

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

Due to the absence of Mayor Kyle Osborne, Council member Don Raney opened the Regular Session City Council meeting by stating that in the event that the Mayor of the City is unavailable, the City Council shall elect a president pro tempore to preside over the Council meeting. Mr. Raney called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Council member Logan Cothorn was not present. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson. Mr. Raney then made a motion to elect City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris to preside over the regular Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. David Morris. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 8, 2022. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input in regard to a declaration of a nuisance property located at 207 East Center Avenue. Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Clerk Morris closed the public hearing.

City Clerk Jerry Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Tim Wachstetter gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Rodger Cargile.

The minutes of the regular January 11, 2022 meeting of the Council and the special January 28, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Raney to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 1-31-2022: General Fund: \$4,038,873.90; Street Fund \$2,875,927.86; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,879.03; LOPFI Fund \$206,140.64; Act 833 Fund \$97,503.30; Airport Fund \$203,993.33. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$7,440,318.06. He also reported the following balances as of 1-31-2022: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$329,946.63; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$13,056,516.25; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$265,551.26; Court Automation Fund \$56,344.37; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,130,749.60. He also reported a total of \$751,326.38 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$130,840.92 from the same time in 2021.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the authorization to seek bids for phase II of the renovation of the American Legion building. Barry Hoffmann (Hoffmann Architectural) indicated to the Council that the plans for the phase II are ready to put out for bids. These plans include everything to bring the building into a working facility. He noted that if authorized, the first publication for seeking bids would be on February 13, 2022 with the

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second required publication on February 20, 2022. The bid opening for phase II is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, for authorization to seek bids for the phase II of the renovation of the American Legion building. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Morris.

Item (6) was for continuing discussion regarding speed awareness trailers for the Searcy Police Department. Police Chief Steve Hernandez noted that they are an effective tool in the control of excessive speeding and that it would take approximately 60 days from the time ordered to receive the trailer(s). He also noted that the cost of one (1) trailer is \$11,427 which included tax and delivery. Mr. Gibson noted that if more than one trailer is purchased, this would be subject to have to be put out for bid. Mr. Gibson also stated that the Council does have the option to waive bidding with proper reasoning. Chief Hernandez stated that the Police Department had done some inquiring and that some trailers would cost up to \$15,000 to \$20,000 each and that they had determined that the trailers available from Kustom Signals, Inc. would be the best choice for their needs. Mr. Raney noted that complaints made to him about speeding amount to one of the most numerable type of complaints he receives (especially in school zones) and that he would consider this to be an emergency situation. Mr. Raney stated that considering that the Police Department currently has no operable speed awareness trailers, that they are an effective speed deterrent tool, and that the Police Department has determined the trailers from Kustom Signals is the best choice for their needs he would move that the Council waive the competitive bidding process and order three (3) speed awareness trailers from Kustom Signals. Mr. Morris seconded the motion with the funding for these trailers coming from the City of Searcy General Fund. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, and Howell.

Item (7) was a resolution to declare certain real property located at 207 East Center Avenue a nuisance and directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the resolution declaring certain real property located at 207 East Center Avenue a nuisance and directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Resolution 2022-05**

Item (8) was a resolution for authorization enter into an agreement with Miller Newell Engineers concerning the construction of certain improvements (taxiway and sign lighting) to the Searcy Municipal Airport. 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”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Resolution 2022-06**

Item (9) was a resolution for authorization apply for a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission, to aid and assist in the construction of new taxiway and sign lighting. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution.

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Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2022-07**

Before proceeding to item (10), Mr. Morris stated that at the conclusion of the agenda meeting held on February 7, 2022 due to inclement weather, there was discussion regarding the viability of the Street Department equipment needed for inclement weather. He stated that in particular he was concerned with the salt and sand spreaders. City Engineer Mark Lane said that they had problems with the road grader and the truck with the spreader equipment which are fixable. He further explained that the spreader currently in use is getting old in age and due to the fact that it is used in a very corrosive environment it also has problems. Also, the fact that it is mounted on a larger dump style truck, it is not user friendly at street intersections and tighter areas. Ideally the Street Department would have a spreader that could be mounted in the rear of a pick-up style truck. Mr. Lane said he has briefly inquired into the cost of pick-up truck mounted spreaders and it was in the neighborhood of \$6,000 to \$8,000 each. Mr. Morris made a motion to suspend the rules and add to the agenda the authorization to purchase two (2) pick-up mounted salt/sand spreaders. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brewer. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to authorize the ordering of two (2) pick-up mounted salt/sand spreaders for the Street Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (10) 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 \$1,000.00 to General Fund ‘POLICE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$1,000.00 to Police Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for the receipt and use of a donation for improvement of the firing range;
- b. Appropriate \$99,113.50 from Special 1% Connector Route Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS’ expenditure account (#13 5-900-54-03) for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project;
- c. Appropriate \$5,794.25 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘REPAIRS AMERICAN LEGION HUT’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-05-21) for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project;
- d. Appropriate \$39,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated

reserves to the 'SOUTH SAWMILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-07) for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project;

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

- a. \$44,197.86 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. Transfer \$100,000.00 from the City of Searcy 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund to the City of Searcy LOPFI Fund for payment of LOPFI Retirement obligation (#14 5-190-05-04);
- c. \$6,628.50 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- d. \$99,113.50 to Township Builders, Inc., for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- e. \$5,794.25 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project (#01 5-010-05-21);
- f. \$39,000.00 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-07);

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Raney, 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, and Morris. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2022-03**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: March 8, 2022

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK
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