

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 13, 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 2103 West Beebe Capps Expressway. Mayor Mat Faulkner opened the public hearing. Natalie Harless requested and was allowed to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Al Fowler gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by James Hart. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Brett Kirkman, David Morris, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore. Council member Chris Howell arrived at the meeting following item (8) on the agenda.

Item (3) on the agenda was to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (26-1-w) budget adjustment ordinance for the purchase of eight Police vehicles and the necessary equipment for the vehicles and (26-2-k) budget adjustment ordinance authorization to expend funds for the purchase of eight Police vehicles and the necessary equipment for the vehicles. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to suspend the rules and add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

The minutes of the regular May 9, 2023 meeting of the Council and the special May 19, 2023 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Hale and seconded by Mr. Kirkman to approve both sets of the minutes. The following voted to approve: 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 May 31, 2023: General Fund: \$10,258,606.63; Street Fund \$2,785,104.94; LOPFI Fund \$264,234.90; Act 833 Fund \$84,279.96; Airport Fund \$212,197.48. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$13,604,423.91. He also reported the following balances as of May 31, 2023: 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$12,467,892.98; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$361,713.61; Court Automation Fund \$122,650.86; American Rescue Plan Act Fund \$604,914.10. He also reported a total of \$3,768,236.32 year-to-date in 0.50% City and County Sales Tax revenues

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received, which is up \$211,559.95 from the same time in 2022. He also reported a total of \$3,718,393.35 year-to-date in 1.00% City Sales Tax revenues.

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

Item (7) was for the approval of the reappointment of the following members (with their respective terms) to the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission (A&P Commission):

- Chris Howell (Chairman) – 1-year term with the term set to expire on April 30, 2024
- Mike Chalenburg – 1-year term with the term set to expire on April 30, 2024
- Rees Jones – 2-year term with the term set to expire on April 30, 2025
- Tommy Centola – 4-year term with the term set to expire on April 30, 2027

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the reappointment of Chris Howell, Mike Chalenburg, Rees Jones, and Tommy Centola along with their respective terms to the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion Commission (A&P Commission. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

Item (8) on the agenda was an update on the South Sawmill Road improvement project. City Attorney Will Moore presented a listing of properties that are identified as being affected by right-of-way acquisition needed for the completion of the improvement project. Also included in the listing is the estimated cost for the acquisitions. The listing included 42 properties. Mr. Moore’s listing showed a total estimated cost for acquisitions of \$96,640. He asked the Council to approve the listing of properties and to appropriate \$100,000.00 for the cost of acquisitions. He noted that the appropriation was included on the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to approve the listing as presented by Mr. Moore. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris.

Item (9) was for the discussion regarding a street paving program for 2023. City Engineer Mark Lane presented a printout from the roadway management system that provides data regarding pavement conditions for various roads. Mr. Lane indicated to the Council that what he needs to know, in order to provide a listing of streets to be included in the paving program, is an amount that the Council intends to spend on this program. Mr. Lane also noted that it had been discussed about including sidewalks in this year’s program. He also said that with more usage of the roadway management system, more data will be gained and the data will be better quantified. The Council indicated that at this time they would like to wait for more data to be gathered before a decision is made on what the paving program consists of.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding the need for and possible acquisition of 20-yard and 40-yard roll-off trash bins. The Council was presented with quotes for varying number of bins to purchase. The quotes were as follows:

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- 3 20-yard bins and 4 40-yard bins - \$49,997.71
- 6 20-yard bins and 8 40-yard bins - \$99,999.81

