

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

An announced public hearing was held prior to the start of the regular December 8, 2015 City Council meeting. This public hearing was held for the purpose of 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. No person came forward to speak regarding the determination of 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 David Morris closed the public hearing.

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

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (12) review and discussion of bids received for construction of football concessions/restroom facility, (13) update on progress of the new swimming pool, (15) authorization to bid Downtown Beautification project, (16) resolution for authorization to convey certain property (BJ Services property), (19) resolution – new Exhibit A attachment with revised lien listing, (20) resolution for acceptance of certain deductive alternates concerning construction of fiber optic network, (21-1-g) budget ordinance appropriation for construction costs on replacement Main Street bridge, (21-1-h) budget ordinance appropriation for receipt of airport ‘EROSION CONTROL/UTILITIES’ grant reimbursement, (21-1-i) budget ordinance appropriation for receipt of airport ‘SOUTH HANGAR DEVELOPMENT FILL/DRAINAGE’ grant reimbursement, (21-1-j) budget ordinance appropriation for Sanitation department vehicle parts expenses, (21-1-k) budget ordinance appropriation for Sanitation department tub grinder (Beast) expenses, (21-1-l) budget ordinance appropriation for Fire department building maintenance/repairs expenses, (21-1-m) budget ordinance appropriation for Fire department vehicle service/repairs expenses, (21-2-j) budget ordinance expenditure authorization change to fuel bill, (20-2-k) budget ordinance expenditure authorization for Main Street Deener Creek replacement bridge, and (20-2-l) budget ordinance expenditure authorization for 2015 street paving program;

The minutes of the regular November 10, 2015 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

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Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer's Report which lists the following balances as of 11-30-15: General Fund: \$2,153,404.45; Street Fund \$1,458,525.36; Capital Equipment Fund \$22,370.25; LOPFI Fund \$173,949.02; Act 833 Fund \$95,951.99; Airport Projects Fund \$1,184.49; Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$8,071,815.84; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$3,272,493.13; Information Technology Projects Fund \$453,064.93; Special Projects Fund \$3,739.01. He also reported a total of \$5,655,398.80 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$134,687.15 from the same time in 2014. The total of all funds (excluding the Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund, the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund, the Information Technology Projects Fund, and the Special Projects Fund) is \$3,905,385.56.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Donnie Miller to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Board of Public Utilities with the term set to expire on December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Mrs. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Sterling, for the reappointment of Donnie Miller to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Board of Public Utilities with the term set to expire on December 31, 2020. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Freda Morgan, Lillie Cook, and Sue Ekdahl to three (3) year terms on the Searcy Tree Board with the terms set to expire on December 31, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, for the reappointment of Freda Morgan, Lillie Cook, and Sue Ekdahl to three (3) year terms on the Searcy Tree Board with the terms set to expire on December 31, 2018. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Laura Hoffman, Melinda Stake, and Teri Faust to six (6) year terms on the Searcy Library Board with the terms set to expire on December 31, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, for the reappointment of Laura Hoffman, Melinda Stake, and Teri Faust to six (6) year terms on the Searcy Library Board with the terms set to expire on December 31, 2021. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English.

Item (9) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Marvin (Jay) Moore to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Airport Commission with the term set to expire on December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sterling, for the reappointment of Marvin (Jay) Moore to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Airport Commission with the term set to expire on December 31, 2020. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney.

Item (10) was for the presentation of the appraisals of the two (2) city-owned properties that are involved in the relocation of Fire Station 2 project. The appraisals were sought for the possible sale of these properties. City Engineer Mark Lane noted that the

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appraisal on the Market Avenue property was \$75,000.00 to \$100,000.00 and the appraisal on the vacant Moore Avenue property was \$260,000.00 to \$290,000.00. Mayor Morris and Mr. Lane were instructed to use these appraisal figures as a starting point for negotiations with interested parties in the purchase of these properties. It was also noted that it should be made clear that the Market Avenue property would not be available for use until the relocation of Fire Station 2 is completed in that it will still be in use until the relocation is complete.

