



Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

4/26/2022

City Hall

- Chairman Chris Howell called the meeting to order at 9:00am
- Commissioners Centola, House, and Jones, were present
- Approval of Minutes: Jones motioned to approve, House seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Blansett gave the financial report. The first page shows a tracking of all funds requested from the Commission. Total fund balance as of 3/31/22 was \$2,443,170.72. Restricted Fund Balance is \$1,355,321.42 and the Unrestricted Fund Balance is \$1,087,849.30. Collections for the month of February 2022 were for Lodging \$25,578.61 and Prepared Foods \$78,941.97. Interest Income \$69.85. Expenditures were: Searcy Recreational Sports League, Inc. \$9,016.60, White County Fair Assn.-2022 \$33,881.32, United We Stand Beats & Eats \$10,000, Tinkerfest Beats & Eats \$9,235.00, Accounting Services \$1,950.00, Bank Fees \$422.20. Net income for March 2022 \$40,395.31.
- Mr. Gibson and Mr. Blansett presented a lien for failure to pay A&P tax by the Cookie Basket. The amount of the lien is \$12,500 with expectations of the amount owed being less than that. The Cookie Basket is 5 months behind. Centola motioned to move forward with the lien. House seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- Tim Westbrook presented a recap from Tinkerfest/Arkansas Regional Robotics Tournament. 19 teams participated. Most from

out of the city (one from Mexico) which stayed in hotels and ate at our restaurants. Estimated 1500-2000 people attended the tournament over the weekend. They are already talking about returning next year. In discussion with Searcy schools for the possibility of having 40 to 50 teams next year. Tinkerfest estimated attendance of 4,000. Numerous food trucks with long lines. Westbrook said that the director of the tournament when seeing Tinkerfest said every year. Need a larger facility for the tournament to grow.

- Request for Funding: Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce Arkansas Tourism RARN/P&T Summer Co-op Campaign. \$3142.00 Tara Cathey presented. 3,060 30-second radio commercials on 68 ads stations across the state over 12 weeks from May 23 to August 14. Average of 240 spots per week reaching 140,000 people over 18. Two different commercials: one for 4th of July celebration one to come visit Searcy. Jones asked who would be producing the commercials and what the cost would be. There is a local radio station which would produce it for the Chamber. House motioned to approve, Centola seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- Request for Funding: Searcy Parks and Recreation Summer maintenance employees for the sports complex for the summer. \$45,000.00 Mike Parsons presented. This is the same request that was approved last year. Centola questioned whether the A&P Commission would pay them directly, like last year, or through the city. The concern being that the Commission has no insurance for employees. Parsons said that the Commission would pay the city and the city would issue the paychecks. Jones questioned if the entire amount would be necessary, since last year the amount was around \$17,000. Jones motioned to approve for \$20,000, House seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- Parsons mentioned that for the next meeting the Searcy Girls Softball will be making a presentation next month. Currently, there are no covering for the bleachers. They have been working with the city engineer to come up with a workable solution.

- Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 9:24am.