

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, March 14, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023. The purpose for this public hearing was for 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. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Following the prior public hearing, a public hearing had been advertised for the consideration of any public input regarding the declaration of a nuisance property located at 102 South Lucy Street. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. Daniel Livingstone requested and was allowed to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Following the prior public hearing, a public hearing had been advertised for the consideration of any public input regarding the declaration of a nuisance property located at 408 North Fir Street. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. Jackie Studdard and Daryl Walls requested and were allowed to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Following the prior public hearing, a public hearing had been advertised for the consideration of any public input regarding the declaration of a nuisance property located at 1007 West Pleasure Avenue. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. Wade Roetzel requested and was allowed to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Following the prior public hearing, a public hearing had been advertised for the consideration of any public input regarding the declaration of a nuisance property located at 2103 West Beebe Capps Expressway (Building 4). Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. Tom Kelso requested and was allowed to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Following the prior public hearing, a public hearing had been advertised for the consideration of any public input regarding the abandoning and vacating the drainage easement north of the detention basin for the Searcy City Center. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Kent Jobe gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Angela Thrasher. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Brett Kirkman, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (8) approval and authorization to add Lillie Cook as an authorized signer on City of Searcy accounts, (14) resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with CivicPlus, LLC, (26-1-j) budget ordinance appropriation for the purchase of tables and chairs for the Carmichael Community Center, (26-1-k) budget ordinance appropriation for obtaining CivicPlus/Municode services, (26-1-l) budget ordinance appropriation for the purchase of pick-up trucks for the Sanitation Department, (26-1-m) budget ordinance appropriation for additional personnel, (26-2-g) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for Municode services. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer to suspend the rules and add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

The minutes of the regular February 14, 2023 meeting of the Council and the minutes of the special February 21, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve both sets of the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of February 28, 2023: General Fund: \$9,440,065.38; Street Fund \$2,956,861.26; LOPFI Fund \$195,356.69; Act 833 Fund \$34,582.13; Airport Fund \$272,632.87. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$12,899,498.33. He also reported the following balances as of February 28, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$12,989,312.74; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$287,065.98; Court Automation Fund \$103,793.91; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,606,912.85. He also reported a total of \$1,558,592.93 year-to-date in City 0.5% and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$35,460.59 from the same time in 2022. Also reported was a total of \$1,538,069.26 year-to-date City 1% Sales Tax revenue received.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report presented by Buck Layne.

Item (7) was for the appointment of David Morris as the City of Searcy liaison to the White County Aging Program Board of Directors. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the appointment of David Morris as the City of Searcy liaison to the White County Aging Program Board of Directors. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Howell. Mr. Morris abstained from voting.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the approval and authorization to add Lillie Cook as an authorized signer on all City of Searcy accounts. Ms. Cook previously had been an authorized signer on City of Searcy accounts until her retirement and removal as a signer (approved and noted in the minutes of the November 8, 2022 regular Council meeting). The city currently has three authorized signers for city accounts: Mayor Mat Faulkner, Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris, and Human Resource Manager Kim Gordon. Ms. Cook has

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since returned as an employee of the City of Searcy as Administrative Assistant to the Mayor. Mr. Morris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to approve and authorize the addition of Lillie Cook as a fourth signer on all City of Searcy accounts. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (9) was for the discussion regarding possible acquisition of property located along South Main Street. Rodger Cargile stated that earlier in 2023 the Council had expressed interest in using the remaining amount of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for an impactful and lasting project or purchase that possibly could not have been undertaken without these funds. Mr. Cargile explained that the city has an opportunity to purchase over one hundred acres of property within the City of Searcy and all of the properties are along some of the main vehicular arteries within the city. Mr. Cargile further explained that the property is currently owned by the Rogers family and consists of four (4) different tracts. He also noted that approximately 94 to 95 acres are located on the northeast corner of South Main Street and Booth Road, 12.5 acres in two tracts are on the east side of Main Street adjacent to the city soccer complex, and also the empty lot adjacent to the Black House property on Race Avenue. Mr. Cargile noted that the entirety of the four tracts can be acquired for \$2 million. Mr. Raney made a motion to authorize the purchase of the four tracts for \$2,000,000 plus any reasonable and customary fees/charges, authorize Mr. Cargile to negotiate and facilitate the purchase, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and perform under the terms of the purchase agreement. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the approval of two change orders on the Berryhill Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts project. The change orders were as follows:

- Change Order #3 – increase of \$1,500.00 for the removal of a tree at the northeast corner of the project
- Change Order #4 – increase of \$4,100.00 for additional painting/finishing on the restroom and concession facility

Mr. Raney made a motion to approve the change orders #3 and #4 for the Berryhill Park project. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (11) was for the approval to add personnel positions as recommended by the City of Searcy Personnel Committee. The positions recommended are as follows:

- One (1) full-time position in the Code Enforcement Department
- One (1) full-time position in the District Court Department
- Two (2) full-time officer positions in the Police Department
- Two (2) full-time positions in the Street Department

Mr. Chalenburg made a motion to approve adding the personnel positions as recommended by the City of Searcy Personnel Committee. Mr. Raney seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

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Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with the White County Historical Society for Pioneer Village. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Raney to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with the White County Historical Society for Pioneer Village. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-11**

Item (13) was a resolution for the authorization to execute an agreement with Safe Haven Baby Boxes. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. **Resolution 2023-12**

Item (14) was a resolution to approve a certain contract and authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with CivicPlus, LLC (Municode). Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the resolution to approve a certain contract and authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with CivicPlus, LLC (Municode). Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. **Resolution 2023-13**

