #01 5-130-01-02 'SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE' - \$57.82
  - #01 5-130-01-05 'APERS RETIREMENT. - \$115.79
- s. Appropriate \$47,000.00 to the General Fund 'OTHER REIMBURSEMENT REVENUE' revenue account (#01 4-000-70-05) and appropriate \$47,000.00 to the Mayor's Department 'HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS' expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-09) for the receipt and use of White County and A&P Commission funds for the Court House Lighting Project;
- t. Appropriate \$2,424.53 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor Department 'LIGHTLE CENTER REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-010-02-13) for flooring repairs at the Lightle Senior Citizens Center;

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

- a. \$55,848.56 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$315,399.61 to Hart Construction, LLC for construction services for the new library renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);



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- c. \$8,150.00 to Davidson Engineering for SREDC Queensway Industrial Site Study (#01 5-010-05-40);
- d. \$4,183.56 to American Express for disputed charges (#01 5-060-05-13);
- e. \$622,932.04 to Delta Asphalt of Arkansas Inc. for the 2023 street paving program (#02 5-900-05-15);
- f. \$27,535.29 to Axon Enterprise Inc. for the purchase of Police Department body cameras and tasers (#01 5-060-53-18);
- g. \$47,950.00 to Relativity, Inc. for Police Department PSAP software (#01 5-060-04-04);
- h. \$15,314.00 to Independence County Off Road for the purchase of Police Department utility vehicle for patrolling city parks and bike trails (#01 5-060-56-35);
- i. \$48,524.29 to Emergency Repair of Arkansas for the rebuilding of the engine of Fire Department Engine 1 (#18 5-070-53-08);
- j. \$15,149.00 to SEPCO Solar Electric Power Company for Berryhill Park lighting (#01 5-080-53-14);
- k. \$4,854.44 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- l. \$183,700.00 to Half Engineering for comprehensive floodplain studies (#01 5-130-06-06);
- m. \$6,500.00 to Express Evaluations, Inc. for employee evaluation software (#01 5-010-04-05);
- n. \$36,526.50 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services on the sidewalk improvement project (#02 5-900-54-02);
- o. \$119,853.48 to Polk Stanley Wilcox for design services for the South Main Street property and portions of the existing Sports Complex;

From the discussion on item (15) on the agenda, a motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to amend the budget ordinance to remove the appropriations for costs associated with the IWorq Public Works and Citizen Engagement software. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer, 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, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

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Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Raney, 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”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Kirkman.

**Ordinance 2023-49**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: December 12, 2023

/s/ Mat Faulkner  
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

Seal