

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Joel Whitley gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Tim Smith. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Brett Kirkman, David Morris, Chris Howell, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore. Council member Rodger Cargile was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (13) resolution for selecting a construction contractor and waiving bidding for the June Drive improvement project, (14) budget adjustment ordinance for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, (15) budget adjustment and waiving bidding for the purchase of mowers for the Parks and Recreation Department, (16-1-k) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for repairs/renovation to the Crain-Yancey Baseball Field concession stand, (16-1-l) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for the purchase of property, and (16-2-j) budget adjustment ordinance authorization to expend funds for the purchase of property. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Kirkman to suspend the rules and add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

The minutes of the regular March 14, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howell, 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 March 31, 2023: General Fund: \$10,401,069.87; Street Fund \$2,551,876.58; LOPFI Fund \$213,956.48; Act 833 Fund \$56,396.22; Airport Fund \$259,398.86. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$13,482,698.01. He also reported the following balances as of March 31, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$12,791,617.37; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$314,827.21; Court Automation Fund \$108,943.02; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$2,611,662.43. He also reported a total of \$2,281,660.84 year-to-date in City 0.50% and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$143,699.84 from the same time in 2022. Also reported was a total of \$2,255,264.11 in City 1.00% sales tax revenue.

Item (6) on the agenda was an update on the June Drive improvement project. City Engineer Mark Lane and City Planner Richard Stafford noted that the issue regarding the half-street improvements in-lieu-of payments from the developer is still in discussions. Mr. Lane noted that Riser Harness Ford purchased property along June Drive but are developing only a portion of it. The issue is for what portion of half-street improvements is Riser Harness Ford responsible for, the whole property or just the portion of the

April 11, 2023

Regular Session

property that is being developed. Mr. Lane and Mr. Stafford stated that the city staff's position is that the developer is responsible for the entirety of the property whereas the developer should only be responsible for the portion that is being currently developed. It was also noted that if there is a disagreement there is a mechanism in place that would allow for the developer to make an appeal to the Council. No Council action was taken at this time.

Item (7) was for the discussion and selection of an engineering firm for the Davis Drive improvement project. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to select Davidson Engineering as the engineering firm for the Davis Drive improvement project. The motion also authorizes the Mayor and City Engineer to enter negotiations for the engineering services on the Davis Drive improvement project. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell.

Item (8) was a resolution expressing the willingness to utilize Federal-Aid Recreational Trails Program funds to develop or improve the Riverside Park Bike Trail. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the resolution expressing the willingness to utilize Federal-Aid Recreational Trails Program funds to develop or improve the Riverside Park Bike Trail. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale. **Resolution 2023-22**

Item (9) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform under the terms of a certain grant agreement related to the Blue and You Foundation providing funding for the Searcy Police Department CPR/AED Training Initiative. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Morris to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2023-23**

Item (10) was a resolution for the authorization to enter into a contract for Lightle Senior Citizens Center improvements. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2023-24**

Item (11) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Searcy Special School District for the use of school facilities for housing an interactive simulation training room. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-25**

Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to submit application for Community Oriented Policing Services School Violence Prevention Program grant. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mrs. Hale

April 11, 2023

Regular Session

to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. **Resolution 2023-26**

Item (13) was a resolution selecting a construction contractor and waiving bidding for the June Drive improvement project. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. **Resolution 2023-27**

Item (14) on the agenda was a budget ordinance for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for Police, Fire and other public safety services. 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, and Howell. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale. 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”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2023-17**

Item (15) on the agenda was a budget ordinance for the purchase of seven (7) Kubota mowers for the Parks and Recreation Department. 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”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. **Ordinance 2023-18**

Item (16) 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 \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘VEHICLES’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-53-01) for the acquisition of Police Department vehicles;
- b. Appropriate \$2,000.00 to the General Fund ‘BLUE & YOU FOUNDATION GRANT’ revenue account (#01 4-000-80-10) and appropriate \$2,000.00 to the Police Department ‘BLUE & YOU FOUNDATION GRANT’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-56-34) for the

receipt and use of grant funding for the Searcy Police Department CPR/AED training initiative;

- c. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM' expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-12) as recommended by the Grounds and Equipment Committee;
- d. Appropriate \$135,293.83 to the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund 'LIBRARY RENOVATION REIMBURSEMENT' revenue account (#14 4-000-70-03) and appropriate \$135,293.83 to the 'LIBRARY RENOVATION' expenditure account (#14 5-020-54-02) for architectural services on the new Library Building renovation project;
- e. Appropriate \$918,670.90 from Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'BERRYHILL TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS' expenditure account (#14 5-080-05-01) for construction services on the Berryhill Park tennis/pickleball courts project;
- f. Appropriate \$397.14 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;
- g. Appropriate \$114,658.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'PICK-UP TRUCKS' expenditure account (#01 5-080-53-01) for the acquisition of Parks and Recreation Department vehicles;
- h. Appropriate \$19,825.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to 'JUNE DRIVE IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-010-54-09) for engineering services for the June Drive improvement project;
- i. Appropriate \$31,809.00 from Airport Fund unappropriated reserves to the Airport Department 'VEHICLE PURCHASE' expenditure account (#12 5-040-53-01) for the acquisition of Airport Department pick-up truck (first authorized in Ordinance 2022-18);
- j. Appropriate \$26,504.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the

Code Enforcement Department 'VEHICLE PURCHASE' expenditure account (#01 5-120-53-03) for the acquisition of Code Enforcement Department vehicle;

- k. Appropriate \$35,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Sports Complex Department 'AMERICAN LEGION FIELD CONCESSION REPAIR' expenditure account (#01 5-085-05-03) for repairs/renovation of the Crain/Yancey Baseball Field concession stand;
- l. Appropriate \$2,006,748.33 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'PORTANNE PROPERTY PURCHASE' expenditure account (#01 5-010-55-04) for the purchase of property along Main Street and Race Avenue;

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

- a. \$22,222.12 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. \$135,293.83 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the new Library building renovation project (#14 5-020-54-02);
- d. \$918,670.90 to Delk Construction Company for the Berryhill Park Courts project (#14 5-080-05-01);
- e. \$397.14 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the Black House restoration/repairs project (#01 5-083-05-02);
- f. \$114,658.00 to Red River Dodge Chrysler for the acquisition of three pick-up trucks for the Parks and Recreation Department (#01 5-080-53-01);
- g. \$19,825.00 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services for the June Drive improvement project (#01 5-010-54-09);
- h. \$31,809.00 to Landers Chrysler Dodge for the acquisition of a pick-up trucks for the Airport Department (#12 5-040-53-01);

April 11, 2023

Regular Session

- i. \$26,504.00 to Russell Chevrolet for the acquisition of a vehicle for the Code Enforcement Department (#01 5-120-53-03);
- j. \$2,006,748.33 to Lightle Law Firm Escrow Account for the purchase of the Portanne property (#01 5-010-55-04);

A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris. 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”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Hale. **Ordinance 2023-19**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: May 9, 2023

/s/ Mat Faulkner
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

Seal