

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

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 9, 2021. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input in regard to a declaration of a nuisance property located at 1302 East Race Avenue. Mayor Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 9, 2021, following the previous public hearing. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input regarding an application for filing for a private club permit with the Alcohol Beverage Control Division by Venezia's Italian Grill, Inc. (Central Arkansas Storage Helper, Inc.). Mayor Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Don Raney gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Chris Howell. 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.

The minutes of the regular October 12, 2021 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer's Report which lists the following balances as of October 31, 2021: General Fund: \$3,603,852.48; Street Fund \$2,558,377.16; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,877.85; LOPFI Fund \$248,385.53; Act 833 Fund \$45,152.89; Airport Fund \$169,872.20. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$6,643,518.11. He also reported the following balances as of October 31, 2021: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$1,302,626.24; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$11,468,456.97; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$528,595.94; Court Automation Fund \$59,221.77; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,451,419.85. He also reported a total of \$6,734,287.37 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$800,048.01 from the same time in 2020.

Item (5) on the agenda was the presentation of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 audit report for the Searcy Water Utilities. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to accept the audit report for the Searcy Water Utilities. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Item (6) was for discussion regarding a proposal for changes to Chapter 17 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances pertaining to licenses and taxes. A draft of proposed changes was presented to the Council and Mayor Osborne asked them to look these over for possible changes or suggestions. Mayor Osborne told the Council that an amending ordinance would be ready for presentation at the December regular Council meeting.

Item (7) on the agenda was a preliminary look at the budget for the 2022 calendar year. Mayor Osborne asked the Council look at the 2021 budget as a starting point for developing the budget for 2022. He noted that the results of the special election that takes place on November 9, 2021 will have a significant bearing on the development of the 2022 calendar budget.

Item (8) was a resolution declaring certain real property located at 1302 East Race Avenue a nuisance and directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution declaring certain real property located at 1302 East Race Avenue a nuisance and directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2021-32**

Item (9) was a resolution for authorization to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arkansas State Police and the Arkansas Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Resolution 2021-33**

Item (10) on the agenda was an ordinance authorizing Venezia’s Italian Grill, Inc. (Central Arkansas Storage Helper, Inc.) to file for a private club permit with the Alcohol Beverage Control Division under the provisions of the City of Searcy private club permit ordinance and Arkansas law. 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”: Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Chalenburg voted “no”. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Brewer and Mr. Chalenburg voted “no”. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Chalenburg and Mr. Brewer voted “no”. **Ordinance 2021-31**

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:

November 9, 2021

Regular Session

- a. Appropriate \$3,300.50 to General Fund 'FEDERAL FORFEITURES' revenue account (#01 4-000-20-04), and appropriate \$3,300.50 to Police Department 'FEDERAL DRUG FORFEITURE EXPENDITURES' expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-10);
- b. Appropriate \$1,600.00 to the General Fund 'POLICE DONATIONS' revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$1,600.00 to the Police Department 'DONATIONS EXPENSED' expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for donations received;
- c. Appropriate \$100.00 to the General Fund 'RECREATION DONATIONS' revenue account (#01 4-000-90-08) and appropriate \$100.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department 'DONATIONS EXPENSED' expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-10) for donation received;
- d. Appropriate \$224,955.82 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;
- e. Appropriate \$13,251.75 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund 'LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT' revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$13,251.75 to the 'LIBRARY RENOVATION' expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
- f. Appropriate \$13,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'SOUTH SAWMILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-07) for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project;
- g. Appropriate \$2,800.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE PHASE 2' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-08) for surveying services;
- h. Transfer the following amounts from the Fire Department General Fund accounts:
 - Transfer \$3,000.00 from #01 5-070-01-14 TURNOUTS to #01 5-070-03-

05 TIRES

- Transfer \$3,000.00 from #01 5-070-05-20 OPTICOM to #01 5-070-05-01 EQUIPMENT
- i. Transfer the following amount from the 0.25% Fire Protection Services Fund accounts:
- Transfer \$5,000.00 from #18 5-070-05-01 TURNOUTS to #18 5-070-05-20 STATION FURNISHINGS

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

- a. \$23,444.94 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$1,091.25 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project (#01 5-010-05-21);
- c. \$224,955.82 to Township Builders, Inc., for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- d. \$13,251.75 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- e. \$13,000.00 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-07);
- f. \$2,800.00 to Quattlebaum Surveying, LLC for surveying services (#14 5-130-05-08);

A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, 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. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, 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. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Ordinance 2021-32**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: December 14, 2021

City Council Meeting
November 9, 2021
Regular Session

5

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

Seal