

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 8, 2020. 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.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. immediately following the previous public hearing on December 8, 2020. The purpose for this public hearing was for the consideration of any public input in regard to the proposed declaration of a nuisance property for property located at 606 Eastwood Drive. 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. Mike Chalenburg gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Logan Cothorn. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

The minutes of the regular November 5, 2020 meeting of the Council and the special November 10, 2020 and November 12, 2020 meetings of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the minutes of the three meetings. The following voted to approve: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of November 30, 2020: General Fund: \$1,200,126.89; Street Fund \$2,735,953.54; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,867.61; LOPFI Fund \$313,500.35; Act 833 Fund \$84,565.39; Airport Fund \$102,595.32. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$4,454,609.10. He also reported the following balances as of November 30, 2020: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$3,104,079.66; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$7,675,826.57; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$399,488.84; Court Automation Fund \$53,694.02; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$1,159,773.64. He also reported a total of \$6,555,372.72 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$720,662.06 from the same time in 2019.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the presentation and discussion of the annual audit report for the Searcy Water Utilities for the year ended June 30, 2020 and 2019. A motion was

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made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to accept the Searcy Water Utilities audit report for the year ended June 30, 2020 and 2019. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

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

Item (7) was for the recognition of outstanding service by Searcy Police Department officer Burnis (BJ) Rouse by the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the reappointment of Donnie Miller to a five-year term on the Searcy Board of Public Utilities, with the term set to expire on December 31, 2025. A motion was made by Mrs. Arnett and seconded by Mr. Howell to approve the reappointment of Donnie Miller to a five-year term on the Searcy Board of Public Utilities, with the term set to expire on December 31, 2025. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell.

Item (9) was for the approval of a personnel change in the Searcy Parks and Recreation Swim Center Department. The requested personnel change was to convert one full-time Lifeguard position to two part-time Lifeguard/Cashier positions. This would allow for more flexibility to ensure that the needed positions are filled. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the personnel change in the Searcy Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (10) 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 abatement of other nuisances. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. **Resolution 2020-36**

Item (11) was a resolution declaring certain real property located at 606 Eastwood Drive a nuisance; directing the removal of the improvements constituting the nuisance; and for other purposes. Mr. 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”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Resolution 2020-37**

Item (12) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code with respect to the zoning classification of a specific land area within the city, specifically property located at 507 North Locust Street from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to C-2 (General Commercial). 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

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following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson 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”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Ordinance 2020-41**

Item (13) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Searcy, Arkansas Sections 22-8 and 28-21 relating to the use of sewers; declaring an emergency and for other purposes. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Hale, 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, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell. 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”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2020-42**

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 \$43,130.13 from Special 1% Connector Route Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS’ expenditure account (#13 5-900-54-03) for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project;
- b. Appropriate \$114,237.50 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to the ‘COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENT’ expenditure account (#14 5-900-54-01) for construction services on the Country Club Road improvement project;
- c. Appropriate \$21,732.00 to the Police Department ‘REPLACEMENT VEHICLE PURCHASE’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-03-11) for replacement vehicle(s) from insurance reimbursement on wrecked 2018 Dodge Charger;
- d. Transfer \$6,500.00 from the Police Department ‘FUEL’ expenditure account (#01 5-060-03-04) to the Police Department ‘TIRES’ expenditure

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account (#01 5-060-03-05);

- e. Appropriate \$27,000.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘SECURITY FOR MULCH CENTER CLEANUP’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-17) for additional security/assurance money to be held in a Certificate of Deposit (CD) for cleanup purposes, in adherence with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) guidelines, for the Compost Center;

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

- a. \$12,357.44 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$530,681.62 to Delta Asphalt of Arkansas Inc. for paving services for the 2020 street paving program;
- c. \$43,130.13 to Township Builders, Inc. for construction services on the North Main Street improvement project (#13 5-900-54-03);
- d. \$114,237.50 to RL Persons Construction, Inc., for construction services on the Country Club Road improvement project (#14 5-900-54-01);
- e. \$27,000.00 to First Community Bank for the acquisition of Certificate of Deposit for additional security/assurance money to be held in a Certificate of Deposit (CD) for cleanup purposes, in adherence with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) guidelines, for the Compost Center;
- f. \$108,217.06 to Regions Bank for payment on the loan for the construction of the Searcy Swim Center (#14 5-085-05-01);

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”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2020-43**

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A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: January 12, 2021

/s/ Kyle Osborne
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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