Item (15) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, radios in the Police Department. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Kirkman to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2023-14**

Item (16) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, Police Department vehicles, Unit 1609 and Unit 810. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, Police Department vehicles, Unit 1609 and Unit 810. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. **Resolution 2023-15**

Item (17) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Resolution 2023-16**

Item (18) was a resolution to declare certain real property located at 102 South Lucy Street a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the resolution to declare certain real property located at 102

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South Lucy Street a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-17**

Item (19) was a resolution to declare certain real property located at 408 North Fir Street a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Kirkman to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

**Resolution 2023-18**

Item (20) was a resolution to declare certain real property located at 1007 West Pleasure Avenue a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the resolution to declare certain real property located at 1007 West Pleasure Avenue a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

**Resolution 2023-19**

Item (21) was a resolution to declare certain real property located at 2103 West Beebe Capps Expressway (Building 4, Apartments #25-32) a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. **Resolution 2023-20**

Item (22) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Ordinance 2022-02, the budget for operations for calendar year 2022 to correct certain line items (calendar year 2022 year-end adjustments). A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Raney, 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, Kirkman, and Morris. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Moore 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”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

**Ordinance 2023-12**

Item (23) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, providing for dogs in city parks. 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”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with

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the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Ordinance 2023-13**

Item (24) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the Code of Ordinances, providing for permitting for certain events and the use of city property. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2023-14**

Item (25) on the agenda was an ordinance vacating and abandoning all of the public easement lying within a twenty-foot wide strip north and adjacent to the north right-of-way line of the natural gas pipeline of America and lying between the east right-of-way line of Janet Street and the west right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 67-167. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. Mr. Moore 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”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. **Ordinance 2023-15**

Item (26) 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 \$160.93 to General Fund ‘EVIDENCE ASSET FORFEITURE’ revenue account (#01 4-000-20-10) and appropriate \$160.93 to Police Department ‘EVIDENCE ASSET FORFEITURE’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-09);
- b. Appropriate \$40,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘SOUTH SAWMILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS’ expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-07) for appraisal and title search for the South Sawmill Road improvement project;
- c. Appropriate \$17,834.43 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund ‘LIBRARY

RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT' revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$17,834.43 to the 'LIBRARY RENOVATION' expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;

- d. Appropriate \$1,432.81 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Black House 'RESTORATION/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-083-05-02) for architectural services on the Black House restoration/repair project;
- e. Appropriate \$25,025.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Black House 'RESTORATION/REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-083-05-02) for construction services on the Black House restoration/repair project;
- f. Appropriate \$242,427.50 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'VEHICLES' expenditure account (#01 5-060-53-01) for the acquisition of 10 Police Department vehicles;
- g. Appropriate \$399,113.85 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'PAVING' expenditure account (#02 5-900-05-07) for the 2022 street paving program;
- h. Appropriate \$70,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'SPECIAL EVENTS FUNDING' expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-39) for services provided by an eclipse event coordinator;
- i. Appropriate \$70,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department 'DUMPSTERS 4, 6, & 8 YARD' expenditure account (#01 5-090-05-03) for Sanitation Department bin acquisition;
- j. Appropriate \$8,686.27 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Carmichael Community Center 'TOOLS/EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-081-02-07) to purchase new tables and chairs;
- k. Appropriate \$8,795.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'CIVICPLUS/MUNICODE SERVICES' expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-39) for obtaining the services of CivicPlus/Municode;

- l. Appropriate \$70,000.00 from the 2014 Eight Year 1¢ Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department '3/4 TON PICKUP' expenditure account (#14 5-090-53-11) to purchase two 3/4-ton pickup trucks (carried over from Ordinance 2022-26, Grounds and equipment committee request);

- m. Appropriate the following amounts for the additional personnel positions:

**DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT** (one position)

#01 5-050-01-01 SALARIES - \$31,200.00

#01 5-050-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE - \$2,386.80

#01 5-050-01-03 HEALTH BENEFIT - \$5,904.96

#01 5-050-01-05 APERS RETIREMENT - \$4,779.84

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** (two positions)

#01 5-060-01-01 SALARIES - \$79,119.36

#01 5-060-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE - \$6,052.64

#01 5-060-01-03 HEALTH BENEFIT - \$11,809.92

**CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT** (one position)

01 5-120-01-01 SALARIES - \$31,200.00

01 5-120-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE - \$2,386.80

01 5-120-01-03 HEALTH BENEFIT - \$5,904.96

01 5-120-01-05 APERS RETIREMENT - \$4,779.84

**STREET DEPARTMENT** (two positions)

#02 5-900-01-01 SALARIES - \$62,400.00

#02 5-900-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE - \$4,773.60

#02 5-900-01-03 HEALTH BENEFIT - \$11,809.92

#02 5-900-01-05 APERS RETIREMENT - \$9,559.68

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

- a. \$25,441.26 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;



- b. Transfer \$150,000.00 from the City of Searcy General Fund to the City of Searcy LOPFI Fund for payment of LOPFI Retirement obligation (#01 5-010-05-38);
- c. \$28,100.00 to Mitchell Appraisal Service for appraisal services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-07);
- d. \$384.06 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- e. \$1,432.81 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the Black House restoration/repairs project (#01 5-083-05-02);
- f. \$399,113.85 to CK Asphalt, LLC for the 2022 street paving program (#02 5-900-05-07);
- g. \$8,795.00 to CivicPlus, LLC for Municode services (#01 5-010-05-39);

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”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Moore 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”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2023-16**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, Mayor Faulkner gave the State of the City Address.

Minutes Approved: April 11, 2023

/s/ Mat Faulkner  
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

Seal