

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, October 8, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Alderman Mike Chalenburg gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Alderman Dale Brewer. City Clerk Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Aldermen answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, JR Howard, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Prior to the conducting of agenda business, a public hearing regarding a rate adjustment for water and sewer services for residential, commercial, and industrial users was conducted. After hearing no comments regarding this issue, the meeting’s attention was turned to the items on the agenda.

The minutes of the regular September 10, 2013 meeting of the Council and the minutes of the special September 13, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the minutes of both the regular meeting of September 10, 2013 and the special meeting of September 13, 2013. The following voted to approve: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 09-30-2013: General Fund: \$1,324,921.22; Street Fund \$1,094,347.49; Capital Equipment Fund \$195,912.61; LOPFI Fund \$130,222.74; Parks & Recreation Capital Fund \$0.00 (this account has been closed); Act 833 Fund \$27,478.63; Airport Projects Fund \$1,157.69; Special Highway Tax Fund \$8,053,358.12. He also reported a total of \$4,942,052.74 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$114,057.91 from the same time in 2012. The total of all funds (excluding special highway tax fund) is \$2,774,040.38.

Item (5) on the agenda was a Capital Equipment purchase request by the Sanitation Department for a boom loader brush truck. Specifications for the truck have been determined with an estimated cost of around \$125,000.00, to be paid out of the Capital Equipment Fund (fund 04). A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn to proceed with obtaining bids for the proposed purchase of the boom loader brush truck. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the consideration of a year-end bonus for the employees of the City of Searcy. Following discussions during the 2013 budget adoption process, the City Council recommended, if cash flow allows, the awarding of two (2) separate bonuses to the employees of the City of Searcy during the 2013 calendar year. A first bonus for employees was authorized by the Council and done in the month of July 2013

and the recommendation was that, if possible, a second bonus be given around the time of Thanksgiving. It was reported and recommended by Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris that, warranted by cash flow, an ordinance for an employee bonus would be presented to the Council at the regular Council meeting of November 12, 2013. It was also noted that if the ordinance is approved, the bonus checks could be readied for distribution to employees on the regular payroll date of November 22, 2013. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English to bring forward at the regular November 12, 2013 Council meeting an ordinance to authorize a second employee bonus, as allowable by cash flow considerations. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

Item (7) on the agenda was a discussion regarding the City of Searcy's policy of filing liens pertaining to clean-up expenses. A form was prepared and presented to the Council by City Attorney Gibson to be used for the filing of liens pertaining to clean-up expenses incurred by the City of Searcy. Mr. Gibson advised that no action was needed by the Council and that this would be taken care of administratively.

Item (8) on the agenda was a resolution declaring certain real property located at 300 West Woodruff Avenue in the City of Searcy a nuisance. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. **Resolution 2013-22**

Item (9) on the agenda was the continued proposed home solicitation ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, for the regulation/prohibition of certain door-to-door solicitation. From discussion, it had been decided by the Council that the ordinance would be tabled until a future council meeting. The Council was informed that the ordinance was still in the process of being worked on by City Attorney Gibson.

Item (10) on the agenda was an ordinance providing for a modification of water and sewer rates for residential, commercial, and industrial users as proposed by the Searcy Board of Public Utilities. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Howard, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2013-30**

Item (11) 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 \$2,000.00 to Parks and Recreation Carmichael Community Center 'CENTER PROGRAMS' expenditure account (01 5-081-05-02) for donation from Wal-Mart toward expenditures pertaining to employee appreciation lunch;

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

- a. \$64,575.11 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments and other miscellaneous expenditures;
- b. \$20,000.00 to the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation (SREDC) for the first one-half of annual payment agreement remittance;

A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cothern, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothern, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothern. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothern, and Arnett. **Ordinance 2013-31**

Item (12) on the agenda was an update on the immediate and future needs of the City of Searcy. A reminder was given by Mayor Morris that there would be a Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, and also, if needed, Monday, October 14, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.. Mayor Morris explained the process that has taken place for identifying the immediate and future needs for the City of Searcy and the associated estimated costs of fulfilling these needs. Mayor Morris proposed that the time has come to begin discussion on a funding mechanism for satisfying the identified needs.

Item (13) on the agenda was a report on Airport Day held on October 8, 2013 at the Searcy Municipal Airport. It was noted by Alderman Howard that this was the eleventh (11th) year for this event and that this event was a good success and is a very good thing for the City of Searcy and the Searcy Municipal Airport.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: November 12, 2013

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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