

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. David Morris gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Rodger Cargile. 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: (14) approval/selection of bid(s) for the 2021 street paving project, (18-1-d) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for visioning workshop for determining next steps for planning in the community, (18-1-e) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for replacement of Fire Department radios, (18-1-f) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for repairs to the Compost Center grinder, and (18-2-f) budget adjustment ordinance authorization to expend funds for visioning workshop for determining next steps for planning in the community. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Raney 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 April 13, 2021 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg 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 April 30, 2021: General Fund: \$3,011,164.65; Street Fund \$2,607,802.36; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,876.37; LOPFI Fund \$221,901.00; Act 833 Fund \$42,689.48; Airport Fund \$104,989.13. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$6,006,422.99. He also reported the following balances as of April 30, 2021: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$2,566,574.22; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$8,253,261.92; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$533,436.12; Court Automation Fund \$43,239.18; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$1,595,176.54. He also reported a total of \$2,490,361.55 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$240,975.48 from the same time in 2020.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the appointment of Nathan Rutledge to an open five-year term on the Searcy Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the term set to expire on November 3, 2025. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Cargile to approve the appointment of Nathan Rutledge to an open five-year term on the Searcy Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the term set to expire on November 3, 2025.

May 11, 2021

Regular Session

Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell.

Item (7) was for the appointment of Rees Jones to a two-year term on the Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission (A&P) with the term set to expire on April 30, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the appointment of Rees Jones to a two-year term on the Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission (A&P) with the term set to expire on April 30, 2023. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (8) was for the approval of a presentation of a proposal from Crafton Tull Architecture/Engineering for a visioning workshop to help determine the next steps for planning in the community.

Item (9) was for the approval for the replacement of the radios for the Fire Department.

Item (10) was for the approval of repairs to the Compost Center grinder.

Items (8), (9), and (10) were discussed at the May 6, 2021 pre-council agenda meeting with instruction to include the appropriations for each on the budget adjustment ordinance for consideration at the regular May 11, 2021 Council meeting.

Item (11) on the agenda was for further discussion regarding conversion of the tennis courts at Yancey Park to pickle-ball courts. Mayor Osborne asked the Council to table this item until a later date, in order to be able to obtain more information.

Item (12) was for the selection of engineering firms to utilize their services for future projects. Requests for Qualification (RFQ) had been advertised for submission regarding future projects in the city. Four engineering firms were recommended by Mayor Osborne and City Engineer Mark Lane for use on future projects within the city. The four firms that were recommended were as follows:

1. Miller-Newell Engineers
2. Davidson Engineering
3. Pickering Engineering
4. Whitlow Engineering

A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the selection of the four recommended engineering firms for use on future projects. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (13) was for discussion regarding needed drainage ditch improvement work in the Cloverdale Addition area. This drainage ditch is located between Cloverdale Boulevard and Mohawk Drive. Mayor Osborne noted that erosion of the ditch banks is encroaching on properties and causing fencing to collapse in places. City Attorney Buck Gibson noted that until a project engineer is selected to plan the project, nothing is known

May 11, 2021

Regular Session

regarding right of ways and details of the project. Mayor Osborne stated that an engineering firm would be selected and brought back for approval from the Council in order to get the project started.

Item (14) on the agenda was for the approval and selection of bid(s) for the 2021 street paving project. Two bids were received for the selection of streets to be included for the project. The bids received were as follows:

- CK Asphalt, Quitman, AR - \$1,138,500.00
- Delta Asphalt, Paragould, AR - \$907,187.00

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve and select the bid from Delta Asphalt in the amount of \$907,187.00. City Engineer Mark Lane and Mayor Osborne also asked the Council to approve spending of up to \$1,000,000.00 to cover any unforeseen or any additional expenses that may happen. Mayor Osborne asked if the motion and second would include this additional amount. Mr. Morris and Mr. Cothorn agreed. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (15) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area within the city, property located west of Fuller Lane, from U-T (Urban Transitional) to R-4 (Single-family Residential – Medium Lot). 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”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Howell, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. 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”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Ordinance 2021-12**

Item (16) on the agenda was an ordinance authorization to conduct business with certain individuals who serve as elected officials of the City of Searcy, namely Tonia Hale. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, 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, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. Mrs. Hale abstained from voting. 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”: Cargile, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. Mrs. Hale abstained from voting. 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”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mrs. Hale abstained from voting. **Ordinance 2021-13**

May 11, 2021

Regular Session

Item (17) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Code of Ordinances, providing for revision to certain fees, declaring an emergency, and prescribing other matters pertaining thereto. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, 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. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Morris, 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 Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2021-14**

Item (18) 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 \$1,700.00 to the General Fund ‘POLICE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-03) and appropriate \$1,700.00 to the ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for receipt and use of donations for the Searcy Police Department;
 - b. Appropriate \$32,068.00 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT’ revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$32,068.00 to the ‘LIBRARY RENOVATION’ expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
 - c. Appropriate \$165,095.64 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 \$15,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘PLANNING WORKSHOP’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-34) for visioning workshop for determining next steps for planning in the community;
 - e. Appropriate \$52,000.00 from 0.25% County Fire Sales Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘RADIOS’ expenditure account (#18 5-070-05-19) for replacement of Fire Department radios;
 - f. Appropriate \$45,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘COMPOST CENTER GRINDER REPAIR’ expenditure account (#14 5-090-53-08) for repairs to the Compost Center grinder;

May 11, 2021

Regular Session

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

- a. \$8,263.13 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. \$20,832.75 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#01 5-020-54-02);
- d. \$165,095.64 to Township Builders, Inc., for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- e. \$1,383.05 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project (#01 5-010-05-21);
- f. \$15,000.00 to Crafton Tull Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying for visioning workshop for determining next steps for planning in the community;

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, 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. Morris, 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. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Ordinance 2021-15**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: June 8, 2021

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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