

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, September 13, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Minutes

A public hearing for the purpose of the consideration of any public input in determining the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass cutting expenses and the abatement of other nuisances that have been incurred by the City of Searcy was held prior to the start of the regular Council meeting. Mayor Morris opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding this matter. No person requested to speak. Mayor Morris closed the public hearing.

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Captain Keith Carlisle of the Searcy Fire Department gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Searcy Fire Department Chaplain Tom Martin. 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 a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (17-1-g) budget ordinance transfer of appropriation from Parks and Recreation ‘DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION AND PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE’ expenditure account to Parks and Recreation ‘PARKS PROJECTS’ expenditure account for the purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain City parks, (17-1-h) budget ordinance appropriation to Parks and Recreation ‘PARKS PROJECTS’ expenditure account for purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain City parks, (17-1-i) budget ordinance appropriation for expenses related to the set-up and takedown of the Holiday of Lights displays, and (17-2-h) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain City parks. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Howard to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular August 9, 2016 meeting of the Council, the special August 12, 2016 meeting of the Council, and the special August 25, 2016 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mr. English to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howard, Sterling, 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 8-31-16: General Fund: \$1,354,882.73; Street Fund \$1,109,832.94; Capital Equipment Fund \$22,454.17; LOPFI Fund \$49,789.87; Act 833 Fund \$70,358.78; Airport Fund \$52,324.03; Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$4,266,190.98; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$5,819,957.44; Information Technology Projects Fund \$49,219.25; Special Projects Fund \$12,956.23. He also reported a total of

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\$4,029,846.69 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$116,897.41 from the same time in 2015. The total of all funds (excluding the Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund, the 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund, the Information Technology Projects Fund, and the Special Projects Fund) is \$2,659,642.52.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the appointment of Cliff Hart to the Pollinator Friendly Community Committee to fill the unexpired position previously held by Nathan Lincoln for a term set to expire on May 31, 2018. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the appointment of Cliff Hart to the Pollinator Friendly Community Committee to fill the unexpired position previously held by Nathan Lincoln for a term set to expire on May 31, 2018. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

Item (7) was for the appointment of Becky McGuirt to fill a vacant unexpired position, previously held by Deral Casteel, on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with the term set to expire on November 3, 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to approve the appointment of Becky McGuirt to fill a vacant unexpired position, previously held by Deral Casteel, on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with the term set to expire on November 3, 2020. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the discussion and recommendation for actions to be taken to help in eliminating future damage to the Downtown Beautification project improvements. City Engineer Mark Lane stated that in discussions with the Beautification engineer Richard Stafford it was decided to begin with the placement of a crosswalk indicator sign as a visual deterrent to encroachment by vehicles on the island at the southeast corner of Arch Avenue and Spring Street. He has since learned that this may not be the action that is desired by the Council in order to help eliminate future damage to this island. The Council inquired about the possibility of the placement of rocks large enough to prevent encroachment upon the island to which Mr. Lane replied it would not be his recommendation for the use of ‘real’ rock in that this could present the possibility for vehicle damage and bodily injury. He was asked about the use of a decorative ‘false’ rock as a visual deterrent. He stated that if this was the Council’s desire he would see to it that this was done. The Council directed that decorative ‘false’ rock be placed in order to provide an additional visual deterrent to encroachment on the island to help in eliminating future damage.

Item (9) was for the discussion and approval for the purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at the playground equipment at certain City parks. Motion was made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Raney to approve the purchase of five (5) loads of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at needed areas around playground equipment in certain City parks. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the approval for City employees to undertake the set-up and takedown of the Holiday of Lights displays. In the previous 2015 Holiday of Lights season, the vendor that the displays were purchased from performed the set-up and takedown of the displays. The performance of the vendor supplied workers was less than satisfactory. As well, the needed equipment such as aerial lifts and other items had to be supplied by the City. City Engineer Mark Lane and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Parsons stated that they believed the task of setting up and taking down the displays could be accomplished by City employees, thus avoiding paying for the unsatisfactory performance that was experienced during the previous Holiday of Lights season. They further stated that it would be their recommendation that the City undertake the set-up and takedown of the Holiday of Lights displays. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to approve the usage of City employees and equipment in the set-up and takedown of the Holiday of Lights displays. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney.

Item (11) was for the approval and selection of a bid for the 2016 Street paving program. A total of two (2) bids were received with the bids being as follows:

- Central Arkansas Paving, Drasco, AR - \$376,276.50 (after corrections to an unbalanced bid)
- Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Paragould, AR - \$348,737.50

A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. Brewer to accept and select the bid from Delta Asphalt of Arkansas for the 2016 Street Paving program. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (12) was for the discussion and possible approval of a bid for the Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage project. A total of three (3) bids had been received in response to the advertised request for bids. The specifications for the bids called for the portion south of Chrisp Avenue to be enclosed and the portion north of Chrisp Avenue to be open. The engineer for the project, Morrison-Shipleigh Engineers, Inc., had an estimation for the cost of the project being \$302,062.00. The bids were as follows:

