

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, April 12, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. John Henderson 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.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add item: (8) waive bidding and authorization to purchase two Police vehicles. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Morris to add the item. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular March 8, 2022 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: 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 March 31, 2022: General Fund: \$3,706,703.75; Street Fund \$3,043,136.89; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,879.60; LOPFI Fund \$162,663.06; Act 833 Fund \$77,890.34; Airport Fund \$193,396.30. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$7,201,669.94. He also reported the following balances as of March 31, 2022: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$122,038.75; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$14,003,265.65; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$325,182.01; Court Automation Fund \$64,004.77; American Rescue Plan Fund \$2,132,197.58. He also reported a total of \$2,137,961.00 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$204,284.71 from the same time in 2021.

Item (6) on the agenda was a report from Bryce Corporation regarding a planned expansion of facilities in the City of Searcy. Bryce Corporation announced an \$85 million expansion project.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Osborne asked the Council to move ahead to items (23) and (24) on the agenda. Both of these items pertained to the Bryce Corporation report.

Item (23) was a resolution expressing intent to issue revenue bonds related to Bryce Corporation industrial facilities. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the resolution expressing intent to issue revenue bonds related to Bryce Corporation industrial facilities. Motion

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carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2022-16**

Item (24) was a resolution authorizing the execution and performance of a certain agreement for provision of professional services regarding industrial development revenue bonds. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Resolution 2022-17

Item (7) was a presentation of the Planning Workshop developed by Crafton Tull for future planning in the City of Searcy. Crafton Tull representatives were present to answer any questions from the Council.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the authorization to waive bidding and authorize the purchase of two Police vehicles. The Police Department has an allocation from the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund of \$146,347.50 for the purchase of Police Patrol vehicles. Due to economic conditions, no vehicles had been located within the state. Two vehicles were located in Texas. The Police Department asked the Council for authorization to secure the purchase of the two vehicles. The Council was also asked to waive bidding on these vehicles for the fact that although they were located in Texas, they were a little more expensive than the Arkansas state bid cost and it is very difficult to even find available vehicles. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to waive the bidding and authorize the purchase of the two Police patrol vehicles. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (9) was for discussion regarding the city-owned electronic sign located on Beebe-Capps Expressway. The electronic sign mechanism is broken and beyond repair. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Cothorn, to authorize the purchase of a new sign (identified as a message center) from Superior Signs including the installation charge at a cost of \$34,082.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the authorization to advertise for bids regarding repairs to the Black House. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cargile to authorize the advertisement for bids for the repairs needed at the Black House. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (11) was discussion regarding snow plows that will attach to the Street Department pickup trucks. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cothorn to authorize the purchase of four snow plows from HilBilt Sales Corp. for a total cost of \$29,878.34. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

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Item (12) was for the discussion regarding determining the selection process for obtaining professional services to be rendered to the City of Searcy. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to continue using the same process of obtaining professional services. That process would be a solicitation of Request for Qualifications (RFQ), ranking of the RFQ's by the Council, and authorization for the Mayor and administration to negotiate with the highest ranking RFQ and moving to the next highest ranking RFQ if negotiations fail. This motion is specifically geared toward choosing a firm for future planning for the City of Searcy. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Item (13) on the agenda was the presentation of the City of Searcy Federal Fund Awards Single Audit Report for calendar year 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to accept the Single Audit Report for calendar year 2020. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Item (14) was for the discussion regarding the need for a medical director for the City of Searcy Fire Department and Police Department. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Morris to authorize the Fire and Police to utilize the services of Dr. Parker at a cost of \$6,000.00 annually. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell.

Item (15) was discussion regarding setting a time and date for Committee of the Whole meeting workshops to discuss department budgets and needs. Mayor Osborne said he would choose possible times and poll Council members for agreeable times and dates.

Item (16) was for the discussion regarding salary changes for certain Department Heads. Mayor Osborne recommended salary changes for the Code Enforcement Department Head and City Clerk/Treasurer. The recommended changes were:

- Code Enforcement Department Head: From \$58,947.72 annually to \$62,372.81 annually

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the change to the Code Enforcement Department Head annual salary as recommended by Mayor Osborne. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

- City Clerk/Treasurer: From \$65,067.34 annually to \$72,000.00 annually

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the change to the City Clerk/Treasurer annual salary as recommended by Mayor Osborne. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (17) was a resolution to authorizing the execution and performance of certain agreements. Agreements with the following:

- Humane Society of Searcy
- Main Street Searcy
- Metro Little Rock Alliance

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- Searcy Arts Council
- Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce
- White County Aging Program
- White Council Historical Society

Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Resolution 2022-10

Item (18) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, Police Department assets. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2022-11**

Item (19) was a resolution to approve a certain contract, authorize the execution and performance of a certain agreement with Davidson Engineering for professional services regarding the tennis courts/pickleball facility improvement project at Berryhill Park. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the certain contract, authorize the execution and performance of a certain agreement with Davidson Engineering for professional services regarding the tennis courts/pickleball facility improvement project at Berryhill Park. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2022-12**

Item (20) was a resolution authorizing the execution and performance of a certain agreement with Miller Newell Engineering for professional services regarding the drainage ditch improvement project in the Cloverdale subdivision. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2022-13**

Item (21) was a resolution to rename a portion of North Grand Street, two blocks southward from East Race Avenue to East Center Avenue. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the resolution to rename a portion of North Grand Street, two blocks southward from East Race Avenue to East Center Avenue. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Resolution 2022-14

Item (22) was a resolution to authorize the application for a 95/5 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for electric vehicle charging stations, solar electric generation panels, and backup generator. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Raney to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. Mr. Howell stepped out of the meeting for a short time and did not vote.

