

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, November 8, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022. 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 Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Dale Brewer gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Tonia Hale. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

The minutes of the regular October 11, 2022 meeting of the Council and the minutes of the special October 19, 2022 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of October 31, 2022: General Fund: \$7,151,338.12; Street Fund \$3,674,923.41; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,881.67; LOPFI Fund \$182,519.71; Act 833 Fund \$102,180.48; Airport Fund \$182,719.72. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$11,311,563.11. He also reported the following balances as of October 31, 2022: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$15,063,007.78; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$387,101.36; Court Automation Fund \$80,888.39; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,594,043.51. He also reported a total of \$7,226,393.29 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$492,105.92 from the same time in 2021.

Item (5) on the agenda was for discussion regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a sewer project in cooperation with Searcy Water Utilities. A map showing the location of the intended improvements had been provided to the Council. Mr. Raney and Mr. Morris both stated that this is a very good use of the ARPA funds in that it would provide a lasting benefit to the City of Searcy. Mr. Morris asked Mr. Dan Dawson of the Searcy Water Utilities if he understood it correctly that this intended project would provide the remaining households and businesses that do not have an available connection to the city sewer system the availability to connect to the sewer system. Mr. Dawson said that would be correct. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the use of \$2,000,000.00 to undertake a sewer

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project with Searcy Water Utilities. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Item (6) was for discussion regarding authorized signers for all of the City of Searcy bank accounts. The Council has been made aware that with the retirement of Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Lillie Cook, the City of Searcy will need to remove her as a signer and now has only three (3) authorized signers for the city’s accounts. The three authorized signers consist of Mayor Kyle Osborne, Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris, and Human Resources Manager Kim Gordon. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to approve the removal of Lillie Cook as an authorized signer and acknowledging that there are now three authorized signers for city accounts. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the appointment of Marco Orozco to an unfilled term on the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion (A&P) Commission, with the term set to expire on April 30, 2025. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the appointment of Marco Orozco to an unfilled term on the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (8) was for setting a time and date for public hearings regarding the declaration of a nuisance property for three (3) properties located in the City of Searcy. The three properties are as follows:

- 103 South Greer Street
- 401 West Woodruff Avenue
- 600 North Spruce Street

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to set a time of 6:00 p.m. on December 13, 2022 at Searcy City Hall (prior to the regular December 2022 City Council meeting). Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (9) on the agenda was for discussion regarding a request from Searcy First Baptist Church for the City of Searcy to vacate a portion of South Spruce Street (between West Center Avenue and West Pleasure Avenue) and also for setting a time and date for a public hearing regarding this request. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to set a date of December 13, 2022 prior to the regular December Council meeting and following the previous agenda item’s called public hearings. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (10) on the agenda was for discussion regarding a request from First Security Bank for the City of Searcy to vacate a portion of East Vine Avenue (between North Spring Street and North Main Street) and also for setting a time and date for a public hearing regarding this request. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to set a date of December 13, 2022 prior to the regular December Council meeting and

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following the previous agenda item's called public hearings. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (11) was a resolution to approve 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. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve 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. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Resolution 2022-39

Item (12) was a resolution authorizing the execution and performance of a certain agreement with Pugh Communications, LLC for the management of the City of Searcy website, social media, and media relations. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2022-40**

Item (13) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Code of Ordinances, specifically amending the building permit application requirements. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, 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, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. Mr. Gibson 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": Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson 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": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2022-35**

Item (14) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area within the city, real property located at 1720 Queensway Street, 1800 Queensway Street, and 1900 Brack Street from I-2 (Heavy Industrial) to C-4 (Regional and 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": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Gibson 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": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2022-36**

Item (15) 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 \$411,525.00 to the Airport Fund ‘AIRPORT FUEL’ revenue account (#12 4-000-60-01), and appropriate \$90,382.00 to the Airport Fund ‘AV GAS’ expenditure account (#12 5-040-05-01), and \$252,321.00 to the Airport Fund ‘JET A FUEL’ expenditure account (#12 5-040-05-02) to correct line items for fuel sales and purchases;
- b. Appropriate \$3,595.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘DISCRETIONARY FUNDS’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-04);
- c. Appropriate \$11,850.00 to the General Fund ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$11,850.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for donations to the Fire Department;
- d. Appropriate \$6,952.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘VEHICLE EQUIPMENT’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-03-03) for replacement of Police vehicle rooftop light bars;
- e. Appropriate \$430,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department ‘SIDE-ARM SANITATION TRUCKS’ expenditure account (#14 5-090-53-01) for the acquisition of two 2021 side-arm residential trash trucks;
- f. Appropriate \$306,700.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department ‘OVERHEAD SANITATION TRUCK’ expenditure account (#14 5-090-53-03) for the acquisition of a 2023 Mack front loader overhead truck;
- g. Appropriate \$1,330.25 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT’ revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$1,330.25 to the ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION’ expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
- h. Appropriate \$580.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the

Black House 'RESTORATION/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-083-05-02) for architectural services on the Black House restoration/repair project;

- i. Appropriate \$788.85 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'UNIFORMS' expenditure account (#01 5-060-01-07) for uniforms reimbursed through the STEP grant;
- j. Appropriate \$2,772.78 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'VEHICLE EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-03-03) for Lidar Radar equipment reimbursed through the STEP grant;
- k. Transfer \$6,500.00 from the Parks and Recreation Department Black House 'BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIR' expenditure account (#01 5-083-02-01) to the Parks and Recreation Department 'GROUNDS MAINTENANCE' expenditure account (#01 5-080-02-06);

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

- a. \$58,790.60 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$6,952.00 to Paragould Communications, Inc. for replacement Police vehicle rooftop light bars (#01 5-060-03-03);
- c. \$430,000.00 to River City Hydraulics Inc. for the acquisition of two 2021 side-arm residential trash trucks (#14 5-090-53-01);
- d. \$306,700.00 to River City Hydraulics Inc. for the acquisition of a 2023 Mack front loader overhead trash truck (#14 5-090-53-03);
- e. \$1,330.25 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#01 5-020-54-02);
- f. \$580.00 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the Black House restoration/repairs project (#01 5-083-05-02);

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": Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson 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, Chalenburg, and

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Cothorn. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Ordinance 2022-37**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: December 13, 2022

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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