

**Searcy City Council – Special Session**  
**March 28, 2014 12:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor David Morris called to order a Special Session of the Searcy City Council. Alderman Don Raney 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”: Mary Ann Arnett, J R Howard, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer, and Mike Chalenburg. Alderman Logan Cothorn was not present. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was for discussion regarding the Capital Equipment Fund budget for 2014 and amendments to the General Fund budget. A full listing of the requests that were received from the city’s departments was supplied to the Council members and had an estimated total cost of \$1,085,104.00. Mayor Morris explained that with the limited funding available for the Capital Equipment Fund, the items presented as recommendations to be funded represent the most pressing needs from the submissions received of the various city departments. The recommendations to be funded in the Capital Equipment Fund budget, as follows, have an estimated total cost of \$218,928.00.

- a) Appropriate \$10,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Mayor Department capital equipment expenditure account for Parking Lot Improvements Spruce & Center / Downtown projects (04 5-810-53-02);
- b) Appropriate \$8,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Mayor Department capital equipment expenditure account for Repairs/Improvements American Legion Hut (04 5-810-53-03);
- c) Appropriate \$50,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to District Court Department capital equipment expenditure account for Contexte Conversion (04 5-850-53-01);
- d) Appropriate \$52,928.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Parks and Recreation Department capital equipment expenditure account for Tractor - Mowing (04 5-880-53-18);
- e) Appropriate \$12,500.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Parks and Recreation Department capital equipment expenditure account for Brush Hog - Batwing (04 5-880-53-19);
- f) Appropriate \$34,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Parks and Recreation Department capital equipment expenditure account for Front Deck Mowers (04 5-880-53-08);

- g) Appropriate \$11,500.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Sanitation Department capital equipment expenditure account for 4,6,8 Yard Dumpsters (04 5-890-53-13);
- h) Appropriate \$40,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Information Technology Department capital equipment expenditure account for Fiber Optic Core Switches (04 5-960-53-02);

The recommendations also include appropriations to the General Fund budget in the amount of \$34,000.00 and are as follows:

- i) Appropriate \$9,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Airport expenditure account for Wetland Mitigation – Borrow Pit South End (01 5-040-02-11);
- j) Appropriate \$10,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Parks and Recreation Department expenditure account for Sign Materials (01 5-080-02-14);
- k) Appropriate \$15,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Sanitation Department expenditure account for Service/Repairs (01 5-090-03-01) for repairs to Loader at Compost Center;

Mayor Morris pointed out that the proposed recommendations do not include an important need, that being the need for a loader for the Compost Center. The city-owned loader is not in service because of a ruined motor, with that being a result of being undersized for the job it is required to do. Currently the loader being used at the Compost Center is on loan from the Searcy Board of Public Utilities (Searcy Water and Sewer Department). Mayor Morris asked for the Council to also take into consideration the possible acquisition of a track-hoe type of loader similar to the loader currently on loan from the Searcy Water and Sewer department.

Mayor Morris asked for the Council to make note that items (d), (e), (f), and (k) are considered by administration to be immediate needs and are therefore of high priority. The remaining items are not as pressing and can be delayed until later in the year.

Mayor Morris also asked the Council to take into consideration the possibility of entering into a leasing program for the front deck mowers, listed as item (f) in the recommendations, instead of an outright purchase. City Attorney Buck Gibson pointed out that this leasing program is a true leasing program (operating lease) as opposed to a capital leasing program (ownership interest or ability to attain ownership interest). Searcy Parks and Recreation Director Brian Smith explained that the eight (8) mowers currently in use are an average age of 4 to 5 years which results in an excessively high amount of maintenance costs. Mr. Whit Birdsong of Henard Utility Products explained a sample leasing program available to municipalities along with the costs associated with this program.

Mr. Raney expressed his desire to be able to have more time to examine the information that has been presented. Mr. Gibson explained that this discussion can be tabled until the pre-council agenda meeting scheduled for April 3, 2014, but that any action to be taken would have to be done either at a special called meeting or referred to the regular Council meeting scheduled for April 8, 2014. Mr. Raney asked that more information regarding a lease program for the front deck mowers and for the track-hoe loader needed at the Compost Center be provided. Mr. Sterling then made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to table this discussion until the April 3, 2014 pre-council agenda meeting to allow for more time to examine the information that has been presented as well as any new information that may be obtained. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: April 8, 2014

/s/ David Morris  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

Seal