

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Monday, November 10, 2014 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mr. Tom Martin, Searcy Fire Department Chaplain, gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Alderman J. R. Howard. City Clerk Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Aldermen answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, J. R. Howard, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Alderman Steve Sterling was not present. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (7) discussion regarding the new swimming pool facility; (16-1-h) budget adjustment ordinance appropriation for the Library Improvement project in fund 14 (2014 Eight Year Plan). A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the new items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular October 14, 2014 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Howard to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 10-31-14: General Fund: \$1,344,219.88; Street Fund \$1,582,669.24; Capital Equipment Fund \$28,888.37; LOPFI Fund \$124,142.25; Act 833 Fund \$156,182.03; Airport Projects Fund \$1,171.75; Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$8,067,475.55; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$1,034,363.75. He also reported a total of \$5,264,587.04 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$301,745.80 from the same time in 2013. The total of all funds (excluding the Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund and the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund) is \$3,237,273.52.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the presentation and acceptance of the 2013 - 2014 Audit Report for the Searcy Water Utilities. Mayor Morris noted that copies of the audit report had been distributed to the Council members a couple of weeks earlier in order for them to have a chance to look it over and had asked Mr. Dan Dawson, Manager of the Searcy Water Utilities, to be present to answer any questions. Mr. Dawson was present to answer any questions. No questions were brought forth. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Howard for the acceptance of the 2013 – 2014 Audit Report for the Searcy Water Utilities. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

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Item (7) was for discussion regarding the new swimming pool facility. Mayor Morris noted that a public input meeting regarding the new swimming pool facility had been held on November 6, 2014 and felt it would be appropriate for the Council to discuss the input that was received at this meeting. It was pointed out by Mr. Raney that although the input received at the meeting centered on the desire to build an indoor facility, an outdoor pool (with a projected cost of \$5,150,258.00) was what was proposed in the City of Searcy Resolution 2013-23, which spelled out the projected use of the revenue generated by the eight year duration 1% sales and use tax. With this in mind it was pointed out by Mr. Chalenburg that an indoor facility would possibly cost more than the projected cost of an outdoor facility and also incur the additional cost of staffing the indoor facility on a year-round basis. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approach ETC Engineering (the architectural/engineering firm chosen for the swimming pool project) for information on the cost of an indoor facility and any other information/suggestions that they may have. Mr. Cothorn made the suggestion that visits should be made to other municipalities that have an indoor facility in order to gain more information regarding the construction/operational costs of their facilities. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and English.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the approval of the bids received and the selection of a bid for the demolition of the structure located at 105 Brookhaven Drive that has been declared a nuisance property (Resolution 2014-18). Four (4) bids had been received for the demolition of the structure. They were as follows:

- Johnny Brock Excavating and Landscaping, Inc. - \$6,800.00
- Jackson Dozer and Backhoe Service, Inc. - \$5,000.00
- Sid Langley Excavating and Landscaping, Inc. - \$5,000.00
- Jerry Faulkner Construction, Inc. - \$2,500.00

A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to accept the bid of \$2,500.00 from Jerry Faulkner Construction, Inc. for the demolition of the structure located at 105 Brookhaven Drive. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, English, and Raney.

Item (9) was for the presentation of the 2015 budget for the City of Searcy. Mayor Morris noted that the requested budgeted General Fund expenditures exceed the projected revenues for 2015 and that meetings are scheduled with the department managers in order to bring the expenditures in line with the projected revenues. A summary of the current 2014 budget was presented to the Council. Mayor Morris anticipates that a 2015 workable budget will be available and presented at the December 2014 meeting.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the approval to reschedule the regular December pre-council agenda meeting from December 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to December 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. Howard to approve the rescheduling of the regular December pre-council agenda meeting from December 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to December 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (11) was a resolution for the approval of a contract to sell and authorization to transfer interest in certain real property to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) to provide for the ability of AHTD to construct an extension of certain State Highways in White County, Arkansas (AHTD Job Number 050251). Searcy City Engineer Mark Lane explained that a small portion (approximately 1/100th of an acre) of the Searcy Compost Center land is required for the construction of the north connector route. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer and seconded by Mr. Howard to approve the contract to sell and authorization to transfer interest in certain real property to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) to provide for the ability of AHTD to construct an extension of certain State Highways in White County, Arkansas (AHTD Job Number 050251). Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2014-20**

