

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2018. 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 David Morris opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Morris closed the public hearing.

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mark Harris, representing the White County Ministerial Alliance, gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by George Carder. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, J. R. Howard, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (16) resolution to authorize the execution of certain agreements, Police and Fire Departments software, (17) resolution authorizing the sale of property south and west of the intersection of Woodruff Avenue and Pecan Street, and (20-1-e) budget ordinance, additional appropriation for repairs to air compressor for the Searcy Fire Department. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. English to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular November 13, 2018 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 11-30-2018: General Fund: \$1,396,311.25; Street Fund \$1,769,892.53; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,716.29; LOPFI Fund \$269,302.17; Act 833 Fund \$65,522.76; Airport Fund \$67,026.50. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$3,585,771.50. He also reported the following balances as of 11-30-2018: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$4,046,364.80; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$7,325,179.67; Information Technology Projects Fund \$12,057.07; Special Projects Fund \$2,554.02; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$149,370.97. He also reported a total of \$6,084,936.94 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$208,833.61 from the same time in 2017.

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Item (6) on the agenda was the quarterly report from the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation presented by Buck Layne of the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Ronnie McFarland to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Board of Public Utilities with the term set to expire on December 31, 2023.

Item (8) was for the reappointment of David Cole to a five (5) year term on the Searcy Airport Commission with the term set to expire on December 31, 2023.

Item (9) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Jean Ann Bell to a six (6) year term on the Searcy Library Board with the term set to expire on December 31, 2024.

Mayor Morris stated that it is his recommendation that these reappointments (Ronnie McFarland, David Cole, and Jean Ann Bell) to the respective Boards or Commissions be approved. A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Raney, to approve the reappointments of Ronnie McFarland to the Searcy Board of Public Utilities, David Cole to the Searcy Airport Commission, and Jean Ann Bell to the Searcy Library Board. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the approval of a personnel change in the City of Searcy Parks and Recreation Department. The requested change was to move a part-time position at the Rialto Theater to a full-time position at the Parks and Recreation Department. Also, part of the requested change was to eliminate a part-time position at the Parks and Recreation Department. The requested change would result in an overall decrease in personnel costs by eliminating two (2) part-time positions with the creation of one (1) full-time position. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the personnel change in the Searcy Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling.

Item (11) was for the setting of a date and time for a public hearing to be held regarding the application for a private club permit, specifically an application that has been submitted by Great White Holdings, D/B/A (doing business as) Guacamole Grill of Searcy. In consideration of the 30 day time frame for public notification of a permit application that is required by Searcy Ordinance 2018-16, a date of February 12, 2019 was suggested. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Raney, to set a date and time of February 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Searcy City Hall for a public hearing regarding the application for a private club permit, specifically an application submitted by Great White Holdings, D/B/A Guacamole Grill of Searcy. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English.

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Item (12) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically equipment and hard drives in the Information Technology Department. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically equipment and hard drives in the Information Technology Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. **Resolution 2018-45**

Item (13) was a resolution approving 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. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2018-46**

Item (14) was a resolution to authorize the application for a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission to aid and assist in the construction of a hangar at the Searcy Municipal Airport. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution to authorize the application for a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the Searcy Airport Commission to aid and assist in the construction of a hangar at the Searcy Municipal Airport. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2018-47**

Item (15) was a resolution for the authorization to enter into an agreement with Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. concerning the construction of certain improvements, the construction of a hangar, at the Searcy Municipal Airport. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2018-48**

Item (16) was a resolution to approve certain contracts and the authorization to execute and perform certain agreements, specifically a contract with Zuercher Technologies, LLC for the replacement of Police Department and Fire Department software. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mrs. Arnett and seconded by Mr. Howard to pass the resolution approving certain contracts and the authorization to execute and perform certain agreements, specifically an agreement with Zuercher Technologies, LLC for the replacement of Police Department and Fire Department software. . Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. **Resolution 2018-49**

Item (17) was a resolution to authorize the sale of certain city-owned property and the authorization to execute and deliver certain instruments conveying certain real property south and west of the intersection of Woodruff Avenue and Pecan Street. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Mayor Morris asked if there was any discussion regarding the

resolution. Mr. Brewer made a motion to table the resolution for more time for consideration. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. Mr. Brewer voted “no”. **Resolution 2018-50**

Item (18) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the City of Searcy employee handbook. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Howard, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. 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, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. **Ordinance 2018-35**

Item (19) on the agenda was an ordinance to abandon and vacate a street in Blocks 11 and 12 of the Woods Addition and a street adjacent to Block 35 of the original town of Searcy and Block 20 of the Watkins and Quarles Addition, as requested by Harding University. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Howard, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Chalenburg abstained from voting. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mrs. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Howard, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Cothorn. Mr. Chalenburg abstained from voting. **Ordinance 2018-36**

Item (20) 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 \$5,642.83 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services;
- b. Appropriate \$20,069.70 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘SOFTBALL PRESSBOX/CONCESSION/RESTROOM’ expenditure

account (#14 5-085-54-03) for construction services on the new softball pressbox/concession/restroom facility;

- c. Appropriate \$44,500.00 to General Fund "INSURANCE CLAIMS REIMBURSEMENT" revenue account (#01 4-000-70-01) and appropriate \$44,500.00 to General Fund "DAMAGED PROPERTY REPLACEMENT" expenditure account (#01 5-190-02-11) for the receipt and use of insurance reimbursement for a Sanitation Department truck that had burned;
- d. Appropriate \$1,400.00 to the General Fund "RECREATION DONATIONS" revenue account (#01 4-000-90-08) and appropriate \$1,400.00 to Parks and Recreation Department "DONATIONS EXPENSED" expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-10) for donations received;
- e. Appropriate \$4,800.00 from the 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Tax Fund unappropriated reserves "BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS, expenditure account (#18 5-070-02-02) for overhead door repair, replacement of ice machine, and compressor repair;
- f. Transfer \$2,897.40 from the Sports Complex Department "ELECTRIC HIGGINSON BOYS & GIRLS FIELD" expenditure account (#01 5-085-02-15) to the Sports Complex Department "BUILDING MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS" expenditure account (#01 5-085-02-01) for the placement of plaques on the Searcy Swim Center facility, football pressbox, and the softball pressbox;

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

- a. \$21,734.89 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$108,217.06 to Regions Bank for payment on the loan for the construction of the Searcy Swim Center (#14 5-085-05-01);

- c. \$5,642.83 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- d. \$20,069.70 to Odom Construction Services, LLC for construction services on the new softball pressbox/concession/restroom facility (#14 5-085-54-03);
- e. \$25,000.00 to Steve England Truck Sales, Inc. for the purchase of a 2005 Peterbilt 335 cab and chassis truck. An insurance claim reimbursement has been received for the damaged Sanitation Department truck. An emergency has been recognized and declared to exist and the process of formal bidding is hereby waived for the purchase and repairs that are necessary;

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”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. **Ordinance 2018-37**

The Mayor announced:

- A dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Softball Pressbox/Concession/Restroom facility will be held on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
- Searcy city offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on December 24-25, 2018 and for the New Year Holiday on January 1, 2019
- A swearing-in ceremony for City of Searcy Council Members and City of Searcy Elected Officials on January 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Searcy City Hall
- The Arkansas Municipal League 2019 Winter Conference will be at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas on January 16-18, 2019

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: January 8, 2019

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/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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