

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 2012 7:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Fire Chief Bill Baldrige gave the Invocation, followed by the pledge led by Alderman Steve Sterling. City Clerk Peggy Meads called the roll with the following Aldermen answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, Jim Dixon, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mark Derrick. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

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

Clerk/Treasurer Peggy Meads presented the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 3-31-12: General Fund: \$839,862.51; Street Fund \$533,578.96; Capital Equipment Fund \$239,297.83; LOPFI Fund \$783,214.54; Parks & Recreation Capital Fund \$80,577.88. She also reported a total of \$805,120.18 year-to-date in County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$42,182.75 from the same time in 2011; and \$809,244.43 in year-to-date City Sales Taxes received, which is up \$30,198.33 from the same time in 2011. The total of all funds is \$2,693,041.21. Mr. Cothorn made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report; Mr. English seconded the motion. The following voted to approve: Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn and Arnett.

Item (e) was approval of the annual rate adjustment imposed by Waste Corporation of Arkansas (WCA). The billing rate, to become effective May 1, 2012, will include a 5% CPI increase, making the new rate \$32.65 per ton. The Mayor reminded the Council that WCA waived imposing an annual rate adjustment in 2011, so the new rate is based on the change of the CPI Index from February 2010 to February 2012. Mr. Raney made a motion to approve the billing rate increase; Mrs. Arnett seconded the motion. The following voted to approve: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett and Dixon.

Item (f) was approval of the demolition of property at 507 West Woodruff in Searcy. This is the property concerning which the Council previously took action to declare a nuisance (Resolution 2012-04). The owner has been notified of this action by certified mail and has not responded within the thirty-day deadline for response. Mr. Cothorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the demolition. The following voted to approve: English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon and Sterling.

Item (g) was approval of the low bid on the airport terminal construction project. The low bid was submitted by James H. Cone in the amount of \$787,000.00. Mr. Raney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve the low bid. Motion carried with

the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling and English.

Item (h) was a resolution to authorize the Mayor to apply for a grant from the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics for construction of an airport terminal in an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00; and for site improvements in the vicinity thereof in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. The Mayor indicated that the site improvements would be for the parking lot, relocation of the fence and gate, and the like. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. English to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English and Raney. **Resolution 2012-07**

Item (i) was a resolution to authorize the Mayor to apply for a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to secure funding to overlay Taxiway E and to construct sub-surface drainage in the apron area, in the amount of \$200,000.00 or less. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Derrick to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney and Brewer. **Resolution 2012-08**

Item (j) on the agenda was a resolution authorizing the White River Planning & Development District, Inc. (WRPDD), to provide administrative services regarding the ballfield lighting project, for which the City has received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. The Mayor announced that this project was for the remaining fields that were not included in the 2011 project, and that the work would commence after the 2012 ball season. The contract for administrative services will not exceed \$10,000.00, with fifty percent (50%) of the cost paid by the Department of Parks and Tourism. Mr. Cothorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon, to approve the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer and Derrick. **Resolution 2012-09**

The next item on the agenda was a resolution authorizing placement of a historical marker at Oak Grove Cemetery honoring Brigadier General Dandridge McRae, upon the request of the White County Historical Society. Placement of the marker will be at the expense of the Historical Society, with no expense to the City. Mrs. Arnett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon, to approve the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick and Cothorn. **Resolution 2012-10**

Item (l) was a resolution to accept a permanent drainage easement over and across Lot 65, Stage III, James Addition to the City of Searcy. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Sterling to adopt the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn and Arnett. **Resolution 2012-11**

Item (m) on the agenda was an ordinance to replace Ordinance 2012-14 previously adopted by the Council, the purpose of which is to conform the Ordinance to FEMA requirements. 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”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett and Dixon. 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”: English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon and Sterling. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling and English. **Ordinance 2012-16**

Item (n) on the agenda was an ordinance to rezone Lot 9, Block 5, South Heights Addition to the City of Searcy, from R-1 and R-3 to PD. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Derrick, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English and Raney. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Derrick, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney and Brewer. 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”: Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer and Derrick. **Ordinance 2012-17**

Item (o) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to:

- a. Appropriate \$3,675.00 from unappropriated reserves to new Code Enforcement expenditure account 5-120-05-04 “Sowell Street condemnation”: \$3,000.00 for appraisal fee and \$675.00 for limited title search fee;
- b. Transfer \$6,342.10 appropriation from IT service agreement expenditure account (5-160-05-05) to IT network equipment software expenditure account (5-160-04-05);
- c. Authorize payment of \$10,000.00 to Main Street Searcy;
- d. Authorize payment of \$18,585.94 to SCM for February architectural services (airport terminal project);
- e. Authorize payment of \$20,000.00 to SREDC; and
- f. Authorize payment of \$34,978.56 to Stephenson Oil Co., Inc. for fuel for all city departments.

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick and Cothorn. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the

following voting “yes”: Dixon, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn and Arnett. 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”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett and Dixon. **Ordinance 2012-18**

Item (p) was an update of the sale by sealed bid of obsolete city vehicles and equipment. The Mayor stated that some of the items would be sold individually, some by lots. Advertising of the sale will occur on April 15 and 22. Information will also be available on searcy.com. Jay Shock will oversee the preparation and sale processes.

Item (q) on the agenda was a request from Brian Smith on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department to revise its 2012 capital equipment budget to purchase two used pickup trucks, in lieu of one new pickup truck; and to purchase one new Grasshopper brand mower and attachments, in lieu of one walk-behind mower and two mid-deck mowers. A budget adjustment will be made when an accurate description and purchase price of substitute items is known. Mr. Raney made a motion to approve the revision; Mr. English seconded the motion. The following voted to approve: English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon and Sterling.

The Mayor then announced that the City had been approved for a \$17,071.77 grant from the White County Office of Emergency Services, for the purchase of radio equipment, with the City’s match being approximately \$5,149.23.

The Mayor also announced a press conference would be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 19, at the State Capitol Rotunda concerning the reopening of Yarnell’s Ice Cream.

The Mayor called on City Clerk Peggy Meads, who distributed a memo to the Council and announced that two key members of her staff, April Jordan and Holly Rhodes, had submitted their resignations, effective April 20. She explained what actions had been taken to reassign staff and assure that the payroll and accounts payable functions are covered properly.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: May 8, 2012

/s/ David Morris  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Margaret Meads  
CITY CLERK

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