

**Searcy City Council –
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 5:00 PM
Minutes**

Mayor Mat Faulkner called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Author and foster mom, Dana House, gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by Major Brian Wyatt.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2026, to approve the liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector regarding 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 Faulkner opened the public hearing. No one asked to speak. Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Mayor Faulkner then called the City Council Meeting to order.

Clerk Jason Nier called the roll with the following City Council members answering “here”: Tonia Hale, Dale Brewer, Mike Chalenburg, Don Raney, Chris Howell, and David Morris. Absent were Rodger Cargile and Brett Kirkman. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore.

Minutes from the February 10, 2026, Regular meeting were presented for approval.

Councilman Kirkman arrived at the meeting during the motion to approve the minutes and was present to vote. A motion was made by Council Member Mike Chalenburg to approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Clerk/Treasurer Nier next presented the Treasurer's report for the month of February, which consisted of all fund balances totaling \$24.5M. The General Fund had a balance of \$11.2M and the Street Fund had a balance of \$1.3M. Operational expenses were \$2.9M for all departments for February and \$5.96M year to date. Revenues for the month were strong with the city receiving \$4.2M, which brings excess revenues over expense to \$252k year to date. The restricted projects reserve account held \$3.06M for committed projects with estimated remaining balances of approximately \$2.85M. The City's Emergency Reserves balance was \$6.54M. Tax revenue was up \$566k over the month of January at \$2.4M.

Item (1) was the update on bid requirements for the Legion Hall restoration project. The Mayor stated that since the Thursday Agenda Meeting, City Attorney Moore had confirmed this project must be sent to bid and also that Mark Lane had been in discussion with Amy Burton of Main Street Searcy as to how to best manage the process of renovation. After this gathering of

information, the Mayor asked the council to approve the seeking of bids due to the expedited time frame of the grant involved. Amy Burton had asked the Council at the agenda meeting if they would waive bidding with the consideration of declaring an emergency because of the time limits of the grant, but with the cost exceeding bid thresholds, she wasn't sure if this could be done. Per Attorney Moore, the council must approve the seeking of bids. Mr. Raney stated he wished the council would not rush to this even though he understood time was of the essence for the grant, but he wanted Mr. Cargile to speak about the matter since he had been involved with the process, and he was unable to attend the meeting tonight. He asked the matter be tabled. The Mayor asked Ms. Burton the implications of tabling the matter, and she said it would depend on how long the council tabled it as to the implications involved. Going through a bid process will definitely jeopardize the time needed, and, without action from the council, it could introduce other challenges. Mr. Raney said he had spoken with Mr. Cargile, and he wanted to be involved in resolving the matter and was hoping the council could possibly schedule a special meeting in the following week to address this project. There was a consensus to table the matter until further notice.

Item (2) was the update on the Berryhill Park project and the possible use of bond funds to include the addition of a steel pergola on the grounds. A quote was presented by Richard Stafford from Planning & Development from GameTime for \$108,918.61. It is proposed to add this to bond funds and not take this from general funds. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (3) was the consent to set a public hearing for the application for a private club permit by Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen for April 9, 2026. Mr. Morris confirmed this date to be on an agenda meeting night, which Mr. Nier confirmed was the date published in the notice by Cheddar's for the hearing. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Tonia Hale. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (4) was the consent to set a public hearing for the Petition to Vacate a Street, Alley, or Road for April 14, 2026. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (5) was the consent of the recommended appointments of two new Planning

