



**Searcy City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 5:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Faulkner welcomed special guest Keith Todd and his wife, Kaye. Mr. Todd suffers from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Mayor Faulkner gave some history and statistics of the devastating disease and gave a proclamation declaring the month of May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month in Searcy and urged all citizens to participate in awareness initiatives. Council member David Morris spoke briefly about his friendship with Mr. Todd. The Todds then joined the Mayor in the front of the room as he read the proclamation to the crowd gathered in the City Hall Chambers. A round of applause was given for the Todds.

The Mayor then announced this week was also National Police Week. He expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for the service of our officers and urged continued support and prayer for their safety.

Mayor Mat Faulkner then introduced Jeff Jackson, Senior Pastor of Searcy First Methodist Church, who gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by Thomas Richie.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 PM on May 12, 2026, for the approval of liens to be certified to the White County Tax Collector against certain properties as a result of grass-cutting expenses and abatement of other nuisances. Mayor Faulkner opened the public hearing. With no one coming forward to speak, Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 PM on May 12, 2026, for public comment on the application for a private club permit from Patron Mexican Grill of Searcy, Inc. Mayor Faulkner opened the public hearing. Esmerelda Rubio, legal representative for Patron Mexican Grill, came forward to speak and thanked the council for considering the application and announced the restaurant location as being in the former Fuji Steakhouse location on East Race and asked the council, if approved, to complete the required reading of the ordinance tonight. With no one else commenting, Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 PM on May 12, 2026, to comment on the designation of 308 S Elm as a nuisance property. Mayor Faulkner opened the public

hearing. With no one coming forward to speak, Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 PM on May 12, 2026, to comment on the designation of 310 S Elm as a nuisance property. Mayor Faulkner opened the public hearing. With no one coming forward to speak, Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

A public hearing had been advertised to be held at 5:00 PM on May 12, 2026, to comment on the consideration of accepting Elite Duck Calls on Eastline Road for annexation into the city limits of Searcy. Mayor Faulkner opened the public hearing. With no one coming forward to speak, Mayor Faulkner closed the public hearing.

Mayor Faulkner called the 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, Don Raney, Chris Howell, Brett Kirkman, Rodger Cargile, David Morris. Also present was City Attorney Will Moore.

Minutes from the April 14, 2026, Regular meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Clerk/Treasurer Nier next presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, which consisted of all fund balances totaling \$24.1M. The General Fund had a balance of \$10.86M and the Street Fund had a balance of \$1.26M. Operational expenses were \$2.88M for all departments for April and \$11.41M year to date. Revenues for the month were \$3.24M, which brings excess revenues over expense to -\$54K year to date. The restricted project reserve account held \$2.57M for committed projects with other funds in aggregate totaling \$2.86M. The City's Emergency Reserves balance was \$6.58M.

Item (1) was approval to join in cost sharing of the construction costs associated with the Humane Society expansion project, which is estimated to be approximately \$160,000 for the city's portion. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (2) was the approval of Rock Solid Trail Contracting as the trail builder company for the

Outdoor Recreation Soft Surface Trails grant. A motion was made by Council Member Mike Chalenburg 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (3) was approval of the Capital Construction bid for the traffic signal at Janet and Beebe-Capps. One bid was received, totaling \$850,666.07. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (4) was approval of the A&P Commissioners recommendation for reappointment. Chris Howell and Tonia Hale were recommended to fill a one-year term expiring April 30, 2027, and Jim House was recommended to be reappointed to a four-year term expiring April 30, 2030. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (5) was approval of the Public Educational and Residential Housing Facilities Board recommendation for reappointment. Donnie Miller was recommended to be reappointed to a term expiring August 17, 2031. Justin Lawson was recommended to be reappointed to a term expiring August 17, 2030. Susannah Streit was recommended to be reappointed to a term expiring August 17, 2029. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - Council Member Mike Chalenburg.

Item (6) was approval of the Planning Commission recommendation for appointment. Amy Cox was recommended by the Commission to complete the remainder of the term vacated by Mike Cleveland. This position's term expires on February 8, 2027. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (7) was to set a public hearing to declare 1618 E Brummett a nuisance property in accordance with Chapter 9 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances for June 9, 2026. A motion was made by Council Member Mike Chalenburg to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member David Morris. Council Member Dale Brewer asked if this address was a residential or commercial address. Code Officer Ken Shoemaker stated it was a residential property that had burned and there had been no clean-up since the fire. With no further discussion, 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (8) was to set a public hearing to declare 1407 W Pleasure a nuisance property in accordance with Chapter 9 of the Searcy Code of Ordinances for June 9, 2026. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney 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 Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Item (9) 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 Dale Brewer to Approve, and it was seconded by Council Member Rodger Cargile. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-23**

Item (10) was a resolution declaring 308 S Elm Street a Nuisance Property. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney 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 Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-24**

Item (11) was a resolution declaring 310 S Elm Street a Nuisance Property. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-25**

Item (12) was a resolution for the approval of Forward Searcy to improve city property with the use of Arkansas Economic Development Corporation grant funds. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-26**

Item (13) was a resolution for the approval to enter into an agreement with Crafton Tull for services related to the RAISE grant. 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-27**

Item (14) was a resolution to approve the application for a SS4A Supplemental Planning and Demonstration grant. A motion was made by Council Member Mike Chalenburg 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-28**

Item (15) was a resolution for the disposal of Fully Utilized Assets of the Parks & Recreation Department, specifically the video board in the swim center. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-29**

Item (16) was a resolution for approval to apply for a \$200,000 Arkansas Department of Aeronautics (ADA) grant with a 10% match for construction of road and fencing. A motion was made by Council Member Dale Brewer 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 Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-30**

Item (17) was a resolution for the approval to apply for a \$300,000 Arkansas Department of Aeronautics (ADA) grant with a 20% match for apron replacement. A motion was made by

Council Member Rodger Cargile 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-31**

Item (18) was a resolution renaming 'Riverside Park' to 'Little Red Riverpark'. Council Member David Morris stated he liked the name and then made a motion 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Resolution 2026-32**

Item (19) was an ordinance for the annexation of Elite Duck Calls into the Searcy city limits. 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 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 Rodger Cargile, 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 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 Rodger Cargile, 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 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-18**

Item (20) was an ordinance authorizing Patron Mexican Grill of Searcy, Inc. to file for a private club permit with the Alcohol Beverage Control Division. 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 David Morris. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - Council Member

Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney to Adopt the Ordinance, and it was seconded by Council Member Rodger Cargile. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, 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 Tonia Hale. The motion Passed with the following votes: Yes - Council Member Tonia Hale, Council Member Don Raney, Council Member Chris Howell, Council Member Brett Kirkman, Council Member Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - Council Member Dale Brewer, Council Member Mike Chalenburg, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-19**

Item (21) was an ordinance for Budget Adjustment. A motion was made by Council Member David Morris 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore then read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Council Member Don Raney 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None.

Attorney Moore 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 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 Rodger Cargile, Council Member David Morris, No - None, Abstain - None. **Ordinance 2026-20**

The Mayor reminded the council members Richard Stafford would be reaching out soon to plan a community center site visit, and with there being no further business or discussion, Mayor Faulkner adjourned the meeting.

City Council Meeting

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May 12, 2026

Minutes Approved:

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Mayor of Searcy

Attest:

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City Clerk

Seal