Item (11) on the agenda was for the authorization to apply the Council approved 2% COLA for city employees for calendar year 2016 to the pay period beginning December 27, 2015. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg for authorization to apply the Council approved 2% COLA for city employees for calendar year 2016 to the pay period beginning December 27, 2015. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (12) was for the review and discussion of the bids that were received for the construction of the football concessions/restroom facility at the Searcy Sports Complex. A total of four (4) bids were received. The bids were as follows:

- Delk Construction Co. - \$298,000.00
- Shields & Associates, Inc. - \$360,000.00
- Ross Sparks Builders, Inc. - \$349,740.00
- Dayco Construction, Inc. - \$377,000.00

All four bids exceeded the amount that had been allocated in the 2014 Eight Year Plan for the project. The amount allocated in the plan was for \$242,800.00. Mayor Morris noted that his recommendation would be to re-bid the project since all bids received were above the budgeted amount. Mayor Morris and City Engineer Mark Lane stated this would be their recommendation because they both had been approached by other contractors that did not bid and have shown interest in placing a bid on the project. Mr. Lane said he would also like to explore the possibility of some of the work being done by the city. Mr. Lane also noted that he would look at the construction plans to possibly find some things where some money could be saved. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. English, to reject the four bids that were received and to re-bid the construction project. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (13) on the agenda was an update on the progress of the new swimming pool plans. Mr. Gerry Avery from ETC Engineering (the engineering firm selected for the swimming pool project) noted that the project plans (construction drawings) would be 90% complete at the end of January 2016 and would be ready to go out for bid in April of 2016. Mr. Raney stated that he thought that this process was taking too long and Mr. English agreed. Mr. Avery noted that they are struggling with providing the type of facility requested and keeping the cost within the budgeted amount. Mr. Raney stated that he appreciated that but he did not feel, even though it appears to be making up time now, that the planning did not get off to a quick enough start.

Item (14) was for the authorization to transfer funds for establishing a stand-alone fund for the Searcy Municipal Airport, as has been encouraged by the Federal Aviation Administration. A transfer of funding will be necessary to supplement the Airport fund because of the fact that revenue produced by the Airport is insufficient to cover the budgeted expenditures. A motion was made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to authorize the transfer of supplementary funds as necessary to cover the budgeted expenditures of the Searcy Municipal Airport. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Item (15) on the agenda was for the authorization to solicit bids for the Downtown Beautification Project. City Engineer Mark Lane recommends moving forward with the solicitation of bids for this project which will be funded through the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund. He stated that Whitlow Engineering Services, the engineering firm selected for this project, has finished the project plans and that they are ready to be put out for bid. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to authorize the solicitation of bids for the Downtown Beautification project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Item (16) was a resolution for the authorization to determine whether the bonds on the property known as the BJ Services, USA property have been satisfied and retired and, if so, to execute a special warranty deed (or similar instrument) to convey the property to BJ Services, USA. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Howard for the authorization to determine whether the bonds on property known as the BJ Services, USA property have been satisfied and retired and, if so, to execute a special warranty deed (or similar instrument) to convey the property to BJ Services, USA. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. **Resolution 2015-42**

Item (17) was a resolution for the abandonment of a fully utilized asset (namely a Generac Generator previously used at Fire Station 3). Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. English to approve the resolution for the abandonment of a fully utilized asset (namely a Generac Generator previously used at Fire Station 3). Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling.

Resolution 2015-43

Item (18) was a resolution to establish certain items on the schedule of fixed assets, namely to reflect a modification of the capital assets known as the IP Phone System. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Sterling to approve the resolution to establish certain items on the schedule of fixed assets, namely to reflect a modification of the capital assets known as the IP Phone System. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. **Resolution 2015-44**

Item (19) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy 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. Raney and seconded by Mr. Howard to approve the resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney.

Resolution 2015-45

Item (20) was a resolution for acceptance of certain deductive alternates concerning installation and construction of fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Howard to pass the resolution for acceptance of certain deductive alternates concerning installation and construction of fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer.

Resolution 2015-46

Item (21) 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 \$40,000.00 to General Fund ‘GIF-RIALTO THEATER REVITALIZATION’ revenue account (#01 4-000-97-04) and appropriate \$40,000.00 to Mayor’s department ‘GIF-RIALTO THEATER REVITALIZATION’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-56-08) for receipt and use of General Improvement Fund grant for revitalization of the Rialto Theater;
- b. Appropriate \$305,218.20 from Information Technology Projects Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘FIBER OPTIC NETWORK CONSTRUCTION’ expenditure account (#15 5-160-05-01) for construction services on fiber network;
- c. Appropriate \$3,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Mayor’s department ‘PROPERTY APPRAISAL’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-02-14) for property appraisals on Market Avenue Fire Station 2 property (\$1,800.00) and East Moore Avenue property (\$1,200.00);
- d. Appropriate \$8,298.72 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated

- reserves to 'FAA 30500570222015 CRACK REPAIR' grant expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-05) for engineering services on the 90/10 Federal Aviation Administration 2015 crack repair grant;
- e. Appropriate \$126,828.80 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'FAA 30500570222015 CRACK REPAIR' grant expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-05) for construction services on the 90/10 Federal Aviation Administration 2015 crack repair grant;
 - f. Appropriate \$5,000.00 to 'POLICE DONATIONS' revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$5,000.00 to Police department 'BODY CAMERAS' expenditure account (#01 5-060-53-18) for the receipt and use of a donation that was received for the purchase of body cameras for the Police department;
 - g. Appropriate \$44,650.00 to Special 1% Connector Route Tax Fund 'MAIN STREET DEENER CREEK BRIDGE' expenditure account (#13 5-900-54-01) for construction work on the Main Street Deener Creek replacement bridge;
 - h. Appropriate \$73,271.00 to 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund 'ADA EROSION CONTROL/UTILITIES' revenue account (#14 4-000-98-01) for receipt of partial reimbursement on 90/10 Arkansas Department of Aeronautics Airport grant;
 - i. Appropriate \$195,976.96 to 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund 'ADA SOUTH HANGAR DEVELOPMENT FILL/DRAINAGE' revenue account (#14 4-000-98-02) for receipt of final reimbursement on 80/20 Arkansas Department of Aeronautics Airport grant;
 - j. Appropriate \$15,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Sanitation department 'VEHICLE PARTS' expenditure account (#01 5-090-03-02) for repairs to Sanitation vehicles;
 - k. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Sanitation department 'SUPPLIES-TUB GRINDER' expenditure account (#01 5-090-02-16) for repairs to the Beast grinder;
 - l. Appropriate \$6,523.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Fire

department 'BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-070-02-01) for the replacement of the fire panel at the Central Fire Station;

- m. Appropriate \$6,035.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Fire department 'VEHICLE SERVICE/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-070-03-01) for repairs to Fire Department vehicles;

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

- a. \$305,218.20 to Crittco Cable & Fiber, Inc. for construction services for the fiber optic network project (#15 5-160-05-01);
- b. \$3,000.00 to Arkansas Appraisal Associates for Market Avenue and East Moore Avenue property appraisals (#01 5-010-02-14);
- c. \$8,298.72 to Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. for engineering services on the 90/10 Federal Aviation Administration 2015 crack repair grant (#14 5-040-56-05);
- d. \$126,828.80 to Cox Paving for construction services on the 90/10 Federal Aviation Administration 2015 crack repair grant (#14 5-040-56-05);
- e. \$487.42 to Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. for engineering services on Federal Aviation Administration 'FAA ACCESS ROAD, CRACK REPAIR'; AIP#3-05-0057-021-2014 grant at the Searcy Municipal Airport (#14 5-040-56-02);
- f. \$85.00 to Grubbs, Hoskyn, Barton, & Wyatt, Inc., Consulting Engineers for construction materials testing services on Federal Aviation Administration 'FAA ACCESS ROAD, CRACK REPAIR'; AIP#3-05-0057-021-2014 grant at the Searcy Municipal Airport (#14 5-040-56-02);
- g. \$42,338.70 to Redstone Construction Group, Inc. for construction services on Federal Aviation Administration 'FAA ACCESS ROAD, CRACK REPAIR'; AIP#3-05-0057-021-2014 grant at the Searcy Municipal Airport (#14 5-040-56-02);
- h. \$34,900.45 to Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. for engineering services on Arkansas Department of Aeronautics 'ADA SPECIAL GRANT/CRACK

REPAIR, PAVING’ grant at the Searcy Municipal Airport (#14 5-040-56-04);

- i. \$164,098.54 to Cox Paving for construction services on Arkansas Department of Aeronautics ‘ADA SPECIAL GRANT/CRACK REPAIR, PAVING’ grant at the Searcy Municipal Airport (#14 5-040-56-04);
- j. \$5,560.26 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- k. \$44,650.00 to Seagraves Construction, Inc. for construction work on the Main Street Deener Creek replacement bridge (#13 5-900-54-01);
- l. Up to \$1,200,000.00 for expenditures for the 2015 street paving program;

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, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. **Ordinance 2015-34**

The Mayor announced that city offices will be closed December 24-25, 2015 for the Christmas holiday and January 1, 2016 for New Year’s.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: January 12, 2016

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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