A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the purchase of an additional 6 20-yard and 8 40-yard roll-off trash bins at a cost of \$99,999.81. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (11) was for the discussion regarding a flap gate (water control gate) for the Riverside Park property. City Engineer Mark Lane noted that he estimated the cost of the flap gate to be \$10,000 and that city personnel would be able to perform the installation. A motion was made by Mr. Cargile, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve the acquisition of a flap gate for the Riverside Park property. Mr. Lane also noted that an appropriation of \$10,000.00 is included on the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Item (12) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding the use of funds that were received from the sale of city-owned property located at 608 North Main Street. When the property was donated to the city, the donor requested that upon sale the proceeds be split for usage between the Police Department and the Fire Department. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Hale to approve the use of the proceeds (to be split between the Police Department and the Fire Department) that were received from the sale of the property located at 608 North Main Street. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Item (13) was for the discussion regarding needed doors for the Lightle Senior Citizens Center. A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to approve the acquisition of needed doors for the Lightle Senior Citizens Center. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (14) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding repairs that are needed for the bridge over Gin Creek at Berryhill Park. Mr. Lane explained that due to the high estimates that have been seen it would be his recommendation to allow the city to do limited repairs to the bridge at this time to spruce it up. He noted that an appropriation is included on the budget ordinance to be considered later in the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to move forward with the needed repairs done by the city itself to the bridge over Gin Creek at Berryhill Park. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (15) was for the discussion regarding a community branding effort for the City of Searcy. Mayor Faulkner noted that an appropriation is included on the budget ordinance to be considered later in the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to approve moving forward with the community-wide branding effort.

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Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

Item (16) on the agenda was for the approval for making the salary for the newly created Grants Coordinator \$50,000.00. The original budget for the City of Searcy included an appropriation of \$40,000.00 for the Grants Coordinator position as well as the associated costs for the salary. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cargile to approve the additional \$10,000.00 in salary as well as the associated costs (Social Security/Medicare and APERS Retirement). Mayor Faulkner noted that these additional costs are included on the budget adjustment ordinance to be considered later in the meeting. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, and Morris.

Item (17) was a request to set a time and date for public hearings for the declaration of nuisance properties located at 906 West Pleasure Avenue and 446 Highway 367 North. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to set July 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular July 2023 City Council meeting. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, and Howell.

Item (18) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement for the cutting and baling of hay on the recently purchased property located on South Main Street. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Cargile to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement for the cutting and baling of hay on the recently purchased property located on South Main Street. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Resolution 2023-32

Item (19) was a resolution approving the destruction of certain outdated documents. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Brewer to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale.

Resolution 2023-33

Item (20) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney.

Resolution 2023-34

Item (21) was a resolution declaring certain real property located at 2103 West Beebe Capps Expressway a nuisance, directing the removal of the improvements constituting

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the nuisance. Mr. Moore read the resolution by title only. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Hale to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2023-35**

Item (22) was a resolution for the authorization to apply for an Outdoor Recreation grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. 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”: Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2023-36**

Item (23) on the agenda was an ordinance amending portions of the land development and subdivision regulations. 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”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Raney, 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 2023-25**

Item (24) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area, real property located at 109 Crestview Drive, from R-4 (One-unit Residential – medium lot) and R-3 (One-unit Residential – Small lot) to C-2 (General Commercial). A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Cargile, 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. Raney, 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 Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2023-26**

Item (25) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area, real property located at 1162 Veterans Boulevard, from U-T (Urban Transitional) to PUD (Plan Unit Development). A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cargile, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Moore read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mrs. Hale, 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.

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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”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Kirkman.

Ordinance 2023-27

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 \$2,500.00 to ‘RECREATION DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-08) and appropriate \$2,500.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-10) for the receipt and use of a donation to be used for dog park stations;
- b. Appropriate \$10,297.66 to the Police Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-05-06) for the use of donations to the Police Department;
- c. Appropriate \$250.00 to ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$250.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation to be used for the Fire Department child car seat program;
- d. Appropriate \$325,735.00 from Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘ADA 4050-22 BOX HANGAR’ expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-17) for the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics 80/20 grant for construction of a box hangar;
- e. Appropriate \$166,885.00 from Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘ADA 4051-22 ADDITIONAL HANGAR APRON’ expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-16) for construction of additional hangar apron;
- f. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department ‘BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-02-01);

