

**January 26, 2015**

**REGULAR MEETING 1**

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on January 26, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Virginia R. Young, City Attorney Steve Cobb, City Clerk Angela Nicholson, Aldermen Brooks, Harmon, Lilly, McMinn, Heye, Keplinger, Sanders and Williams.

Dave Reynolds, Pastor of Cornerstone Bible Church, led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 22, 2014, as transcribed. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Discussion for the December 2014 financials was open. No questions were asked.

Mayor Young introduced the Mayor's Youth Council.

The following awards were presented by the Sherwood Police Department: 2014 Civilian employee of the Year Kristin White, 2014 Dispatcher of the Year: Rachel Moss, 2014 Police Officer of the Year: Officer Timothy Norvell, and 2014 Samaritan Award: Officer Tammy Turner.

Alderman Brooks, Chairman of the Advertising and Promotion Commission, stated the commission did meet. The total car count for the 2014 Trail of Lights was 13,352, and the total donations given were \$46,973.60. The next meeting will be February 4, 2015, at 3:00 p.m.

**Ordinance No. 2053, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COMMISSION BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR EACH AND EVERY ITEM OF EXPENDITURE THEREIN PROVIDED FOR; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** was read as amended. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. The ordinance was read for the second time. Alderman Lilly, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous. The emergency clause passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Alderman Harmon, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated the committee did meet. The next meeting will be February 9, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

Alderman Sanders stated the Personnel Committee met. The next meeting will be February 5, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

Alderman Lilly, Chairman of the Street Committee, stated the committee did meet. The leaf pickup will end on January 31, 2015, and the Public Works department will do one last sweep of leaf vacuum for the city. The next meeting will be February 12, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

A proposed ordinance entitled, "*An ordinance approving the purchase of certain real estate authorizing the mayor to agree to said purchase and appropriating funds for said purchase; and for other purposes*" was read for the second time. Discussion took place. Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Keplinger, made a motion to table the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Discussion took place on the proposed resolution changing two addresses on Ridgelea. The resident of 310 Ridgelea addressed the council and stated she wished to keep her current address. Discussion took place. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Brooks, made a motion to delete Section 2 of the resolution and to change the heading to read “one residential structure”. The roll call vote was unanimous. **Resolution No. 1-2015, entitled, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADDRESS CHANGE FOR ONE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE ON RIDGELEA AVENUE”** was read as amended. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance No. 1976, entitled, *“AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MEETING TIMES, PROCEDURES AND RULES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”* was read. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to amend the ordinance to add in Section 7 item (d) to read *“Notwithstanding the foregoing, any individual invited to speak at a meeting by any member of the City Council, the City Attorney, or the City Clerk/Treasurer for the purpose of providing information relevant to an item contained on that meeting’s agenda shall not be subject to the limitations of this Section 7 of this Ordinance”*, and to change the dates to 2015. The roll call vote was unanimous. **Ordinance No. 1976, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MEETING TIMES, PROCEDURES AND RULES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, DELCARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”** was read as amended. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Lilly, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading as amended. The roll call vote was unanimous. The ordinance was read for the second time as amended. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Keplinger, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading as amended. The roll call vote was unanimous. The ordinance was read for the third time as amended. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. The emergency clause passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ordinance No. 2054, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ARKANSAS MECHANICAL CODE, AS AMENDED, FOR THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”** was read. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Harmon, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The ordinance was read for the second time. Alderman Heye, seconded by Alderman McMinn, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman Keplinger, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous.

A proposed ordinance entitled, *“An ordinance adopting for the City of Sherwood, Arkansas, the 2012 Edition of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code, comprised of Volume 1-Fire, Volume 2-Building and Volume 3-Residential, as amended; repealing conflicting ordinances”* was read one time. Discussion took place on the fee schedule.

