

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2019 6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m. on August 13, 2019. The purpose for this public hearing was for 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. Mayor Kyle Osborne opened the public hearing. No person requested to speak. Mayor Osborne closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mark Harris gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Rodger Cargile. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, 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: (15-1-l) budget ordinance appropriation for relocation of power lines for the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project, (15-1-m) budget ordinance appropriation for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project construction services, (15-1-n) budget ordinance appropriation for the acquisition of a dump truck for the Street Department, (15-2-d) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for relocation of power lines for the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project, (15-2-e) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project construction services, and (15-2-f) budget ordinance authorization to expend funds for the acquisition of a dump truck for the Street Department. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular July 9, 2019 meeting of the Council and the special July 19, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howell, Cargile, 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 7-31-19: General Fund: \$1,285,364.01; Street Fund \$1,647,885.79; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,775.11; LOPFI Fund \$59,963.06; Act 833 Fund \$25,312.60; Airport Fund \$34,536.77. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$3,070,839.34. He also reported the following balances as of 7-31-19: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$3,816,756.45; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$7,537,523.45;

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Information Technology Projects Fund \$25,703.05; Special Projects Fund \$2,570.86; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$253,280.96; Court Automation Fund \$18,391.79. He also reported a total of \$3,786,429.55 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$130,586.26 from the same time in 2018.

Item (6) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding a 2019 street paving program. City Engineer Mark Lane informed the Council that he would recommend a project that would include costs up to approximately \$500,000 that is available using the 10-year ½ cent Issue #1 turnback money that has been distributed to the City of Searcy since the 2018 street paving program. He further stated that he had some streets in mind for the project but that he would like to have any input from the Council as far as any suggestions for streets that could possibly be included in the project. Mr. Brewer suggested both Sunnydale Street and Cloverdale Avenue. Mr. Lane noted that he would have a proposed list of streets to include as soon as possible.

Item (7) was a presentation and discussion regarding improvements to approximately three acres of city-owned property off of Hayes Street. This property is the location of an old water treatment facility and has been neglected for a long period of time. Mr. Jake Reeves presented a proposal to the Council about cleaning up the area, eradicating the invasive species of plants in the area, and reintroducing native wildflowers and plants to the area. Mr. Reeves noted that he has been in touch with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to possibly be included in their 'Acres for Wildlife' program. He has also been in contact with The Nature Conservancy, the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, and Arkansas State University – Searcy. He noted that all have interest in involvement due to the prospect of a transformation of invasive species back to Arkansas' natural ecosystem and the fact that being within the city limits, a higher volume of people could be exposed to a project of this type. Mr. Cothorn inquired as to whether there would be any cost to the City of Searcy regarding the proposed improvements to this area. Mr. Reeves said that at this time he did not anticipate any cost to the city, in that the improvements would be undertaken by his company and volunteers. Mr. Brewer asked that if these improvements are to proceed, would there be any action that would be required from the Council. Mr. Gibson explained that a facilities use agreement could be done through an executive function of the Mayor's department and no action by the Council would be necessary. Mr. Raney noted that this property has been neglected and unused for a long time and that he thought that, if somebody wants to do improvements to make it something nice and useful, we need to do this.

Item (8) on the agenda was for an update on the Country Club Road improvement project. The work had been stopped by the contractor due to some problems that have been discovered. Among problems discovered were the location of some utilities that were not correctly located. City Engineer Mark Lane explained that he had met with ETC Engineers to discuss what is and is not being done on this project. He noted that although there are some conflicts/problems that have arisen, both he and ETC Engineers agreed that work could have still been progressing on other portions of the project. They

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are going to instruct the contractor to come back to Searcy and continue work on the portions of the project that can be done. Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Lane to keep him comprised of the situation.

Item (9) was for the discussion regarding the possible acquisition of a dump truck for use by the Street Department. Mayor Osborne explained that the dump truck that was in use by the Street Department has a broken frame and is no longer usable and/or repairable. Only one bid had been received for the dump truck. This bid came from Steve England Truck Sales in the amount of \$50,000.00. Mr. Raney asked and Mayor Osborne confirmed that the purchase would come from the Street Fund.

Item (10) was for the approval of a change order on the Cloverdale drainage portion of the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage project. The change order was for an increase of \$2,494.00 and was recommended by the engineering firm for the project, Morrison-ShIPLEY Engineers, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to approve the change order for an increase of \$2,494.00 for the Cloverdale portion of the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage project. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell.

