

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Doug Grimes gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Tonia Hale. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, David Morris, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson. Council member Chris Howell was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (16-1-e) budget ordinance appropriation for advertising for a city planner position, (16-1-f) budget ordinance appropriation for payment of final release and discharge from the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association program, (16-1-g) budget ordinance appropriation for the receipt and use of a donation to the Searcy Fire Department, (16-2-g) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for the advertising for a city planner position, and (16-2-h) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for payment of final release and discharge from the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association program. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cargile to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular February 8, 2022 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: 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 2-28-2022: General Fund: \$4,973,390.73; Street Fund \$2,978,227.64; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,879.03; LOPFI Fund \$181,826.65; Act 833 Fund \$87,664.07; Airport Fund \$233,894.68. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$8,472,882.80. He also reported the following balances as of 2-28-2022: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$230,633.13; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$12,747,266.15; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$295,569.02; Court Automation Fund \$59,866.53; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,130,749.60. He also reported a total of \$1,523,132.34 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$205,179.45 from the same time in 2021.

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

Item (7) was a petition from Harding University to rename a portion (from East Race Avenue to East Center Avenue) of North Grand Street. The proposed name change would be to Clifton L. Ganus Jr. Boulevard. It was noted that Harding University owns

March 8, 2022

Regular Session

the properties on both sides of this portion of North Grand Street. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to consult with White County emergency management services and verify with city services that there would be no problems with renaming a portion of North Grand Street. If no issues are noted, a resolution can be presented to the Council in the April 2022 regular meeting. Motion carried with the following voting yes: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Cargile.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the discussion of contractor's bid for phase II of the renovation of the American Legion building. Architect Barry Hoffmann informed the Council that there was one bid received for the base bid and that to fully finish the renovation of the American Legion building the cost would be \$618,100. After the deductive alternates were taken out the cost would still be \$523,150. At this time there is only \$120,000 available in a grant from the Arkansas Historical Preservation Program. Mr. Hoffmann was asked if the project could be broken up to do in certain stages (such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC). It was noted that individual stages could be undertaken up to \$50,000 in cost. Mr. Hoffmann said that it could but would end up costing more and taking a longer time to finish. Mr. Hoffmann noted that if the grant money available is not used at this time it could keep the city from receiving more grant funding in the future. It was noted that the grant project timeline requires the project to be substantially completed by June 14, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Morris, to reject the bid that was received for the renovation of the American Legion building. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, and Hale. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize Mr. Hoffmann and City Engineer Mark Lane to determine certain stages to pursue that would cost less than \$50,000 and to negotiate with separate entities to undertake these stages. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (9) was for the approval of additional funding, in the amount of \$10,000, to be provided to Main Street Searcy. Main Street Searcy Director Amy Burton spoke to the Council at the February pre-council about the possibility of getting additional funding. She noted that Main Street Searcy would like to have the additional funds after mid-year. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to provide an additional amount of \$10,000 in funding to Main Street Searcy, with the appropriation and distribution to be done around mid-year 2022. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (10) on the agenda was for continued discussion regarding the Arkansas Public Entity Risk Management Association (APERMA) dissolution and assessment billing. Mr. Gibson explained that the City of Searcy has received a billing from APERMA in the amount of \$57,649.00. The questions arising from this billing was that since APERMA was still representing the City of Searcy in some issues, will this be the final amount that the city will have to pay for APERMA's services and is there a possibility of receiving some money back? Mr. Gibson said that the answer to both of the questions was "yes." Mr. Gibson further explained that APERMA is still representing the City of Searcy on one issue. APERMA has furnished a 'RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS FROM MEMBER

March 8, 2022

Regular Session

ASSESSMENTS' to be executed upon payment of the final billing. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the payment of the dissolution and assessment billing as described in the release of all claims from member assessments provided by APERMA to the City of Searcy. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (11) was for the approval of changes to the staffing at the Searcy Swim Center. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Parsons requested that a full-time lifeguard position be converted into two part-time lifeguard positions. He noted that a full-time lifeguard position is hard to fill and that this position has been open for quite some time. Part-time lifeguard positions are not difficult to fill. This staffing change would result in assurance that proper lifeguard staffing is available all of the time. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize the staffing change at the Searcy Swim Center. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