- Seagraves Construction - \$482,350.00
- Township Builders - \$454,893.00 (note: bidder did not use the revised Bid Proposal form provided in Addendum No. 1, and did not acknowledge receipt of Addendum No. 1 on the Bid Proposal form)
- Thompson Construction - \$681,316.00

Due to concern regarding the difference between the estimation of cost of this project by the engineer and the bids received and, also, not knowing what the cost would be if different options were pursued, it was recommended to be put out for re-bidding. The different options suggested were:

- Open drainage on the south side of Chrisp Avenue to the pond as well as open drainage on the north side of Chrisp Avenue to Gin Creek
- Enclosed drainage on the south side of Chrisp Avenue to the pond and open drainage on the north side of Chrisp Avenue to Gin Creek

- Enclosed completely on both the south side of Chrisp Avenue to the pond and the north side of Chrisp Avenue to Gin Creek

A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to place the project out for re-bidding asking for bids on all three of the options listed above. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (13) was for the discussion on the bid process for the relocation of Fire Station 2. Barry Hoffmann, the architect for the design of the proposed fire station, explained that he is almost completely ready to put the project out for bid. He stated that an estimation of cost at this point is \$1,125,000.00 with several deductive alternates built in. The current design calls for three (3) bays. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English, to make changes to the design to include four (4) bays with a deductive alternate of eliminating one bay as well as additional alternates, not to include any alternate eliminating the emergency generator. The motion also included that when the changes to the design are complete, it be placed for bid. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Item (14) was a resolution to approve the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Sterling to approve the resolution to approve the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. Mrs. Arnett was absent for the vote. **Resolution 2016-22**

Item (15) on the agenda was an ordinance for fixing and establishing the property tax millage to be collected for the City of Searcy for calendar year 2016. 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”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. **Ordinance 2016-25**

Item (16) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Searcy concerning ambulance services. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Raney, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg,

Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. English, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Ordinance 2016-26**

Item (17) 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 \$208.05 to General Fund ‘POLLINATOR COMMUNITY DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-27) and appropriate \$208.05 to Mayor’s Department ‘POLLINATOR COMMUNITY’ expenditure account (#01 5-010-05-27) for donations to the Pollinator Friendly Committee for sign;
- b. Appropriate \$3,075.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan unappropriated reserves to ‘COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE STUDY’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-06-01) for comprehensive drainage engineering services;
- c. Appropriate \$9,005.06 from 2014 Eight Year Plan unappropriated reserves to ‘FIRE STATION 2 RELOCATION’ expenditure account (#14 5-070-54-01) for architectural services on Fire Station 2 relocation;
- d. Appropriate \$4,777.58 from 2014 Eight Year Plan unappropriated reserves to ‘WILLIAMS ADDITION DRAINAGE’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-01) for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage engineering services;
- e. Appropriate \$228,760.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan unappropriated reserves to ‘SWIMMING POOL FACILITY’ expenditure account (#14 5-085-54-02) for construction invoice on the swimming pool complex;
- f. Appropriate \$6,000.00 to ‘RECREATION DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-08) and appropriate \$6,000.00 to Parks and Recreation Department ‘DONATONS EXPENSED’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-10) for receipt of donations from Wal-Mart;
- g. Transfer \$8,596.00 from Parks and Recreation Department

‘DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION AND PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-02-15) to Parks and Recreation Department ‘PARKS PROJECTS’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-01) for purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain parks;

- h. Appropriate \$3,203.72 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Parks and Recreation Department ‘PARKS PROJECTS’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-01) for purchase of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain parks;
- i. Appropriate \$7,500.00 from General Fund unappropriated reserves to Parks and Recreation Department ‘HOLIDAY LIGHTS SETUP/TAKEDOWN’ expenditure account (#01 5-080-05-11) for expenses related to the set-up and takedown of the Holiday of Lights displays;

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

- a. \$28,806.99 to Stephenson Oil Co., Inc. for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$104,350.45 to Delk Construction Co., Inc. for construction invoice on the Information Technology building (#14 5-160-54-01);
- c. \$208.05 to Creative Signs, Inc. for Pollinator Friendly Community sign (#01 5-010-05-27);
- d. \$3,075.00 to Thomas F. Black, P.E. (Flood Plain Services) for comprehensive drainage engineering services (#14 5-130-06-01);
- e. \$9,005.06 to Hoffmann Architectural Inc. for architectural services on Fire Station 2 relocation (#14 5-070-54-01);
- f. \$4,777.58 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Williams Addition (Chrisp Avenue) drainage engineering services (#14 5-130-05-01);
- g. \$228,760.00 to Hydco, Inc. for construction on swimming pool complex (#14 5-085-54-02);
- h. \$11,799.72 to Kyle Recreation, Inc. for 5 loads of engineered wood fiber mulch for placement at certain parks (#01 5-080-05-01);

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A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, 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. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, 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 Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard. **Ordinance 2016-27**

The Mayor announced:

- The grand opening of the Children’s Safety Center will be on Friday, September 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at 414 Rodgers Drive. First Lady Susan Hutchinson will be the guest speaker.
- The Get Down Downtown Festival will take place on September 23 – 24, 2016 in Downtown Searcy
- The Searcy Tree Board parade float was awarded First Place in the White County Fair Parade Service Entry category

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: October 11, 2016

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

Seal