

Searcy City Council – Special Session
November 30, 2015 5:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order a Special Session of the Searcy City Council. Searcy Fire Chief Bill Baldrige 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, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) was for the discussion of the status of the fiber optic network construction project and for the consideration of additional funding for the completion of the fiber optic network construction project. Mayor Morris explained that the reason for this meeting was to discuss the completion of the city-owned fiber optic network construction project and to receive direction as to whether to proceed with the deductive alternative which consists of a final phase of the network being extended to Fire Station 3 located on Beebe-Capps Expressway. Information Technology Department Director David Sawyers explained that the initial phase of construction, which connects all city-owned property except Fire Station 2 on Market Avenue, is essentially complete and that a decision on whether to continue with the final phase of construction needed to be determined at this time. He further explained that this determination is needed because the cost of the construction is exceeding the original cost estimation due to encountering more rock than originally expected and the existence of other infrastructure which requires the installation to have to be located deeper in the ground. He added that the difference between the costs of trenching installation versus boring through rock installation is significant. The cost of trenching installation is \$5.70 per linear foot, whereas the cost of boring installation is \$30.50 per linear foot. He explained that at this time, the best estimation he has is that the project is going to come in approximately \$75,000.00 over the original estimation for the entire project, including the final phase of extending the network to Fire Station 3. He added that to extend the network to Fire Station 3 would be an additional \$160,000.00, approximately. An alternative to continuing the extension to Fire Station 3 would be to continue the leasing of fiber optic lines from White County Video, at a cost of approximately \$8,700.00 annually. Mr. Sawyers noted that a decision is imminently needed because Crittco Fiber and Cable (the construction company doing the installation) are fast approaching the completion of the initial phase of construction of the network and need to be informed as to whether the final leg will be done. Also, White County Video, who supplies the current fiber optic connections for the city, will have to be informed of the city’s determination as to continuing the leasing of their lines. City Attorney Buck Gibson made a recommendation that, since an action is going to have to be taken as to the acceptance of the deductive alternate for the fiber optic network construction project (the continuation of construction of the final phase of connecting Fire Station 3), this issue be advanced to the agenda for the regular December 8, 2015 Council meeting.

Item (4) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to appropriate funds for completion of the fiber optic network construction project. Since the taking of any action was recommended to be advanced to the agenda for the December 8, 2015 regular meeting of the Council, this ordinance was not considered.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: January 12, 2016

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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