Mayor Young gave the following state of the city:

#### **State of the City 2014**

The year 2014 was a very exciting year for our city. Our city embraced the opportunity of continued growth in new housing as well as new business. Our Chamber of Commerce held 24 groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings. Over 480 new direct jobs and 960 indirect jobs were added. Many new businesses now call Sherwood home. We also experienced renovations or expansion of existing businesses. The Sherwood Advertising and Promotion Commission in collaboration with the city and Sherwood Chamber of Commerce worked with Stone Ward to create new branding for the city. The renovation of Roundtop Filling Station is nearing completion. Much interest has followed this project.

For the second consecutive year, 100% of adoptable pets were placed with new families through our Animal Services Department. The department participated with

numerous community outreach programs and services. The Annual Pet Fair continues to grow and was a huge success. Our Animal Services Department has a great reputation of reaching out to the community and has great support of not only our community but surrounding areas. Volunteers are also a vital success to the department. A grant was received to help purchase disaster relief supplies. Also, the department has been very successful in receiving donations to assist in medical needs of the animals as well providing funds for other needs.

Our Senior Center did a great job of assisting with the needs and providing activities for our senior community. Our seniors enjoy the monthly potlucks as well as Friday night music at the center. Wellness checks, AARP driving classes, computer classes, along with many activities including bingo, Bunco, and aerobics were made available. Meals on Wheels provided more than 10,000 meals to our residents. More than 24,000 miles were driven providing transportation to both doctor visits and to the grocery store. What a wonderful service to our senior community.

The Computer Services Department continued to maintain operations for the 200+ computers and servers, switches, printers and other devices as well as provided help-desk support for all departments within the city. Some of the accomplishments for 2014 include the replacement of over 50 desktop computer systems and 2 servers. A change of Internet Service Providers was made in 2014. This change provided us with a 10 fold increase in Internet access speed. Our Wide Area Network was also expanded to include the Bill Harmon Recreation Center, the Senior Citizens Center, Public Works, Animal Services and Sherwood Forest.

The police department continues to train in several areas that will increase our professionalism and response capabilities. Several grants to help defer the costs of bullet resistant vests, traffic enforcement, DWI enforcement, in-car video equipment, and equipment for the jail. The step in grade pay scale has slowed the number of officers that were leaving for better salaries. It has helped on the recruitment of new officers as we now have 7 in the academy that will start in the third week of January. Most of the officers that left in 2014, retired with 20 or more years of service. We continue to be able to provide the residents with outstanding patrol service and follow-up investigative response.

Once again, the Human Resources office sponsored an employee Health & Benefits Fair with 147 employees attending with 27 vendors participating. Free flu shots were offered to employees during the event. The 2014 fair was a huge success with not only companies that provide direct services to the city but area companies as well. The Human Resources department is currently researching ways to make it easier for applicants to actually apply for jobs. The Human Resources department publishes a monthly health and wellness newsletter. The department is keeping in contact with some of the vendors from the Health and Benefits Fair for possible small workshops for employees in the areas of general wellness and nutrition. The Human Resources office processed 76 new employees; 70 terminations; and 1,360 applications in 2014. The HR staff conducted entrance level exams for Patrol Officer four times in 2014 and the first test in 2015 is scheduled for March 19th. The HR department took recruiting on the road in 2014, visiting career and job fairs in Little Rock and Rogers.

The District Court handled more than 22,000 cases including DWI, traffic, Hot Check, Criminal, Civil and Small Claims. A total of \$ 1,949,536 was paid to General Fund. This amount was an approximate decrease of \$375,000 from 2013.

The Parks and Recreation department continues to offer many opportunities for recreation and fitness. The newly developed North Valley Park has changed from being an overgrown parcel to a usable park with a one quarter mile paved walking trail that was paid for with a grant of \$30,000 and a new playground with plans to renovate the restrooms and add a basketball court. Stonehill Park saw improved drainage by straightening and lining the creek bed with stone and saw the asphalt walking trail be completed. The City received approximately \$117,000 in grants to upgrade baseball dugouts, renovate baseball infields, install soccer lighting, sodding new field, and to assist offset costs of a press box for the full size baseball field. The After School Program

has been expanded from 68 to 90 children. Sylvan Hills, CAC, Mount Saint Mary's, and Abundant Life High Schools all call the sports complex home for their softball teams. The Harmon Center hosted many rental events, a Biggest Loser program, multiple exercise classes as well as swimming lessons, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights, Rollin' Razorback basketball team, youth, two Sherwood Sharks Swim Meets, and the Sherwood After School program.

