



**Searcy City Council**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2026, 5:30 PM**  
**Minutes**

The Mayor began the meeting by thanking all those in attendance for the surprise birthday party for Al Fowler. The 'Happy Birthday Song' was sung by the crowd led by Council Member David Morris. The Mayor explained that this day had been in the works with planning for quite some time and wanted to share the reason we are here with friends and family of Al Fowler. He recognized the family members, with a special recognition to Ray Montgomery, who helped bring the family here and helped organize the event as secretly as one could surrounding a public meeting. The Mayor described his friendship with Al and his wife Carla, and his appreciation for being able to serve alongside Al for many years in various organizations within the community. He mentioned that after the passing of Al, the community had flooded him with so many requests to honor the life of Mr. Fowler. He mentioned the Council recognized this was not the normal way the City recognizes someone's service, but in this instance, everyone agreed the renaming of Marion Street to Al Fowler Way was an appropriate gesture.

The reasons Marion Street was chosen as Al Fowler Way were location and visibility. From Race Street, this is in the heart of the community on one of the busiest thoroughfares and everyone will see the street sign signifying Al Fowler Way. Another reason for the selection was the connection to River Oaks Boulevard, where Al and Carla lived. And another reason for the selection of Marion Street was the Searcy Medical Center, where Al served as an administrator. This location is the right place. The Mayor apologized to the businesses who may be inconvenienced by the change.

The naming of Al Fowler Way is also significant. It was not chosen to be a road, a street, or a boulevard, but rather a 'Way', because the way Al served the community was indicative of his character and heart. Kent Jobe from the Ministerial Alliance and the Downtown Church of Christ then spoke about Al Fowler and his love for the Lord and the community of Searcy. He spoke about Mr. Fowler's plea for unity and community engagement. He read a portion of Jeremiah 29 where verse 7 says to seek the welfare of the city. Al Fowler truly sought out the welfare of Searcy with his kindness, compassion, generosity, and faithfulness. He then offered a prayer of gratitude for the life of Al Fowler and for his servant spirit to the community.

Mayor Faulkner then called the Special City Council Meeting to order and Clerk Jason Nier

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

The only item on the agenda was an ordinance dedicating a city street as Al Fowler Way. The city street formerly known as Marion Street is to now be known as Al Fowler Way.

A motion was made by Council Member David Morris to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only, and it was seconded by Council Member Mike Chalenburg. The Mayor asked the Council if he might read the entire ordinance on this occasion. There was no objection. Mayor Faulkner then read the ordinance.

After the reading, a motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer to Adopt the Ordinance, 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 Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

The Mayor then read the emergency clause. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-21**

The Mayor announced the City is working with Harding University to make Al's photographs accessible to the public and when this is ready a formal announcement will be made. He thanked everyone for attending and with there being no further business or discussion, Mayor Faulkner adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Approved:

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Mayor of Searcy

Attest:

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City Clerk

Seal