

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 12, 2019. 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 Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Karl McLarty gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Rodger Cargile. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Dale English, Don Raney, and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson. Council member Dale Brewer was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add item: (9) discussion regarding a change in Municipal Health Benefit Program premium rates for the City of Searcy and (12) resolution to execute and perform an agreement with iWorQ Systems, Inc. for software and services for the Code Enforcement Department. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the item. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular October 8, 2019 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: Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 10-31-2019: General Fund: \$1,288,197.09; Street Fund \$1,813,856.05; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,797.52; LOPFI Fund \$110,397.23; Act 833 Fund \$18,520.41; Airport Fund \$25,391.62. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$3,274,159.92. He also reported the following balances as of 10-31-2019: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$3,821,775.76; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$7,383,233.49; Information Technology Projects Fund \$35,322.89; Special Projects Fund \$2,577.49; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$294,442.29; Court Automation Fund \$25,411.32; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$293,332.20. He also reported a total of \$5,322,591.79 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$230,121.97 from the same time in 2018.

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Item (6) on the agenda was for the authorization to place on order the Police Department vehicles for the 2020 vehicle replacement program called for in the 2014 Eight Year 1% Tax Plan. Searcy Police Chief Steve Hernandez explained that if the order is not placed at this time for the 2020 vehicles, due to a change in the Dodge Charger model, they would not be available. The vehicles will not be delivered until March of 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. English to authorize placing the order for the Police Department vehicles for the 2020 vehicle replacement program called for in the 2014 Eight Year 1% Tax Plan. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell.

Item (7) on the agenda was for the authorization to place on order a pick-up truck for the Sanitation Department to be funded with assistance under a 2019 75/25 Electronic Waste Recycling Grant. The grant is for a total cost of \$25,500.00 of which the City of Searcy would be reimbursed \$19,125.00. If ordered now the truck could be available for delivery about March 2020. The truck would be purchased under state bid pricing. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to authorize placing the order for the Police Department vehicles for the 2020 vehicle replacement program called for in the 2014 Eight Year 1% Tax Plan. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (8) was for the discussion of the City of Searcy employee salaries for calendar year 2020. Mayor Osborne asked the Council for guidance as to whether a 2% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) should be included in the budget for calendar year 2020. City administration was instructed to develop a budget that includes a 2% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) to be presented to the Council. The Council would then be able to make a decision on the direction to be taken.

Item (9) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding a change in Municipal Health Benefit Program premium rates for the City of Searcy. Mayor Osborne informed the Council that the City of Searcy was notified that an increase in Municipal Health Benefit premium rates would be effective January 1, 2020. The City of Searcy currently pays the premium for city employees for health benefits. An increase of \$36.00 per employee per month will go into effect January 1, 2020 to maintain the same coverage. The increase in premiums would amount to an increase of approximately \$94,000.00 annually to keep providing the same coverage to employees.

Item (10) was a resolution approving amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy, Arkansas, as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. 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”: Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and English. **Resolution 2019-31**

Item (11) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform an agreement for providing School Resource Officers (SRO) to the Searcy Special School District. This agreement provides for four (4) SRO’s for the Searcy Special School District. Mr.

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Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, and Raney.

Resolution 2019-32

Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform an agreement for software and related services from iWorQ Systems, Inc. for Code Enforcement Department software. This software is for Business License and other Code Enforcement service applications. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform an agreement for software and related services from iWorQ Systems, Inc. for Code Enforcement Department software. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2019-33**

Item (13) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, replacing an appendix to Chapter 14, providing for a modification of Sanitation rates for residential and commercial users. 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”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Howell, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell. **Ordinance 2019-32**

Item (14) 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 \$850.00 to ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$850.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation from Enterprise Products;
- b. Appropriate \$6,052.10 to ‘RECREATION DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-08) and appropriate \$6,052.10 to the Parks and Recreation Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-10) for the receipt and use of a donation from First Security Bank Marketing;
- c. Appropriate \$8,243.00 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;

- d. Appropriate \$80,135.83 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 construction services;
- e. Appropriate \$4,311.55.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ADA 3787-19 DRAINAGE/SURFACE REPAIRS' expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-11) for the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics 3787-19 drainage and surface repairs grant project engineering services;
- f. Appropriate \$33,545.83 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ADA 3787-19 DRAINAGE/SURFACE REPAIRS' expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-11) for the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics 3787-19 drainage and surface repairs grant project construction services;

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

- a. \$34,898.56 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. \$8,243.00 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- d. \$80,135.83 to Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. for construction services on the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);
- e. \$4,311.55 to Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. for engineering services on the ADA grant drainage/repair project (#14 5-040-56-11);

- f. \$33,545.83 to Cox Paving for construction services on the ADA grant drainage/repair project (#14 5-040-56-11);

A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and English. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, and Raney. **Ordinance 2019-33**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: December 10, 2019

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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