

City Council Meeting
December 6, 2012
Special Session

**Searcy City Council – Special Session
December 6, 2012 5:00 p.m.
Minutes**

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

Item (3) on the Agenda was a recommendation from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality for a suggested name change to the Searcy Mulch Center. The suggested change was to rename the Mulch Center officially to “Searcy Compost Center.” A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the suggested name change to “Searcy Compost Center,” Motion passed with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Dixon, English, Raney, Brewer, Derrick, and Cothorn.

Item (4) on the Agenda was an update on regulations from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality regarding the financial assurance posted by the City of Searcy for possible clean-up costs associated with a closure of the Searcy Compost Center. The amount currently held by the City of Searcy as assurance is \$25,000.00, in the form of a certificate of deposit at First Community Bank. City Engineer Mark Lane explained that he is working with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to determine any additional monetary amount that will be needed to be held as financial assurance and should be able to report to the City Council the changes needed by the January 8, 2013 Regular City Council meeting. No action was needed or taken at this time.

Item (5) on the agenda was for a discussion and a possible vote regarding a Budget Adjusting Ordinance supporting a bonus for the employees of the City of Searcy. The council was presented with information supplied by the Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jay Shock pertaining to the cost and feasibility of varying amounts of possible bonuses.

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A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to select Option 4 in the information packet. Option 4 provided for a \$400.00 bonus for full-time employees and a \$200.00 bonus for part-time employees, with a cost of \$101,821.04. This cost is to be funded from a certificate of Deposit that matured on 12/4/12 and held at First Community Bank. Motion carried with a vote of 6 “yes” and 1 “no”. The following voting “yes”: Dixon, English, Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, and Arnett. The following voting “no”: Derrick.

A budget adjusting ordinance had been prepared with the cost allocation to be inserted according to the option chosen, and was presented to the Council.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2011-41, THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF SEARCY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN EXPENDITURES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, desired to recognize the contributions made by all employees of the City of Searcy; and

WHEREAS, economic factors outside the control of the City of Searcy have resulted in higher prices for goods and services available to the City of Searcy to provide for the level of services it currently provides within the City of Searcy; and

WHEREAS, funds are not available to afford an increase in the regular pay of either full time workers or part time workers on a continuing basis; and

WHEREAS, the Searcy City Council desires to expend funds for a one-time bonus in the amount of \$400.00 for all full time employees (defined as those employees either: (a) defined as full-time employees by operation of law and specifically including the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Searcy, Arkansas; or (b) working thirty (30) hours or more per week) of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, as of December 6, 2012 (the “Eligible Full Time Employees”); and

WHEREAS, the Searcy City Council desires to expend funds for a one-time bonus in the

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amount of \$200.00 for all part time employees (defined as working twenty-nine (29) hours or less per week) of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, as of December 6, 2012 (the “Eligible Part Time Employees”).

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, meeting in special session, to-wit:

Section 1. The budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, is amended in the following manner:

(i) \$97,932.72 is appropriated from unappropriated reserves to be attributed between accounts within the relevant department of the City of Searcy to afford Eligible Full Time Employees a one-time bonus in the amount of \$400.00 and Eligible Part Time Employees in the amount of \$200.00, with said funds to be attributed to the relevant expense accounts for salary, social security withholding, medicare and APERS within each department.

(ii) \$3,888.32 is appropriated from unappropriated street fund reserves to be attributed between accounts within the Street Department of the City of Searcy to afford Eligible Full Time Employees employed by the Street Department a one-time bonus in the amount of \$400.00, and Eligible Part Time Employees employed by the Street Department a one-time bonus in the amount of \$200.00 with said funds to be attributed to the relevant expense accounts for salary, social security withholding, medicare and APERS within the Street Department.

(iii) The bonus is to be paid by the City of Searcy to the Eligible Employees as soon as practicable but in no event after December 31, 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Dixon to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, and Dixon. The following voting “no”: Derrick. Motion carried by a vote of 6 “yes” and 1 “no”. City Attorney Buck Gibson then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the ordinance. The ordinance was approved with a vote of 6 “yes” and 1 “no”. The following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon,

and English. The following voting “no”: Derrick. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Dixon to adopt the emergency clause. Motion was carried by a vote of 6 “yes” and 1 “no”. The following voting “yes”: Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Dixon, English and Raney. The following voting “no”: Derrick.

Ordinance 2012-34

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: January 8, 2013

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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