

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mark Harris gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Dale Brewer. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was for suspending the rules and amending the agenda to add items: (9) discussion concerning the city’s website and (10) discussion regarding the need for 20-yard dumpsters/waste bins. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular February 9, 2021 meeting of the Council and the special February 25, 2021 meeting 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: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of February 28, 2021: General Fund: \$2,914,124.43; Street Fund \$2,473,787.31; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,875.05; LOPFI Fund \$179,954.61; Act 833 Fund \$62,214.03; Airport Fund \$131,359.08. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$5,779,314.51. He also reported the following balances as of February 28, 2021: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$2,875,706.38; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$8,094,371.49; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$479,582.15; Court Automation Fund \$47,487.48; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$1,349,175.09. He also reported a total of \$1,317,952.89 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$109,533.86 from the same time in 2020.

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

Item (7) was for the reappointment of Jay Moore and the appointment of Nathan Rutledge to five-year terms on the Searcy Airport Commission with both terms set to expire on December 31, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale for the reappointment of Jay Moore and the appointment of Nathan Rutledge to five-year terms on the Searcy Airport Commission with both terms set to expire on December 31, 2025. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell.

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Item (8) was for the reappointment of Jamie Mobley and Michael Cleveland to three-year terms on the Searcy Planning Commission with both terms set to expire on February 8, 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg for the reappointment of Jamie Mobley and Michael Cleveland to three-year terms on the Searcy Planning Commission with both terms set to expire on February 8, 2024. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (9) on the agenda was for discussion concerning the city’s website. Mayor Osborne noted that the city’s website is in need of an upgrade and that this has been an issue for some time. He also noted that when looking at other city’s website it is obvious that the City of Searcy website falls short when comparing to them. He said that Mr. Cargile has been looking into the issue and that he has information that he would like to share with the Council. Mr. Cargile explained that he has been in contact with various companies regarding what can be done to improve the City of Searcy website and the cost of implementing the improvements. He noted that in the course of this research, he was impressed by both the improvement suggestions and the cost of such that were presented by Pugh Communications. He further noted that Pugh Communications is operated by a local resident and Harding University faculty member and has been highly recommended by other entities that have used her for their websites. He also noted that the cost of her services were highly competitive. He asked her to put together a proposal for the City of Searcy for improvements to the city’s website. Her proposal was for a cost of \$12,000.00 along with a \$75.00 per month hosting fee. Mr. Raney stated that the city’s website definitely needs an upgrade and that the social media aspect definitely needs to be addressed to align with the current trends in communication. Information Technology Director Steve Gifford noted that the biggest issue is getting the various departments to provide content that should be displayed on the city’s website. Mr. Chalenburg agreed that having content provided is probably the biggest issue and that an emphasis placed upon the departments to provide content needs to be stressed. Mr. Raney also agreed and said that he believes that at this time the city needs to get a jumpstart on improving the website and that this proposal from Pugh Communications would provide this at a reasonable cost. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to accept the proposal from Pugh Communications for improvement to the City website. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (10) was for discussion regarding the need for 20-yard dumpsters/waste bins. Mayor Osborne noted that the Sanitation Department has had requests for the placement of 20-yard dumpsters with the problem being that the Sanitation Department does not have the additional dumpsters available for placement. The cost of four 20-yard dumpsters would be \$26,965.58. Mr. Brewer stated that the city needs to be able to provide placement of dumpsters when requested. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize the purchase of four 20-yard dumpsters. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. It was noted by Sanitation Department Director Terry

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Rutherford that these dumpsters would be purchased from Wastequip through the Sourcewell purchasing program.

Item (11) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform under the terms of a certain agreement with R L Persons Construction, Inc. for work stoppage claims on the Country Club Road improvement project. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform under the terms of a certain agreement with R L Persons Construction, Inc. for work stoppage claims on the Country Club Road improvement project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Resolution 2021-08

Item (12) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, namely a 1994 E-One Pumper firetruck. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2021-09**

Item (13) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, namely a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria used in the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution authorizing the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, namely a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria used in the Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2021-10**

Item (14) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Ordinance 2020-02, the budget for calendar year 2020, to correct certain line items. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris, 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, Cothorn, and Morris. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2021-06**

Item (15) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area located at 308 North Charles Street from C-4 (Community Commercial) to R-1 (Multi-family Residential). 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”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris,

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to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Ordinance 2021-07

Item (16) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area located at Country Club Road from UT (Urban Transitional) to R-4 (Single-family Residential). 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, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Ordinance 2021-08**

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. Appropriate \$8,628.02 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;
- b. Appropriate \$61,879.19 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 construction services;
- c. Appropriate \$230,634.34 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;
- d. Appropriate \$48,000.00 from 0.25% Fire Services Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘SCBA & AIR SUPPLIES’ expenditure account (#18 5-070-05-16) for air pack replacement;
- e. Transfer \$10,000.00 from 0.25% Fire Services Tax Fund ‘RESCUE 2

MODIFICATION/UPDATE' expenditure account (#18 5-070-53-04) and transfer \$10,000.00 to 0.25% Fire Services Tax Fund 'STATION FURNISHINGS' expenditure account (#18 5-070-05-20) for station equipment replacement;

- f. Appropriate \$114,179.82 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-01) for construction services on the Country Club Road improvement project;
- g. Appropriate \$90,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to 'REPAIRS – AMERICAN LEGION HUT' expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-21) for roof replacement and additional repairs to the American Legion Building;
- h. Appropriate \$4,570.39 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ELECTION EXPENSE' expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-32) for cost of February 9, 2021 special election (this is one-half of total cost, other one-half paid by A&P Fund);
- i. Appropriate \$15,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor Department 'LIGHTLE CENTER REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-010-02-13) for plumbing repairs at the Lightle Senior Center;

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

- a. \$18,004.64 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. \$8,628.02 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- d. \$61,879.19 to Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. for construction services on the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);

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- e. \$230,634.34 to Township Builders, Inc., for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- f. \$114,179.82 to RL Persons Construction, Inc., for construction services on the Country Club Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-01);

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”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Ordinance 2021-09**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: April 13, 2021

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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