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- g. Appropriate \$5,000.00 from 0.25% Fire Protection Services Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department '2024 TRAVEL/TRAINING' expenditure account (#18 5-070-05-09);
- h. Appropriate \$117,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Library Department 'LIBRARY STAFF FUNDING AGREEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-020-01-12) for the funding agreement for staffing with the White County Regional Library System;
- i. Appropriate \$339,966.71 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department '2024 MACK/HEIL TE64 FRONT LOADER' expenditure account (#01 5-090-53-20) for the acquisition of an overhead front load trash truck authorized to be ordered at the October 19, 2022 special Council meeting;
- j. Appropriate \$270,344.35 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;
- k. Appropriate \$5,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'SMYRNA CHURCH IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-16) for improvements at the Smyrna Church;
- l. Appropriate \$60,125.00 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;
- m. Appropriate \$19,977.44 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'TOOLS/EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-080-02-07) for pedestal picnic tables for city parks;
- n. Appropriate \$100,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the 'SOUTH SAWMILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS' expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-07) for right-of-way acquisitions on the South Sawmill Road improvement project;

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- o. Appropriate \$99,999.81 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Sanitation Department '20/40 YARD DUMPSTERS' expenditure account (#01 5-090-53-18) for the purchase of 20 yard and 40 yard roll-off dumpsters;
- p. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'RIVERSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-080-54-06) for flap gate (water control) at Riverside Park;
- q. Appropriate \$22,678.11 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Fire Department 'TRAINING FACILITY' expenditure account (#01 5-070-53-24) for the use of proceeds from the sale of city-owned property located at 608 North Main Street;
- r. Appropriate \$22,678.12 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'VEHICLE EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-03-03) for the use of proceeds from the sale of city-owned property located at 608 North Main Street;
- s. Appropriate \$14,919.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'LIGHTLE CENTER REPAIRS' expenditure account (#01 5-010-02-13) for the replacement of doors at the Lightle Senior Citizens Center;
- t. Appropriate \$15,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Parks and Recreation Department 'BERRYHILL PARK IMPROVEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-080-54-07) for the repair of the bridge at Berryhill Park;
- u. Appropriate \$15,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Mayor's Department 'ADVERTISING' expenditure account (#01 5-010-04-07) for community branding expenses;
- v. Appropriate from General Fund unappropriated reserves the following for the additional salary and associated costs for the Grant Coordinator position in the Mayor Department:
 - #01 5-010-01-01 'SALARY' - \$10,000.00

- #01 5-010-01-02 'SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE' - \$765.00
- #01 5-010-01-05 'APERS RETIREMENT. - \$1,532.00

w. Appropriate \$391,680.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Police Department 'VEHICLES' (#01 5-060-53-01) for the purchase of an additional eight Police vehicles and the cost to equip them;

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

- a. \$46,357.18 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. Transfer \$75,000.00 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. \$117,500.00 to the White County Regional Library System for the funding agreement for staffing with the White County Regional Library System (#01 5-020-01-12);
- d. \$339,966.71 to River City Hydraulics, Inc. for the acquisition of an overhead front load trash truck (#01 5-090-53-20);
- e. \$270,344.34 to Delk Construction Company for the Berryhill Park Courts project (#14 5-080-05-01);
- f. \$5,000.00 to Harmony Janitorial and Building Solutions for improvements at the Smyrna Church (#01 5-080-05-16);
- g. \$60,125.00 to Davidson Engineering for engineering services on the South Sawmill Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-07);
- h. \$19,977.44 to The Playwell Group, Inc. for pedestal picnic tables for city parks (#01 5-080-02-07);
- i. \$99,999.81 to Wastequip for the purchase of 20 yard and 40 yard roll-off dumpsters (#01 5-090-53-18);
- j. \$14,919.00 to Staley Glass for the replacement of doors at the Lightle Center (#01 5-010-02-13);
- k. \$291,680.00 to Red River Dodge for the purchase of eight Police vehicles (#01 5-060-53-01);

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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”: Howell, Cargile, 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 Mrs. Hale, 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. Chalenburg, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Kirkman, Morris, Howell, and Cargile.

Ordinance 2023-28

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: July 11, 2023

/s/ Mat Faulkner
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

Seal