Commissioners and one reappointment of a current Commissioner to the Planning Commission. Mr. Stafford recommended the names of Casey Cullipher of RiverWind Bank and Andrew Ingle of Simmons Bank for the two new appointments to the Commission. These two will serve a three-year term expiring February 8, 2029. Mr. Steve Jordan was recommended to be reappointed to another three-year term expiring on February 8, 2029. Mrs. Hale asked who these two new Commissioners will be replacing. Mr. Stafford confirmed the two leaving are Bill Patton and Lisa Wray. Mr. Raney stated he was not familiar with Mr. Ingle but trusted he was qualified. He asked for more time be given to the Council in the future to review the names under consideration. Mr. Stafford stated he had been seeking names for approximately two months and just received confirmation this afternoon of the two recommendations. The Mayor mentioned the challenge finding members is a result of the changes to the extraterritorial jurisdiction law which limits all members to residing in the city limits. Prior to the law change, there was flexibility to reach beyond the city limit borders for volunteers. Mr. Raney stated he was unaware of the difficulty. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (6) was consent of a change order to add a sensory path to Yancey Park using items from Berryhill Park that had been sponsored by First Security Bank and installing them into the new renovations of the trail area at Yancey Park. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (7) was the consent to utilize \$11,000.00 of budget funds from the Federal Drug Forfeitures (#01 5-060-05-10) to acquire a second drug dog for the Police Department. Mrs. Hale asked if a dog was available now and Major Wyatt confirmed a puppy is close to being ready. The department has been preparing a vehicle with the necessary components to transport and utilize the dog and is ready to receive it when it is released. Mr. Kirkman asked if this dog would be used by other cities. Mrs. Hale asked Major Wyatt to explain the differences between our current dog and this new one. He stated the current dog is a dual-purpose dog used for tracking and for drug purposes. He bites when tracking because of his training in locating criminals. The new dog is a single-purpose dog better suited for "softer" situations. An example used was a child wandering off and becoming lost. The current dog could not be used in those situations due to the bite training. The new dog would be able to find the child and lick it and provide comfort until an officer arrived. The new dog will be safer for tracking situations such as this and will also be used as a drug dog, giving relief to the demands of the current dog. Mr. Kirkman asked about the budgeting process for 2026 when the council asked

for the removal from the police budget for a new dog purchase and the difference now from then. It was explained by Major Wyatt the Federal Forfeiture dollars are carry-over money from drug seizure cases that can be applied to this purchase without the need to earmark additional general fund money. If another city calls and asks for help, our department is willing to offer help if available. The dogs are used throughout the community as well. Major Wyatt stated the current dog has been used at schools, the hospital, and businesses other than for just run-of-the-mill traffic stops. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (8) was for the authorization to seek official bids for traffic signals at Highway 36 and Janet Drive. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (9) was for the authorization for the Mayor to negotiate with Crafton Tull for planning services for the Little Red Greenway System associated with the RAISE grant. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (10) was a resolution for 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. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-12**

Item (11) was a resolution for the abandonment of fully utilized assets of the fire department. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Tonia Hale. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-13**

Item (12) was a resolution for the abandonment of fully utilized assets of the police department. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-14**

Item (13) was a resolution to enter into an agreement with Entegriy Energy Partners, LLC for lighting upgrades to city facilities. This includes the use of bond funds to fund the payment of upgrading to MUSCO lighting at the sports complex for two fields. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-15**

Item (14) was a resolution to enter into an agreement with Davidson Engineering for services related to the Pioneer Village relocation. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Brett Kirkman. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-16**

Item (15) was a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Searcy Board of Public Utilities to construct and maintain trails at Riverside Park. A motion was made by Council Member Tonia Hale to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member David Morris. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - Council Member Don Raney. **Resolution 2026-17**

Item (16) was an ordinance to rezone a portion of Brantley Road near the airport from UT to I2. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to suspend the rules and read by title only, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Adopt the Ordinance, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale,

Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the emergency clause. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Adopt the emergency clause, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-10**

Item (17) was an ordinance updating Sanitation pricing for 30-Yard bins. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Suspend the rules and read by title only, and it was seconded by Council Member Don Raney. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to Adopt the Ordinance, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the emergency clause. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Adopt the emergency clause, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-11**

Item (18) was an ordinance making adjustments to the 2026 budget. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Suspend the rules and read by title only, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to Adopt the Ordinance, and it was seconded by Council Member Dale Brewer. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council

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Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the emergency clause. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Adopt the emergency clause, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-12**

With there being no further business or discussion, Mayor Faulkner adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Approved:

Mayor of Searcy

Attest:

City Clerk

Seal