

ORDINANCE NO. 2016 - 13

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SEARCY CODE OF ORDINANCES;
ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF MEETINGS OF
THE SEARCY CITY COUNCIL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Searcy City Council has reviewed the procedures for the conduct of its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide for the orderly conduct of these meetings is necessary to foster public discourse and, absent such reasoned public discourse government is ineffective and, for the preservation of the public peace, safety and welfare, an emergency is hereby declared; and

WHEREAS, the Searcy City Council has previously adopted rules related to the governance of its meetings; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has adopted statutes that modified certain elements of these rules requiring a change in certain procedural rules of the City of Searcy.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, to wit:

Section 1. Section 2-46 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

“ 2-46 City Council Meeting.

2-46-1 Regular Meeting. The City Council shall meet in regular session on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. When a holiday occurs on any such Tuesday, the regular meeting shall be held on the following Tuesday at the same hour unless otherwise provided for by motion. The regular meeting time may be rescheduled by the Mayor or City Council in special circumstances, but when done so the change shall be made sufficiently in advance so as to allow proper notification pursuant to applicable law.”

Section 1. Section 2-51-4 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

“ 2-51-4 Agenda or Pre-Council Meeting.

In order to hold discussion of agenda items, an agenda/pre-council meeting shall be called for the Thursday prior to the regularly

scheduled meeting of the City Council at 6:00 p.m. The Agenda Meeting or Pre-Council Meeting may be rescheduled by the Mayor or a majority of the members of the Searcy City Council, subject to reasonable notification and in compliance with Arkansas open meetings law that might then be in effect. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of the Searcy City Hall building unless another place has been previously set by the Mayor or City Council. All items of business that are to be considered at the next scheduled City Council meeting shall be available for discussion, as well as documentation provided to each Council member and media as requested.”

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. The provisions of this ordinance are separable and, upon any finding that any provision of this ordinance is unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be enforceable according to their terms

Emergency Clause. The need to provide for reasoned public discourse, having been deemed to be an emergency by the City of Searcy, and the foregoing necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare, an emergency is hereby declared and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

Adopted this 10th day of May, 2016.

The City of Searcy, Arkansas:

/s/ David Morris
Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Jerry Morris
City Clerk-Treasurer