Items (23) and (24) were addressed earlier in the meeting.

Item (25) was a resolution to authorize the execution and performance under certain documentation related to the sale of certain real property. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Cargile. Mr. Howell stepped out of the meeting for a short time and did not vote. **Resolution 2022-18**

Item (26) on the agenda was an ordinance vacating and abandoning all of the East-West Public Utility Easement lying within Lot A of the replat of part of Southwest Addition and part of Carnes Addition. 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”: 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 Mrs. Hale, 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. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2022-07**

Item (27) on the agenda was an ordinance for the authorization to conduct business with a certain individual who serves as an employee of the City of Searcy, specifically Rodger Cargile. 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”: Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson 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”: Morris, Howell, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Cargile abstained from voting. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris. **Ordinance 2022-08**

Item (28) 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 \$122,038.75 from Special 1% Connector Route Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS’ expenditure account (#13 5-900-54-03) and appropriate \$59,638.30 from Eight Year Plan Tax Fund to the ‘NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS’

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- expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-09) for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project;
- b. Appropriate \$2,252.00 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 \$63,375.00 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 \$6,840.00 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 \$5,597.25 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Engineering Department ‘SURVEYING EQUIPMENT’ expenditure account ((#01 5-130-05-07) for surveying equipment in the Engineering Department;
 - f. Appropriate \$7,000.00 from the 0.25% County Fire Protection Services Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘RADIOS’ expenditure account (#14 5-070-05-19) for replacement of Fire Department repeater antenna;
 - g. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department ‘BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS’ expenditure account ((#01 5-090-02-01) repairs to Sanitation facilities as a result of fire;
 - h. 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;
 - i. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor’s Department ‘MAIN STREET SEARCY’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-05-13) for additional funding for Main Street Searcy;
 - j. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor’s Department ‘OFFICE SUPPLIES’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-04-01) for office supplies for the City Planner;

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- k. Appropriate \$34,082.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'ELECTRONIC SIGN BB CAPP'S' expenditure account ((#01 5-010-53-03) for replacement of electronic sign on Beebe Capps Expressway;
- l. Appropriate \$29,878.34 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'PICK-UP TRUCK SNOW PLOWS' expenditure account ((#02 5-900-53-22) for purchase of 4 snow plows that attach to the front of Street Department pick-up trucks;
- m. 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;
- n. Appropriate \$3,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department 'MEDICAL DIRECTOR' expenditure account ((#01 5-070-05-28) for retaining the services of a medical director for the Fire Department;
- o. Appropriate \$3,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'MEDICAL DIRECTOR' expenditure account ((#01 5-060-05-11) for retaining the services of a medical director for the Police Department;

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

- a. \$56,865.40 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. Transfer \$175,000.00 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. \$181,677.05 to Township Builders, Inc., for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03 and #14 5-900-54-09);
- d. \$2,252.00 to Hoffmann Architectural for architectural services on the American Legion building renovation project (#01 5-010-05-21);
- e. \$63,375.00 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-07);
- f. \$6,840.00 to Pickering Firm, Inc. for engineering services on the Fuller Lane improvement project (#14 5-900-54-08);

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- g. \$5,597.25 to ICM of Jacksonville, AR for surveying equipment for the Engineering Department (#01 5-130-05-07);
- h. \$6,683.55 to A-1 Tint & Communications for replacement of Fire Department repeater antenna (#18 5-070-05-19);
- i. \$34,082.00 to Superior Signs for replacement of electronic sign on Beebe Capps Expressway (#01 5-010-53-03);
- j. \$29,878.34 to Hilbilt Sales Corp. Arkansas for purchase of 4 snow plows that attach to the front of Street Department pick-up trucks;
- k. \$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 Mr. Cothorn, 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, Morris, and Howell. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to amend the ordinance to add the following items:

Section 1.

- a. Appropriate \$34,082.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor’s Department ‘ELECTRONIC SIGN BB CAPPS’ expenditure account ((#01 5-010-53-03) for replacement of electronic sign on Beebe Capps Expressway;
- b. Appropriate \$29,878.34 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘PICK-UP TRUCK SNOW PLOWS’ expenditure account ((#02 5-900-53-22) for purchase of 4 snow plows that attach to the front of Street Department pick-up trucks;
- c. 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;
- d. Appropriate \$3,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department ‘MEDICAL DIRECTOR’ expenditure account ((#01 5-070-05-28) for retaining the services of a medical director for the Fire Department;
- e. Appropriate \$3,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department ‘MEDICAL DIRECTOR’ expenditure account ((#01 5-060-05-11) for retaining the services of a medical director for the Police Department;

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Section 2.

- l. \$34,082.00 to Superior Signs for replacement of electronic sign on Beebe Capps Expressway (#01 5-010-53-03);
- m. \$29,878.34 to Hilbilt Sales Corp. Arkansas for purchase of 4 snow plows that attach to the front of Street Department pick-up trucks;
- n. \$15,000.00 to Crafton Tull Architecture, Engineering, and Surveying for visioning workshop for determining next steps for planning in the community;

Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Morris, to adopt the ordinance as amended. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2022-09**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: May 10, 2022

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

Seal