

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, August 12, 2014 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Searcy Chief of Police Jeremy Clark gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Alderman JR Howard. 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.

The minutes of the regular July 8, 2014 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 7-31-14: General Fund: \$1,032,811.61; Street Fund \$1,821,790.41; Capital Equipment Fund \$30,480.84; LOPFI Fund \$65,713.33; Act 833 Fund \$133,132.02; Airport Projects Fund \$1,168.80; Special Highway Tax Fund \$8,058,708.03. He also reported a total of \$3,670,338.91 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$142,841.93 from the same time in 2013. The total of all funds (excluding special highway tax fund) is \$3,085,097.01.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the authorization to return the excess (unused) funding that was received from Wal-Mart, Inc. for the installation of the traffic control signal lights located at the intersection of Beebe-Capps Expressway and Sowell Street. Mayor Morris reminded the Council that Wal-Mart had provided \$141,000.00 for the project with the understanding that if the actual cost of the signal installation was less than the \$141,000.00 the excess funding would be returned to Wal-Mart. Also understood was if the cost exceeded \$141,000.00, Wal-Mart would provide for the difference. Three bids were received on this project, with All Service Electric of Hot Springs, Arkansas returning the low bid of \$134,500.00. The bid from All Service Electric was accepted and approved at the September 10, 2013 regular Council meeting. The project was completed for this cost which leaves a balance of \$6,500.00 in excess (unused) funding to be returned to Wal-Mart, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to authorize the return of the excess (unused) funding provided by Wal-Mart, Inc. for the installation of the traffic control signal lights located at the intersection of Beebe-Capps Expressway and Sowell Street, in the amount of \$6,500.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Item (6) was for the discussion and approval of a street paving program to be undertaken in 2014. A paving program for streets in the City of Searcy was presented to the Council with a listing of streets and sections of streets that were in need of paving and/or milling-paving. City Engineer Mark Lane explained that there had been no significant paving projects undertaken by the city in the past few years. With the passage of the 0.50% (1/2%) ten (10) year sales tax [Issue #1 November 6, 2012] by the state, of which a portion was marked for city street improvements, the City of Searcy would receive approximately \$400,000.00 annually. This Issue #1 revenue along with turnback funding, which has been built up over a period of time, presents an opportunity for the City of Searcy to undertake a paving program with a cost of approximately \$1,607,392.00. Mr. Lane further explained that this estimation of costs was conservative in nature in that it was based on a cost for asphalt of \$1.00 per square yard and a thickness of two (2) inches of asphalt for the paving. He said that there would probably be instances that the thickness required may only be one and one-half (1 ½) inches, which would reduce the cost. The program presented includes approximately twelve (12) miles of streets that are in need of improving and is based on preliminary inquiries made by Mr. Lane in regard to the costs of asphalt, milling, and other related expenses. Mr. Lane further explained that the listing of streets in this program is not comprehensive and is also fluid in that if other areas (streets) are shown to be in greater need of improving, the list can be modified. He stated that he would welcome any suggestions and observations from the Council regarding streets that are not included in the list and would be glad to take a look for possible inclusion to this list. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. English to approve the undertaking of a paving project for the City of Searcy for 2014. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. Mr. Lane asked for clarification as to the amount for the cost of the program that is approved by the Council. He was instructed to follow the figure of \$1,607,392.00 as presented in the provided list. Mr. Lane stated that, with this approval, the process would be to advertise for the letting of bids. When the bid letting process is finalized the bids would be presented to the Council for their acceptance of a bid and approval to begin the program.

Item (7) was a resolution for the approval and adoption of the White County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) require communities to adopt an approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to receive pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have both approved the plan. Adoption by Resolution of each participating community is the final step for the implementation of the plan that will establish eligibility for receipt of pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mrs. Arnett for the approval and adoption of the White County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. **Resolution 2014-14**

Item (8) 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 \$32,660.00 to Mayor's department 'LIGHTLE CENTER REPAIRS' expenditure account (01 5-010-02-13) for the installation of a new roof on the John E. Lightle (Senior Citizens) Center, reimbursable through General Improvement Fund (GIF) grant;
- b. Appropriate \$10,000.00 from unappropriated general fund reserves to Mayor's department 'HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN' expenditure account (01 5-010-05-22) for the City of Searcy's portion of cost for the White County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- c. Appropriate \$6,500.00 to Street Fund 'SIGNAL BEEBE-CAPPS @ SOWELL STREET' expenditure account (02 5-900-54-14) for remittance of excess funds received from Wal-Mart for the installation of traffic signal;
- d. Appropriate \$33,738.09 to Act 833 Fund 'WHITE COUNTY ACT 833 AID' revenue account (11 4-000-10-05) for receipt of funds from White County for Act 833 funding loss due to Court order;

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

- a. \$22,414.45 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;

A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sterling, 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, Howard, Sterling, and English. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mrs. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2014-16**

The Mayor announced:

- The roofing project for installation of a new roof on the John E. Lightle Senior Citizens Center is completed. The project was funded with a General Improvement Fund (GIF) grant. The assistance provided by Senator Jonathan Dismang in securing this funding is greatly appreciated.
- The City of Searcy is presently in the process of applying for an Arkansas Department of Historical Preservation/Main Street Searcy grant for improvements at the Searcy American Legion building. It was learned that there were possible funds available through a matching grant because of the city's appropriation of \$8,000.00 made on April 8, 2014 for repairs to the American Legion building. Application is in the process for a possible additional \$24,000.00 in grant funding.
- Proposed General Improvement Fund grants being considered include; 1) soccer field improvements at the Searcy Sports Complex and 2) new roof for Searcy City Hall. Application has been submitted for the roof for Searcy City Hall.
- Modification of the interest rates being earned on the Special 1% Connector Route Tax bank account has been done. First Community Bank is raising the rate from 0.08% to 0.61%.
- The 2014 school year begins on August 18, 2014; be conscious of increased school activities.
- The White County Fair is scheduled for September 6-13, 2014 with the Fair Parade to be held on September 6 at 11:00 a.m.
- The Searcy Art Walk will be held on September 5, 2014 at the following locations;
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. @ Searcy Art Gallery (Black House)
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ Stevens Art Gallery (Harding University)
8:00 – 9:00 p.m. @ Midnight Oil Coffee House
- A public hearing meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Searcy High School Cafeteria concerning the Highway 36 to Highway 16 section of the new Connector Route.
- Recognition of Ms. Tonia Hale of Northstar Ambulance Service for receiving the Arkansas EMS Director of the Year award.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: September 9, 2014

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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