Permits and Planning Department saw building permits decrease slightly from 2013. There were 652 permits issued in 2013 and 595 issued in 2014. However, the overall value of construction permits increased from approximately \$35,124,000 in 2013 to approximately \$38,609,000 in 2014.

The Wastewater Department is in the final stages of the extensive evaluation and rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer system that began in 2009. All manholes have been visually inspected and all of the collection systems have been smoke tested and inspected via close circuit televising where necessary. A rehabilitation plan for the sanitary sewer system was developed and over 37,000 linear feet of defective sewer mains have been repaired and/or replaced. The same is true of the manholes. Approximately 700 leaking manholes have been rehabilitated.

The City completed the design of the Maryland Avenue Street Improvements and began acquisition of the additional right-of-way necessary to build said improvements. Plans have also been prepared for the connection of Oakbrooke Drive.

The City continued to increase its overlay program for the third year in a row. In 2014, the City awarded the largest overlay contract in recent history at approximately 11,336 tons of asphalt which allowed almost 7 miles of city streets to be resurfaced. The Public Works Department continues to perform necessary repairs and maintenance of city streets, ditches, signage, mosquito control, mowing, leaf vacuum, weed eating, as well as household garbage collection.

Our Hotel and Restaurant tax increase is reflective of our new growth. We embrace 2015 with great anticipation for the city's continued growth.

Under old business:

Alderman McMinn made the following statement in reference to the Hidden Lake Estate issue: *As approved by the City Council at the November meeting, the city entered into a contract with Bond Consulting Engineers for \$3,000 to conduct a study of all the rules and laws in effect as of January 2010, concerning the City of Sherwood's Control Development, Subdivision of Land, (Rules and Regulations dated March 2004). This included Ordinance No. 475, 528, and 1564, this included documents that specifically speak to Storm Drainage. According to Bond Consulting Engineers, Inc., in a letter dated January 6, 2015, as per Mr. Bond, "we did not find any significant flaws in the design or submittals to the city. While we have pointed out a few items in the city ordinances, we do not think those would change the design as approved". In accord with Mr. Bonds findings no further action should be taken by the City.*

Lewis Garcia, President of the Hidden Lake Estates Property Owners Association, addressed the council stating that he felt more could be done. Discussion took place.

Alderman Harmon stated that a question has risen as to why we do not suspend the reading of the ordinance. Alderman Harmon stated that the council had mentioned doing this at one time, and felt that it would be beneficial for the public to not suspend the reading on all ordinances.

Under New Business:

Mayor Young updated the council on the library issue: The City is receiving Request for Qualifications on Bond Counsel until February 13, 2015. Mayor Young announced that she would like the following to serve on the committee: Mayor Young, City Attorney Steve Cobb, Alderman Charlie Harmon, and City Clerk-Treasurer Angela Nicholson.

Andy Wright, a citizen of Sherwood, addressed the council commending the work of the Sherwood Police Department. Mr. Wright stated that Sherwood has a great police department and that they need to be recognized.

Mayor Young made the following announcements:

- February Animal Shelter announcements: Free Sweetheart Pet Adoption Special: Free adoption on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in honor of World Spay Day and Spay/Neuter Awareness Month (Contact Animal Shelter (501) 834-2287 for more details).
- February 6, 2015, at 12:00 p.m. there will be a Sandwiching History Tour of the Matthews-Clauson-McCullough House on Miller Road.

Alderman Heye, seconded by Alderman McMinn, made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

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Virginia R. Young, Mayor