

**Searcy City Council – Regular Session**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2020 6:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Ward Rudolph gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Dale English. 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 item: (8) update regarding the Police vehicles that were authorized for purchase in the 2014 Eight Year Plan fund for 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the item. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular February 11, 2020 meeting of the Council 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 February 29, 2020: General Fund: \$1,435,025.24; Street Fund \$1,872,610.99; Capital Equipment Fund \$17,827.51; LOPFI Fund \$154,237.41; Act 833 Fund \$46,984.01; Airport Fund \$77,729.94. The total of all of the preceding funds is \$3,604,415.10. He also reported the following balances as of February 29, 2020: Special Highway Connector Route Tax Fund \$3,829,364.48; 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund \$8,275,563.85; Information Technology Projects Fund \$11,190.36; Special Projects Fund \$2,586.18; 0.25% Fire Protection Services County Sales Tax Fund \$325,226.34; Court Automation Fund \$26,125.64; Advertising and Tourism Promotion Fund \$574,532.35. He also reported a total of \$1,208,419.03 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is up \$71,100.47 from the same time in 2019.

Item (6) on the agenda was the quarterly report from the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce, presented by Buck Layne.

Item (7) was the appointment of Donna Green to fill the unexpired term of Diane Hutsell on the Searcy Library Board, with the term set to expire on December 31, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to approve the appointment of Donna Green to fill the unexpired term of Diane Hutsell on the Searcy Library Board, with the term set to expire on December 31, 2022. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell.

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Item (8) on the agenda was an update regarding the Police vehicles that were authorized for purchase in the 2014 Eight Year Plan fund for 2020. Searcy Police Chief Steve Hernandez explained that the Police vehicles for 2020 that were on order and were to be funded in the 2014 Eight Year Plan are not going to be available for purchase. They were notified that the 2020 Dodge Chargers that had been ordered would not be available due to a lack of parts. He further explained that they would instead be acquiring Dodge Durango and trucks that are available through state contract pricing.

Item (9) was for discussion regarding a Department of Justice grant for additional School Resource Officers (SRO). It had been explained that currently an SRO is placed full-time in three different Searcy School District schools with a fourth patrol officer spending time between the elementary schools. The 75/25 grant would fund two officers, with one being a full-time SRO for the elementary schools and the other being a patrol officer that would spend time visiting various private teaching facilities. The grant would fund the officers for three years at the 75/25 proportion and would require the city to fund the officers entirely in the fourth year. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. English, for the Searcy Police Department to proceed with the application for the grant. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile.

Item (10) on the agenda was for discussion regarding future plans regarding the 1.00% eight-year sales and use tax. Mayor Osborne noted he would like to have discussion regarding the possibility of putting it on the November 2020 general election ballot for some form of extension. It was pointed out that there are several details that would need more discussion on, so it was suggested that a Committee of the Whole workshop meeting be scheduled. Mayor Osborne stated that he would suggest having a workshop on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. He inquired of the Council if that presented any problems. None were voiced.

Item (11) was for discussion of the notification from Entergy of an overpayment to the City of Searcy of the Entergy franchise tax. The City of Searcy was notified by Entergy that it had overpaid the city franchise tax from January 2019 through January 2020 in the amount of \$64,289.30. Entergy informed the city it would need to reduce the franchise tax payment going forward until this amount was satisfied. The city was told they could choose whatever form of reduction, from a single lump sum reduction up to equal reductions over a 24-month period. City Clerk/Treasurer was asked his recommendation. He stated that his recommendation would be to spread it over the remaining 2020 monthly distributions. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to notify Entergy to reduce the monthly distributions so as to satisfy the full amount by the end of the calendar year 2020. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and English.

Item (12) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Miracle League of Searcy. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with Miracle

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League of Searcy. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, and Raney. **Resolution 2020-09**

Item (13) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement for the downtown landscape maintenance. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to pass the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2020-10**

Item (14) was a resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with the Searcy Arts Council. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cothorn and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the resolution for the authorization to execute and perform a certain agreement with the Searcy Arts Council. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg. **Resolution 2020-11**

Item (15) was a resolution authorizing the abandonment of fully utilized assets, specifically Police Department vehicles. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. Motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Chalenburg to table the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, and Chalenburg.

Item (16) was a resolution for authorization to execute a deed of conservation easement to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for the American Legion building. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Cargile and seconded by Mr. Howell to approve the resolution for authorization to execute a deed of conservation easement to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for the American Legion building. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn. **Resolution 2020-12**

Item (17) on the agenda was an ordinance amending the Searcy Zoning Code. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howell. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, and Cargile. **Ordinance 2020-06**

Item (18) on the agenda was an ordinance amending Ordinance 2019-03, the budget for operation for the City of Searcy, Arkansas for the calendar year 2019, to correct certain line items. 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

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following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, and English. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, and Raney. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Chalenburg, Cothorn, Arnett, Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Ordinance 2020-07**

Item (19) 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 \$100,000.00 from 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘TRANSFER TO LOPFI FUND’ expenditure account (#14 5-190-05-04) for payment of LOPFI retirement obligation;
- b. Appropriate \$11,888.65 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 \$9,721.11 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;
- d. Appropriate \$4,000.00 from 0.25% County Fire Sales Tax Fund unappropriated reserves to ‘TECHNOLOGY USE’ expenditure account (#18 5-070-05-15) for Fire Department mobile computer software monthly usage;

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

- a. \$12,471.39 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. Transfer \$100,000.00 from the City of Searcy 2014 Eight Year Plan Fund to the City of Searcy LOPFI Fund for payment of LOPFI Retirement obligation (#14 5-190-05-04);

- d. \$11,888.65 to Morrison – Shipley Engineers Inc. for Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale Addition drainage improvement project engineering services (#14 5-130-05-02);
- e. \$9,721.11 to Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. for construction services on the Rolling Meadows/Cloverdale drainage improvement project (#14 5-130-05-02);

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. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Howell, 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. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, English, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Arnett. **Ordinance 2020-08**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: April 14, 2020

/s/ Kyle Osborne  
MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris  
CITY CLERK

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