

Searcy City Council – Special Session
December 2, 2013 5:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order a Special Session of the Searcy City Council. City of Searcy Chief of Police Jeremy Clark gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Alderman Steve Sterling. City Clerk Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Aldermen answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, JR Howard, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer, and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was opened for discussion on revenue source options for the funding of the immediate and future needs of the City of Searcy, Arkansas. Mayor Morris commented that this has been a collaborative effort between the Searcy City Council, the administration for the City of Searcy, and the department managers for the City of Searcy, and he thanked all of them for the work and cooperation on this matter. He pointed out that the current sales and use tax (SUT) of one-half percent (0.50%) for the City of Searcy has been in place since 1994 and that an additional source of revenue is needed to continue to move the city forward in meeting the current and future needs of the City of Searcy. Mr. Raney commented that although he feels that the needs that have been presented would justify the levy of an additional permanent sales and use tax, he believes that a levy of a sales and use tax of an additional one percent (1.00%) with a seven (7) or eight (8) year sunset would be more prudent and desirable to the public. Mayor Morris noted that following discussions between all of the department managers and city administration, a levy of an additional one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax that would expire after a period of ninety-six (96) months would be their recommendation to be relayed to the City Council. City Attorney Gibson pointed out that if a special election is held and passed in February of 2014, the actual collection of the additional tax would go into effect on July 1, 2014. Mr. Brewer stated that he agrees with Mr. Raney regarding the inclusion of an expiration date (sunset) for a sales and use tax as being a better option. He also stated that he felt that an additional one percent (1.00%) SUT would allow for many of the needs of the city to be met, specifically mentioning streets, drainage, and fire protection.

Item (4) on the agenda was an ordinance providing for the levy of a one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax within the City of Searcy, Arkansas for a period of ninety-six (96) months. Mr. Chalenburg stated that he would like to have the ordinance, with the proposed tax rate increase and the proposed effective period, read in its entirety. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to read the ordinance in its entirety. Mr. Gibson then read the ordinance in its entirety. Mr. Chalenburg pointed out an error in section 7 [should read ‘court *of* competent jurisdiction’] that needed correction. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Howard, to amend the ordinance with said correction (replace the word ‘*or*’ with the word ‘*of*’ in section 7 of the ordinance). Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. English to accept the ordinance with the noted correction.

Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. Mr. Gibson then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Sterling to read the ordinance by title only for the third reading. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. Mr. Gibson then read the ordinance by title only for the third reading. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. A motion was then made by Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Howard, to adopt the emergency clause, which had been read earlier in the reading of the ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2013-35**

Item (5) on the agenda was an ordinance calling for and fixing a date for a special election regarding the levy of an additional one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax within the City of Searcy, Arkansas for a period of ninety-six (96) months, beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2022. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance in its entirety. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only for the second reading. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Howard, to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only for the third reading. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mr. Gibson then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Raney to adopt the ordinance calling for and fixing a date for a special election regarding the levy of an additional one percent (1.00%) sales and use tax within the City of Searcy, Arkansas for a period of ninety-six (96) months, beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2022. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. A motion was then made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. English, to adopt the emergency clause, which had been read earlier in the reading of the ordinance in its entirety. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. **Ordinance 2013-36**

Mayor Morris stated that the Council had taken a necessary step to continue to move the city forward in meeting the current and future needs of the City of Searcy. He thanked everyone involved for all of their hard work that had been put in to get to this point.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: 1/14/2014

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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