

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Doug Grimes of the White County Ministerial Alliance gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Buck Layne of the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce. City Clerk Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson. Council members J.R. Howard and Dale Brewer were not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (10) discussion regarding the Riverside Park restroom facility, (17-1-s) budget ordinance appropriation for testing services on the new street being constructed that connects South Main Street and Higginson Street, (17-2-s) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for testing services on the new street being constructed that connects South Main Street and Higginson Street, (17-1-t) budget ordinance appropriation for concrete testing services for the Williams Addition/Chrisp Avenue drainage project, (17-2-t) budget ordinance authorization expend funds for concrete testing services for the Williams Addition/Chrisp Avenue drainage project, (17-1-u) budget ordinance appropriation for repairs needed at the Riverside Park restroom facility. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular May 9, 2017 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Sterling to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 5-31-17: General Fund: \$1,405,844.10; Street Fund \$1,479,534.70; Capital Equipment Fund \$80,254.94; LOPFI Fund \$173,599.96; Act 833 Fund \$42,433.38; Airport Fund \$79,920.95; Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$4,244,428.20; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$6,057,611.31; Information Technology Projects Fund \$30,578.83; Special Projects Fund \$2,515.77. He also reported a total of \$2,625,588.81 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$113,485.20 from the same time in 2016. 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 \$3,261,588.03.

Item (6) on the agenda was the quarterly report from the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation presented by Buck Layne of the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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At this point in the meeting Mayor Morris asked the Council, with no objection, to deviate from the agenda and move to item (15) on the agenda. No objection was noted.

Item (15) on the agenda was a resolution commending the actions of certain city employees and others for their work and effort in presenting the first ever Searcy Food Truck Festival. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. English to approve the resolution commending the actions of certain city employees and others for their work and effort in presenting the first ever Searcy Food Truck Festival. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Sterling. **Resolution 2017-25**

Item (7) on the agenda was for an update and discussion regarding the Country Club Road improvement project. City Engineer Mark Lane and City Attorney Buck Gibson had explained to the Council at Thursday’s June 8, 2017 pre-council agenda meeting that there was one property owner involved in the improvement project that has indicated that they would not offer to allow the right-of-way for the project without compensation. They had asked the Council to give direction in which to proceed. Mr. Gibson explained that the options were: continue with the project which would require funding appropriations for title and appraisal work or abandon the project. He further explained that he and Mr. Lane would gather information and be able to present to the Council at the July 2017 regular meeting a monetary amount for an appropriation to continue the project as proposed. Mr. Gibson explained that this would involve negotiations with the involved property owners to determine whether they would give the required property voluntarily or would require compensation. Beyond that is the option of exercising eminent domain proceedings. Mayor Morris stated that without objection he would ask that Mr. Gibson and Mr. Lane gather the information needed for a possible appropriation and bring it before the Council at the July 2017 regular meeting. No objection was voiced.

Item (8) was for the authorization to establish a bank checking account for the collection and use of the new 0.25% county fire tax. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to authorize the establishment of a bank checking account for the collection and use of the new 0.25% county fire tax. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, and English.

Item (9) on the agenda was for the authorization to solicit bids for the short-term financing of the new pumper firetruck that is scheduled for delivery in October 2017. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to authorize the solicitation of bids for the short-term financing of the new pumper firetruck. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, English, and Raney.

Item (10) was for the discussion of needed repairs to the restroom facilities located at Riverside Park. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Parsons explained that the restroom facilities at Riverside Park are not functional and have not been for approximately three (3) months. The best solution to fix the problem is to connect the facilities to another

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existing septic tank on the property which would require the installation of a sewer line and pump. He further explained that people have declined to make reservations for various functions at the park due to the lack of restroom facilities and that vandalism has increased also due to this lack of facilities. He has received an estimate of \$4,200.00 for the installation of the new line and pump to correct the situation and that this has been added to the budget ordinance for their consideration.

Item (11) on the agenda was for the discussion concerning the acquisition of additional adjacent property by Orr Toyota at their proposed new location on Ondra Street and the additional funds that will be required to be put up by them for half street improvements for their street frontage. City Attorney Gibson explained that another resolution or any action by the Council would not be necessary and that the additional property would require the funding for the half street improvements to be put up at the same rate of \$112.50 per linear foot of street frontage as called for in Resolution 2016-20 that was adopted on August 9, 2016. He also explained that the property owners of Orr Toyota were in agreement with the additional funding that would be required.