Item (12) was a resolution approving certain contracts and authorization to execute and perform certain agreements, namely an agreement with the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to pass the resolution approving certain contracts and authorization to execute and perform certain agreements, namely an agreement with the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2014-21**

Item (13) was a resolution for the authorization to enter into an offer and acceptance contract between the City of Searcy and Portanne Inc. regarding the purchase of land for the Searcy Sports Complex. Searcy City Attorney Buck Gibson explained that the seller’s attorney is still in the process of drafting the purchase and sale agreement and that it is not available at this time.

Item (14) on the agenda was an ordinance for amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Searcy, Arkansas; amending Chapter 14 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances concerning sanitation services. Mayor Morris pointed out that some changes/amendments in wording were needed as discussed at the November 6, 2014 pre-council agenda meeting. These changes were to: a) page 1, section 14-6-1, the addition of the words ‘**in bags**’ to the first sentence whereas to read “All persons having trash to be transported as provided in this chapter, shall have trash in bags or **in bags** in trash containers and shall place them at a place on their premises where the same may be accessible for the sanitation employee” and b) page 2, section 2, change Sec.13-10 to read Sec. **14-10**. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to amend the ordinance as noted. The motion to amend the ordinance as noted passed with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer,

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seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance as amended, with the following voting "yes": Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothern, Arnett, Howard, and English.

Ordinance 2014-21

Item (15) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Section 11-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Searcy, Arkansas concerning the National Electrical Code and the Searcy Electrical Code. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting "yes": Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothern, Arnett, Howard, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothern, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting "yes": Chalenburg, Cothern, Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Cothern, Arnett, Howard, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2014-22**

Item (16) 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 \$532,422.75 to '8-YEAR PLAN 1% TAX REVENUE' revenue account (14 4-000-10-01) for the receipt of the October distribution of the 2014 8-Year Plan Fund revenue;
- b. Appropriate \$1,500.00 to 2014 8-Year Plan Fund 'LAND ACQUISITION-SPORTS COMPLEX' expenditure account (14 5-085-02-01) for appraisal services provided by Arkansas Appraisal Associates regarding prospective land purchase at the Searcy Sports Complex;
- c. Appropriate \$600.00 to 2014 8-Year Plan Fund 'LAND ACQUISITION-SPORTS COMPLEX' expenditure account (14 5-085-02-01) for boundary survey services provided by Quattlebaum Surveying, LLC regarding prospective land purchase at the Searcy Sports Complex;
- d. Appropriate up to \$4,000.00 to 2014 8-Year Plan Fund 'FIBER OPTIC NETWORK' expenditure account (14 5-160-05-01) for consulting services on the possible establishment of city-owned fiber optic network;
- e. Appropriate \$14,782.50 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to the Information Technology department 'COMMUNICATIONS' expenditure

account (01 5-160-02-04) for payment to White County Cable for the usage of their fiber optic network for the remainder of the 2014 calendar year;

- f. Appropriate \$31,292.00 to General Fund 'PARKS/TOURISM GRANT' revenue account (01 4-000-98-31) and appropriate \$62,584.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Parks and Recreation '2014 SPORTS COMPLEX PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT' grant expenditure account (01 5-080-56-08) for the 2014 Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism Outdoor Recreation grant;
- g. Transfer \$40,000.00 from Mayor's department 'SREDC' expenditure account (01 5-010-05-08) to Mayor's department 'SEARCY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE' expenditure account (01 5-010-05-23);
- h. Appropriate \$25,000.00 to 2014 Eight Year Plan 'LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT' expenditure account (14 5-020-02-01) for asbestos abatement and purchase of boiler equipment for the library;

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

- a. \$20,641.07 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;

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

Ordinance 2014-23

The Mayor announced:

- The White County Veterans' Day Appreciation ceremony will be held on November 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans' Mural on Market Avenue
- The 2014 Searcy Holiday of Lights Parade will take place on December 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: December 9, 2014

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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