

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mark Ferren gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Harley Bridger. City Attorney Will Moore 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. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris was not present.

The minutes of the regular April 11, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of April 30, 2023: General Fund: \$10,144,795.90; Street Fund \$2,613,888.20; LOPFI Fund \$184,662.09; Act 833 Fund \$56,396.22; Airport Fund \$219,283.64. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$13,219,026.05. He also reported the following balances as of April 30, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$12,154,356.52; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$354,330.85; Court Automation Fund \$117,063.18; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$604,914.10. He also reported a total of \$2,990,137.35 year-to-date in 0.50% City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$219,430.65 from the same time in 2022. He also reported a total of \$2,949,156.72 year-to-date in 1.00% City Sales Tax revenues.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the approval for the promotion of Andrew Bogan to Assistant Fire Chief. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cargile to approve the promotion of Andrew Bogan to Assistant Fire Chief. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (6) was for the appointment of Justin Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a five-year term with the term set to expire on November 3, 2027. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to approve the appointment of Justin Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a five-year term with the term set to expire on November 3, 2027. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the approval for the development of a new dog park located on the grounds of the Carmichael Community Center. City Planner Richard Stafford explained that a preliminary estimate for the entire project was for \$696,540.00. He further explained that possible funding could come from different sources such as the General Fund, Street Fund, fundraising, grants and possibly from the A&P Commission.

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A motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Raney to move forward with the development of plans for the new dog park. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (8) was for an update on the June Drive improvement project. Mayor Faulkner asked the Council to table this item for a special Council meeting.

Item (9) on the agenda was for discussion regarding additional financial assurance/security for the compost center as required by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. City Engineer Mark Lane explained that at this time an amount for the additional security has not been determined. Mayor Faulkner asked the Council to table this item until June.

Item (10) was for the discussion regarding a master plan/design for Berryhill Park by Crafton Tull. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to have Crafton Tull include a master plan/design for Berryhill Park in the Master Planning already undergoing. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (11) on the agenda was for discussion regarding the Gin Creek bridge on Elm Street. No action taken.

Item (12) was for discussion regarding work on the Adult Softball Fields. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cargile to move forward with the needed work on the adult softball fields. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (13) on the agenda was for the approval of a new step and grade salary schedule for District Court employees. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Morris, to approve and adopt the new step and grade salary schedule for District Court employees. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (14) was for the approval of increases to the salaries for the Airport Manager, Code Enforcement Department Head, District Court Department Head, and the Parks and Recreation Department Head. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the increases for these Department Heads. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (15) on the agenda was for the approval for adding one firefighter position to the Searcy Fire Department. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to approve the additional firefighter position. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

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Item (16) was for a request to set a time and date for a public hearing for the declaration of a nuisance property for property located at 2103 West Beebe Capps Expressway. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to set a time and date of June 13, 2023 at 6:00 prior to the regular June 2023 Council meeting. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (17) was a resolution for authorization to enter into an agreement with Davidson Engineering for engineering services for the Davis Drive improvement project. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the resolution for authorization to enter into an agreement with Davidson Engineering for engineering services for the Davis Drive improvement project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-28**

Item (18) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically security cameras at Searcy City Hall. 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-29**

Item (19) was a resolution authorizing the execution of a sewer easement in favor of the Searcy Board of Public Utilities. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Kirkman to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-30**

Item (20) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with White County Regional Library System for staffing funding. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-31**

Item (21) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Code of Ordinances, establishing Council meeting times and for other purposes. 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Kirkman, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2023-20**

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Item (22) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area located at 1600 East Market Avenue from R-3 (One-Unit Residential) to PUD (Plan Unit Development). 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Ordinance 2023-21

Item (23) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area located at 2709 Eastline Road from U-T (Urban Transitional) to C-4 (Regional and Open-Display 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Raney, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Moore then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Kirkman, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Ordinance 2023-22

Item (24) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to: (i); (ii); (iii); (iv); (v) ...

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

Ordinance 2023-23

The Mayor announced ...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved:

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/s/ Mat Faulkner
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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