Item (12) was a resolution to authorize the execution of a lease of a city-owned building to Community Action Program of Central Arkansas (CAPCA) for their HeadStart program. It was explained by Jessica Borling, representative for CAPCA, that a five year lease is needed in order to secure the facility and justify needed improvements to the building in order for the building to meet Fire Code standards and are estimated to cost approximately \$26,000.00. Ms. Borling explained that this money would come from CAPCA's operating budget. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to insert the beginning date of July 1, 2017 and the ending date of June 30, 2022 for the five (5) year lease of the city-owned building. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, English, Raney, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2017-26**

It was recommended at this time by Mr. Cothorn and Mr. Raney that, since this a city-owned building, a budget ordinance with an appropriation for the cost of these improvements needed to bring this building into Fire Code standards compliance be added to the agenda for the special called Council meeting scheduled for June 22, 2017. Mayor Morris stated that the building, since it is city-owned, would be inspected to make a determination as to what improvements are needed. A report would be given to the Council at the special June 22, 2017 meeting.

Item (13) was a resolution authorizing the City of Searcy to enter into an encroachment agreement regarding a fifteen (15) feet wide platted public utility easement located between Lots 4 and 5, Block 1, in the South Heights Replat. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution authorizing the City of Searcy to enter into an encroachment agreement regarding a fifteen (15) feet wide platted public utility easement located between Lots 4 and 5, Block 1, in the South Heights Replat. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Arnett, Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2017-27**

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Item (14) was a resolution to authorize the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, namely a 2005 Chevrolet Impala, Police Unit 305, VIN # 2G1WF55K159335807. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, namely a 2005 Chevrolet Impala, Police Unit 305, VIN # 2G1WF55K159335807. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

**Resolution 2017-28**

Item (16) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Ordinance number 683 with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area, real property located at The Fairways, changing the zoning classification from UT (Urban Transitional) and C3 (Neighborhood Commercial) to PD (Planned Development). A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, and English. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. English, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Sterling, English, Raney, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2017-14**

Item (17) 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. Transfer \$5,500.00 from Parks and Recreation Sports Complex ‘GROUNDS MAINTENANCE’ expenditure account (#01 5-085-02-06) to Parks and Recreation ‘PARKS PROJECTS’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-01) for foundation dirt work that is needed for underneath the new grant funded Spring Park playground equipment;
- b. Appropriate \$5,680.89 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department ‘GROUNDS MAINTENANCE’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-02-06) for the unused funds that were received from the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department for right-of-way acquisition at the Fire Training property on Bypass Road (Highway 67/Highway36 Connector Route);
- c. Appropriate \$250.00 to General Fund ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$250.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-

- 070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation from The Daily Citizen;
- d. Appropriate \$300.00 to General Fund 'POLICE DONATIONS' revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$300.00 to the Police Department 'DONATIONS EXPENSED' expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for the receipt and use of donations from The Daily Citizen (\$250.00) and Searcy-McEuen Funeral Home (\$50.00);
  - e. Appropriate \$8,097.69 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'PROPOSED LIBRARY DESIGN' expenditure account (#14 5-190-05-09) for architectural design services for the proposed new library facility [This is to be reimbursed to the City of Searcy by the White County Regional Library System];
  - f. Appropriate \$3,009.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'WILLIAMS ADDITION DRAINAGE' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-01) for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage project engineering services;
  - g. Appropriate \$1,425.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'WILLIAMS ADDITION DRAINAGE' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-01) for Williams Addition/Chrisp Avenue drainage project concrete testing services;
  - h. Appropriate \$4,544.81 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'SWIM POOL COMPLEX LOAN PAYMENT' expenditure account (#14 5-085-05-01) for payment of interest expense on the Swimming Pool Complex construction loan;
  - i. Appropriate \$146,973.00 to 2016 Swimming Facility Improvement Fund 'CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROCEEDS' revenue account (#17 4-000-91-01) and appropriate \$146,973.00 to 2016 Swimming Facility Improvement Fund 'POOL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION' expenditure account (#17 5-085-54-01) for the draw on the construction financing loan and payment of the invoice for construction services;
  - j. Appropriate \$49,141.25 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE'

expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services;

