

**Searcy City Council – Special Session**  
**March 19, 2015 5:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor David Morris called to order a Special Session of the Searcy City Council. Alderman J. R. Howard 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, J. R. 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 for the approval/selection of a bid for the purchase of three (3) side-arm sanitation trucks as called for in the 2014 Eight Year Plan. A total of eight (8) bids for various chassis/body combinations had been received, but six (6) of the submissions were disqualified because they did not meet the advertised specifications requiring that certain hydraulic operational cylinders be located on the outside of the refuse hopper to facilitate service/maintenance on the said cylinders and also for employee safety concerns. The submissions had costs for both a diesel fueled truck and for a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueled truck in the same chassis/body configuration. A presentation was made to the council by Mr. Rod Krug of Triple Transport regarding their experience with the conversion of a portion of their transportation fleet to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueled vehicles. He stated that although the initial cost of acquisition of a CNG fueled vehicle is higher than a comparable diesel fueled vehicle, the savings in fuel costs and maintenance over the life of the vehicle more than makes up for the higher initial cost. Triple Transport has constructed and is operating a CNG fueling station in the area, which addresses the concern over the availability/proximity of fueling accessibility. City Engineer Mark Lane stated that his recommendation would be to go with the CNG fueled truck for the reason of expected lower maintenance costs and fuel costs. After discussion regarding the advantages/disadvantages and differences between a diesel fueled truck and a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled truck, the decision was made to invest in the compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled vehicles. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to accept the low bid of \$281,986.80 per CNG fueled truck (cost of three trucks approved for purchase - \$845,960.40) that was received from Henard Utility Products. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Item (4) on the agenda was for the approval of the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park. Alderman Chalenburg and Mayor Morris pointed out that this plan and design study contract is being funded through a General Improvement Fund (GIF) grant that the City of Searcy has received for this purpose. Motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park.

March 19, 2015

Special Session

Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the consideration and selection of projects and/or requests to be approved for funding from the 2014 Eight Year Plan Reserve and Opportunity Fund. At this time it was recommended by Mayor Morris and City Attorney Buck Gibson that with the correlation between item (4) on the agenda [approval of the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. (WES) for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park] and item (6) on the agenda [authorization to enter and execute the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. (WES) for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park], the council should proceed to item (6) on the agenda before consideration of item (5).

Item (6) on the agenda was a resolution for the authorization to enter and execute the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. (WES) for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the resolution for the authorization to enter and execute the negotiated professional services contract between the City of Searcy and Whitlow Engineering Services, Inc. (WES) for the plan and design for the development of Riverside Park. The resolution passed with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. **Resolution 2015-11**

Item (5) on the agenda was for the consideration and selection of projects and/or requests to be approved for funding from the 2014 Eight Year Plan Reserve and Opportunity Fund. Certain projects/requests for funding had been presented to the Council at the pre-council agenda meeting that had been held on March 10, 2015. These projects/requests were as follows:

- Airport matching grants
- Searcy Police Department – city-owned building roof replacement
- Humane Society of Searcy – city-owned building addition/improvements
- Child Safety Center – assistance in the construction of new facility
- Pioneer Village – installation of security equipment
- Pioneer Village – construction of restroom facility
- Searcy Fire Department – mobile data terminals
- Holiday of Lights/City Beautification

Funding for cash-flowing and for meeting the local match as required by the 2014 Federal Aviation Administration and Arkansas Department of Aeronautics grants that were received for the Searcy Municipal Airport projects had previously been approved by the Council in May of 2014.

- A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to approve the request for funding the cost for replacing the roof of the Searcy Police

March 19, 2015

Special Session

- Department building in the amount of \$153,000.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling
- A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to approve the request for funding the cost of the addition/improvements to the Humane Society of Searcy city-owned building in the amount of \$85,000.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English
  - A motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to approve the request for funding for assistance in the construction of a new facility for the Child Safety Center in the amount of \$100,000.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney
  - A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English, to approve the request for funding the cost for installation of security equipment at Pioneer Village in the amount of \$10,291.00 and the request for funding the construction of a restroom facility at Pioneer Village in the amount of \$16,000.00. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer
  - Action regarding the request for acquisition of Mobile Data Terminals for the Searcy Fire Department was delayed until a future time at the request of Searcy Fire Department Chief Bill Baldrige in order to have more time to study the possibility of other alternatives as may be determined with the help of the City of Searcy Information Technology department
  - A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Raney, to table the request for funding for the Holiday of Lights/City Beautification in order to have further discussion regarding the request. Motion carried with following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg

Item (7) on the agenda was a budget ordinance that was prepared to make appropriations for the projects/requests that were considered and approved in item (5):

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

- a. Appropriate \$153,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROF-POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING ROOF’ expenditure account (14 5-500-05-01) for replacement of roof on the Police Department building;
- b. Appropriate \$85,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROF-HUMANE SOCIETY PROJECT’ expenditure account (14 5-500-05-02) for additions/improvements to city-owned Humane

Society of Searcy building;

- c. Appropriate \$100,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROF-CHILD SAFETY CENTER' expenditure account (14 5-500-05-03) for assistance in the construction of new Child Safety Center facility;
- d. Appropriate \$10,291.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROF-PIONEER VILLAGE SECURITY' expenditure account (14 5-500-05-04) for installation of security equipment for Pioneer Village;
- e. Appropriate \$16,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROF-PIONEER VILLAGE RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION' expenditure account (14 5-500-05-05) for construction of restroom facility at Pioneer Village;

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

- a. Up to \$153,000.00 for the replacement of the roof on the Searcy Police Department building;
- b. \$85,000.00 for additions/improvements at the Humane Society of Searcy building;
- c. \$100,000.00 for assistance in the construction of new Child Safety Center facility;
- d. \$10,291.00 for installation of security equipment for Pioneer Village;
- e. \$16,000.00 for construction of restroom facility at Pioneer Village;

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, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. 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": Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting "yes": Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. **Ordinance 2015-12**

City Council Meeting

5

March 19, 2015

Special Session

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: April 14, 2015

/s/ David Morris  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

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