At this time Mayor Osborne noted that he had failed to put an item on the agenda and asked the Council to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add discussion of the authorized City Planner position's salary and benefits. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add this item. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. Mayor Osborne stated that they had one applicant for the City Planner position and felt that this applicant was qualified to fill this position. The Council had approved in the 2022 budget for operations had authorized a salary of \$62,000 along with the associated costs of this salary. He would propose to the Council that an additional \$6,000 be added to this salary for this position as well as the associated costs of this \$6,000. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to authorize the additional salary and associated costs. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Hale, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Cargile. Mr. Raney abstained from voting. Clerk/Treasurer Morris noted that he can calculate the additional costs and ascertain the appropriate line items for the coding of these costs quickly to amend into the budget adjustment ordinance of item (16).

Item (12) on the agenda was a resolution for the authorization to apply on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission for an 80/20 grant from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics for construction of additional hangar space. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mrs. Hale to authorize the application on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, and Hale. **Resolution 2022-08**

Item (13) on the agenda was a resolution for the authorization to apply on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission for an 90/10 grant from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics for construction of additional hangar access apron. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Brewer to authorize the application on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2022-09**

Item (14) 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, specifically property located at 2723 Eastline Road from U-T (Urban Transitional) to C-4 (Community Commercial). 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”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. 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”: Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.  
**Ordinance 2022-04**

Item (15) was an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2021-02, the budget for operation of the City of Searcy for calendar year 2021, to correct certain line items (year-end adjustments). 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”: 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. Cargile, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, and Hale.  
**Ordinance 2022-05**

At this time Mr. Morris asked Mayor Osborne if he would be allowed to speak. He noted that at the February agenda meeting there was some discussion regarding the need for snow plows that could be fitted to Street Department pick-up trucks to aid in the removal of snow and ice. He thought that these could be beneficial in light of the recent inclement weather. He asked Mayor Osborne and Mr. Lane if they could get some information regarding these plows and present it to the Council in the April 2022 meeting. Mayor Osborne said that this could be done.

Mayor Osborne asked Clerk Morris at this time to get the information needed for the additional appropriations approve earlier in the meeting regarding the City Planner position. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Morris, to suspend the rules and amend the budget adjustment ordinance (item 16 on the agenda) to add the appropriations for the additional salary and associated costs for the City Planner position. The appropriations are as follows:

- **01 5-010-01-01 SALARIES - \$6,000.00**
- **01 5-010-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE MATCH - \$459.00**
- **01 5-010-01-03 MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT - \$5,370.96**
- **01 5-010-01-05 APERS RETIREMENT - \$919.20**

March 8, 2022

Regular Session

Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale. Mr. Raney abstained from voting.

Item (16) on the agenda was a budget ordinance as amended to:

**Section 1.** The budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, is amended in the following manner:

- a. Appropriate \$108,606.85 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;
- b. Appropriate \$4,286.31 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘REPAIRS AMERICAN LEGION HUT’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-05-21) for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project;
- c. Appropriate \$3,625.00 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;
- d. Appropriate \$17,400.00 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘FULLER LANE IMPROVEMENT’ expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-08) for engineering services on the improvement project;
- e. Appropriate \$1,653.96 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor’s department ‘ADVERTISING’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-04-07) for advertisement of City Planner position;
- f. Appropriate \$57,649.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor’s department ‘APERMA DISSOLUTION ASSESSMENT’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-05-35) for final release and discharge from the Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association program;
- g. Appropriate \$5,000.00 to the ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$5,000.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation from Walmart;
- h. Appropriate the following amounts in the Mayor’s Department for

additional salary and associated costs for the new City Planner position authorized March 8, 2022:

- #01 5-010-01-01 SALARIES - \$6,000.00
- #01 5-010-01-02 SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE MATCH - \$459.00
- #01 5-010-01-03 HEALTH BENEFIT - \$5,370.96
- #01 5-010-01-05 APERS RETIREMENT - \$919.20

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”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance as amended. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. 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”: Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

**Ordinance 2022-06**

Mayor Osborne presented the State of the City address.

Mayor Osborne adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Approved: April 12, 2022

/s/ Kyle Osborne  
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

Seal