- k. Appropriate \$1,269.13 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'FIRE STATION 2 RELOCATION' expenditure account (#14 5-070-54-01) for architectural services on Fire Station 2 relocation;
- l. Appropriate \$875.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan unappropriated reserves to 'COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE STUDY' expenditure account (#14 5-130-06-01) for comprehensive drainage study engineering services;
- m. Appropriate \$8,280.00 from 1% Special Tax Connector Route Fund unappropriated reserves to 'NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS' expenditure account (#13 5-900-54-03) for engineering services on North Main Street improvement project;
- n. Appropriate \$271.12 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'MAIN/HIGGINSON STREET CONNECTOR' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-02) for testing services on the new street in front of the swimming pool facility;
- o. Appropriate \$1,500.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'SOFTBALL PRESSBOX/CONCESSION/RESTROOM' expenditure account (#14 5-085-54-03) for architectural/design services on the construction of the new softball pressbox/concession/restroom facility;
- p. Appropriate \$51,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'BUCKET TRUCK' expenditure account (#14 5-130-53-02) for the purchase of a refurbished 2008 Ford F-550 bucket truck (\$49,000.00) and expenses for traveling to pick the truck up and bring it back to the city (\$2,000.00);
- q. Appropriate \$6,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROF-HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS/SEARCY BEAUTIFICATION' (#14 5-500-05-06) expenditure account for improvements to the city-owned parking lot located at Spruce Street and Center Avenue;

- r. Appropriate \$12,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'PIONEER VILLAGE DRAINAGE' (#14 5-130-05-03) for needed drainage improvements to the city-owned property at Pioneer Village;
- s. Appropriate \$303.23 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'MAIN/HIGGINSON STREET CONNECTOR' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-02) for testing services on the new street in front of the swimming pool facility;
- t. Appropriate \$847.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'WILLIAMS ADDITION DRAINAGE' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-01) for Williams Addition/Chrisp Avenue drainage project concrete testing services;
- u. Appropriate \$4,200.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Parks and Recreation Department 'PARKS PROJECTS' expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-01) for septic tank replacement at Riverside Park;

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

- a. \$14,501.02 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. Transfer \$115,000.00 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. \$199,681.45 to Cline Construction Group for construction services on the Fire Station 2 relocation (#14 5-070-54-01);
- d. \$145,464.17 to Johnny Brock Excavating & Landscaping Inc. for construction services on the street to connect Main Street and Higginson Street at the Sports Complex (#14 5-900-54-02);
- e. \$16,500.00 to East Park Autoplex for purchase of 2009 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck for the Engineering Department (#14 5-190-03-01: *replacing various vehicles under the 2014 Eight Year Plan*);
- f. \$8,097.69 to Sapp Design Associates Architects for architectural design services for the proposed new library facility (#14 5-190-05-09);

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- g. \$3,009.00 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage engineering services (#14 5-130-05-01);
- h. \$1,425.00 to Arkansas Testing Labs, Inc. for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage project concrete testing services (#14 5-130-05-01);
- i. \$4,544.81 to Regions Bank for payment of interest expense on the Swimming Pool Complex construction loan (#14 5-085-05-01);
- j. \$146,973.00 to Hydco, Inc. for construction on swimming pool complex (#17 5-085-54-01);
- k. \$49,141.25 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- l. \$1,269.13 to Hoffmann Architectural Inc. for architectural services on Fire Station 2 relocation (#14 5-070-54-01);
- m. \$875.00 to Thomas F. Black, P.E. (Flood Plain Services) for comprehensive drainage study engineering services (#14 5-130-06-01);
- n. \$8,280.00 to Pickering Firm, Inc. for engineering services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- o. \$271.12 to Materials Testing of Arkansas, Inc. for density testing services on the new street in front of the new swimming pool facility (#14 5-900-54-02);
- p. \$1,500.00 to Hoffmann Architectural Inc. for architectural/design services for the new softball pressbox/concession/restroom facility (#14 5-085-54-03);
- q. \$49,000.00 to Stamm Manufacturing for the purchase of a refurbished 2008 Ford F-550 bucket truck (#14 5-130-53-02);
- r. \$55,060.10 to Redstone Construction Group for construction services on the Williams Addition/Chrisp Avenue drainage improvements project (#14 5-130-05-01);
- s. \$303.23 to Materials Testing of Arkansas, Inc. for density testing services on the new street in front of the new swimming pool facility (#14 5-900-54-02);

- t. \$847.00 to Arkansas Testing Labs, Inc. for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage project concrete testing services (#14 5-130-05-01);

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, and Cothern. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mrs. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Cothern, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothern, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mrs. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Cothern, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothern, Arnett, and Sterling. **Ordinance 2017-15**

The Mayor announced:

- Beats and Eats event, Friday, June 16, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the downtown Searcy Main Street parking lot
- A special Council meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. for discussion and the naming of the newly constructed swimming pool facility and the newly constructed street connecting South Main Street and Higginson Street
- A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held immediately following the special Council meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2017 for discussion of the proposed changes to the zoning code ordinance

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: July 11, 2017

/s/ David Morris  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

Seal