

Searcy City Council – Special Session
February 25, 2021 12:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor Kyle Osborne called to order a Special Session of the Searcy City Council. Council member David Morris gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Council member Rodger Cargile. City Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Council members answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, David Morris, Chris Howell, Rodger Cargile, Tonia Hale, Don Raney, Dale Brewer and Mike Chalenburg. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson.

Item (3) on the agenda was for discussion of the results for the special election vote held on February 9, 2021 regarding the renewal/extension of the 1% city sales and use tax. The renewal/extension of the 1% city sales and use tax was not approved. It was noted by Mr. Brewer that the main opposition point to not approving the extension was that there was not enough information given as to how the revenue that would be generated would be used and that it was of a permanent nature. Mr. Raney agreed with Mr. Brewer and said that more effective ways to disseminate this kind of information was needed. Mr. Howell, Mr. Cargile, and Mr. Chalenburg noted that this extension was needed and that if the city chooses to pursue this extension in the future that it needs to be permanent in nature in order to meet the needs of the city. Mr. Brewer noted that input from citizens that he has heard was that it or a portion of the 1% needed to be sunsetted. He also noted that this is public money and that the city needs to listen to the public wishes. Mrs. Hale, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Chalenburg noted that a better way of getting the information out as to how the revenue is to be used needs to be done. Mayor Osborne told the Council that he would like to form a focus group consisting of people interested in providing input regarding this issue in order to gauge what is needed and/or wanted. Mr. Raney noted that the Council needs to be able to have interaction with the focus group. The Council agreed that this would be beneficial, noting that the current city 1% sales and use tax will expire on June 30, 2022.

Item (4) was for discussion and approval to take bids regarding improvements (roof replacement and additional repairs) to the American Legion building. A grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has been approved and obtained by the City of Searcy for these improvements (Resolution 2020-18). The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program will provide \$60,000 with the city providing \$30,000 in matching funds for a total of \$90,000 in improvements. The city has received donations in the amount of \$24,000 from the American Legion Post 106 and the Searcy Board of Realtors to be used as a portion of the city’s match. The city will need to provide the remaining \$6,000 needed for the match. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to authorize and approve the solicitation of bids for the improvements to the American Legion building. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, and Cothorn.

Item (5) on the agenda was for the discussion regarding the purchase of available land adjacent to the Searcy Sports Complex. The real property is currently owned by James

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and Debbie Bond and has been offered to the City of Searcy for a purchase price of \$275,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Chalenburg, to authorize the purchase of the property adjacent to the Searcy Sports Complex. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Howell, Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, and Morris.

Item (6) was a resolution for the authorization to enter an agreement for the purchase of real property located adjacent to the Searcy Sports Complex. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was then made by Mr. Cothorn, seconded by Mr. Howell, to adopt the resolution. The resolution passed with the following voting “yes”: Cargile, Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, and Howell. **Resolution 2021-07**

Item (7) on the agenda was a budget adjustment ordinance to:

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

- a. Appropriate \$275,000.00 to 2014 Eight Year Plan “LAND ACQUISITION – SPORTS COMPLEX” expenditure account (#14 5-085-02-01) the purchase of land adjacent to the Sports Complex on Higginson Street;

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

- a. \$275,000.00 to James and Debbie Bond for the purchase of land adjacent to the Sports Complex on Higginson Street;

A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Raney, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Hale, Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, and Cargile. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mrs. Hale, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, and Hale. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Chalenburg, seconded by Mr. Cothorn, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Chalenburg, Cothorn, Morris, Howell, Cargile, Hale, and Raney. **Ordinance 2021-05**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved:

MAYOR OF SEARCY

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK
Seal