Item (11) was a resolution to authorize the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, specifically the former Searcy Municipal Airport terminal building. Mayor Osborne explained that the former terminal building is set to be demolished to allow for the construction of a new city-owned hangar on the same location. This hangar is to be funded using Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant funding and the cost of the demolition of the former terminal building is included in this project. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution to authorize the abandonment of a fully utilized asset, specifically the former Searcy Municipal Airport terminal building. Mayor Osborne asked if there was any discussion regarding this item. There was none. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile. **Resolution 2019-19**

Item (12) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically ten (10) sections of three-row bleachers of fifteen feet in length and ten (10) sections of four-row bleachers of fifteen feet in length. Mayor Osborne explained that as stated in the resolution that these bleachers were placed on the Capital Asset Schedule in error, in that each individual section of bleachers cost less than \$1,500.00 and therefore did not meet the threshold of \$2,500.00 to be listed on the schedule. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to pass the resolution. Mayor Osborne asked if there was any discussion regarding this motion. There was none. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and English. **Resolution 2019-20**

Item (13) was a resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy, Arkansas, 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. Raney and seconded by Mr. English to approve the resolution approving the amounts of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties in the City of Searcy, Arkansas, as a result of grass cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mayor Osborne asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, and Raney.

**Resolution 2019-21**

Item (14) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Code of Ordinances; amending Chapter 17 that provides for permitting for certain events and the use of City property.

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to table this item until the regular September 2019 Council meeting in order to have more time to examine the ordinance. The motion to table this ordinance until the regular September 2019 Council meeting carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, and Brewer.

Item (15) 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 \$652,696.86 for 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘FAA30500570232019 HANGAR CONSTRUCTION’ expenditure account (#14 5-040-56-10) for the construction of a new hangar at the Searcy Municipal Airport using Federal Aviation Administration grant funding;
- b. Appropriate \$8,071.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE’ expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services;
- c. Appropriate \$50.00 to ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$50.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation from Walmart;
- d. Appropriate \$1,000.00 to ‘FIRE DONATIONS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-90-07) and appropriate \$1,000.00 to the Fire Department ‘DONATIONS EXPENDED’ expenditure account (#01 5-070-05-17) for the receipt and use of a donation from XTO Energy Inc. for smoke alarms;

- e. Reallocate current appropriation of \$3,800.00 from the Information Technology Department 'SERVICE AGREEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-160-05-05) to the Clerk's Department 'SERVICE AGREEMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-100-05-05) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- f. Reallocate current appropriation of \$2,127.26 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Police Department 'COMPUTER SOFTWARE SUPPORT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-04-04) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- g. Reallocate current appropriation of \$709.08 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Fire Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-070-04-05) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- h. Reallocate current appropriation of \$192.47 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Fire Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-070-04-05) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- i. Reallocate current appropriation of \$192.47 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Police Department 'COMPUTER SOFTWARE SUPPORT' expenditure account (#01 5-060-04-04) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- j. Reallocate current appropriation of \$42.77 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE'

expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Fire Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-070-04-05) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;

- k. Reallocate current appropriation of \$1,477.14 from the Information Technology Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-160-04-05) to the Fire Department 'COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SOFTWARE' expenditure account (#01 5-070-04-05) for proper classification of expenditures by department as required by A.C.A §14-59-111;
- l. Appropriate \$3,658.09 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for relocation of power lines for the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project;
- m. Appropriate \$91,595.15 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to 'ROLLING MEADOWS/CLOVERDALE DRAINAGE' expenditure account (#14 5-130-05-02) for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project construction services;
- n. Appropriate \$50,000.00 from Street Fund unappropriated reserves to 'DUMP TRUCK' expenditure account (#02 5-900-53-20) for the acquisition of a dump truck for the Street Department;

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

- a. \$20,110.80 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;
- b. \$108,217.06 to Regions Bank for payment on the loan for the construction of the Searcy Swim Center (#14 5-085-05-01);
- c. \$8,071.00 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- d. \$3,658.09 to Entergy for the relocation of power lines for the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);

- e. \$91,595.15 to Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. for construction services on the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);
- f. \$50,000.00 to England Truck Sales for the acquisition of a dump truck for the Street Department, an emergency has been declared due to an unrepairable and inoperable dump truck in order to attain the truck immediately (#02 5-900-53-20);

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”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. 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”: Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. **Ordinance 2019-23**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: September 10, 2019

/s/ Kyle Osborne  
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

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