

January 27, 2014

REGULAR MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on January 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Virginia R. Hillman, City Attorney Steve Cobb, City Clerk Angela Nicholson, Aldermen Brooks, Harmon, Lilly, McMinn, Butler, Heye, Keplinger and Sanders.

Alderman Tim McMinn, led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Butler, made a motion, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 16, 2013, as transcribed. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Chief Jim Bedwell presented the following awards: 2013 Police of the Year – Jamal Hockaday, 2013 Dispatcher of the Year- Lisa Curry, 2013 Civilian Employee of the Year – Vivian McNeil.

Ann Pressly presented the City with one of her paintings that was of the Roundtop Station.

Alderman Brooks, Chairman of the Advertising and Promotion Commission, stated the commission did not meet in January. Alderman Brooks gave an update on the success of the Trail of Lights. Alderman Brooks said the Trail of Lights raised approximately \$38,000.00 and had 10,000 cars drive through. Alderman McMinn said that there were 4,000 pounds of canned goods donated for the food bank that were donated through the Trail of Lights. The next Advertising and Promotion Commission meeting will be February 5, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

Alderman Harmon, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated the committee did meet. Alderman Harmon called attention to the changes made to the hours of the pool at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center during the Sherwood Sharks swim practice. Alderman Harmon also stated the Lady Razorbacks are scheduled for March 19, 2014. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be February 10, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

Alderman Butler, Chairman of the Personnel Committee stated the committee did not meet. The next meeting will be February 5, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center

Alderman Lilly, Chairman of the Street Committee stated the committee did meet.

Resolution No. 1-2014, entitled, “A RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING WALTER BARNHARDT TO THE SHERWOOD STREET COMMITTEE” was read. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

An ordinance entitled, *“An ordinance providing for the appropriation of \$763,500 to the Street Fund Budget; declaring an emergency; and for other purposes”* was read. Alderman Heye, seconded by Alderman Harmon, made a motion to amend the ordinance to change Section 1 to read “from the Street Fund” and to add the amounts of each project to the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous. **Ordinance No. 2022, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$763,500 FROM THE STREET FUND BUDGET; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”** was read as amended. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Heye, 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 Heye, seconded by Alderman Harmon, 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 Heye, seconded by Alderman Lilly, made a

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motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. The roll call vote was unanimous. The emergency clause passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Keplinger, made a verbal motion to follow the rules of Ordinance No. 1976 for the 2014 calendar year. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance No. 2023, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO CENTRAL ARKANSAS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES” was read. Alderman Keplinger stated that he did not receive information on the lawsuit and did not know a whole lot about it. Alderman Keplinger also asked the city attorney that if this went to court could the city win and what were the statute of limitations. Alderman Heye asked what evidence was there in the accounting to show where this money had been spent. Steve Cobb, City Attorney stated that Central Arkansas Risk Management (CARMA) advanced the city funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 after the 2008 tornado to make repairs at the ball park. Mr. Cobb stated that the city paid \$100,000.00 of this back to CARMA in 2010. Negotiations were being made on the balance owed, and CARMA then filed the lawsuit asking for \$200,000.00. Mr. Cobb stated that he did not think the city could win the case, and the statute of limitations was five years. Mayor Hillman stated that the city was underinsured when the tornado hit the ball parks. Mayor Hillman, Sonny Janssen, Director of Parks and Recreation, and former Mayor Bill Harmon, met with the CARMA board seeking more funds to help with the repair cost. Mayor Hillman stated her understanding in the meeting was that the city was self insured and that as a group there would be excess funds that would be divided up and the \$300,000 would be the city’s share. The agreement was to be reviewed after twelve months, which never happened. Mayor Hillman believes that CARMA sought the money only after the city pulled out of the CARMA program to go with the Arkansas Municipal League program. Sonny Janssen, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the damage by the tornado was in excess of \$1.2 million and CARMA paid bills up to \$240,000.00. Mr. Janssen stated that the insurance had not been adjusted since 1988. Mr. Janssen stated that all invoices were available in the city clerk’s office in a box labeled FEMA. This box contains thousands of pages that show where the money was spent. Mr. Janssen also stated he believed that the money would have never been asked for if the city had stayed with CARMA and only when the city pulled out did CARMA seek reimbursement for the money. Alderman Harmon stated that the cost to repair the damage was more than the money the city received from CARMA and FEMA combined. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman McMinn, 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 McMinn, seconded by Alderman Harmon, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman McMinn, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous. The emergency clause passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hillman gave the following State of the City:

The year 2013 was a very busy year for our city. We started off the year with the many challenges of snow and ice. We were able to recover in a reasonable amount of time. We celebrated our 65th Birthday as an incorporated city with a huge birthday party. The event also recognized the heritage of our city with the participation of some Sherwood residents who helped lead the charge of the incorporation and establishment of our city. The event was held at the Sherwood Senior Citizens Center and was at capacity crowd.

Our Senior Center did a great job of assisting with the needs and providing activities to our senior community. 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. Many residents benefited from

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transportation to both doctor visits and the grocery store. A motor coach trip to New York was a highlight. The bean bag baseball team has become quite competitive.

For the FIRST time in the history of the Department of Animal Services, 100% of adoptable pets were placed with new families. The Department is entering its fourteenth consecutive month without the need to euthanize adoptable pets! Employees received training from "A Veteran's Best Friend Ministry" so that staff could recognize potential candidates for training as service dogs for Veterans with PTSD. The department sponsored the annual Pet Fair and Fun Raiser. The funds raised from the event will go towards the purchase of a mobile adoption unit. The department continues to look for new opportunities to attend community events. The community awareness and support for our animals continues to increase.

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. In addition, the Computer Services Department has developed, maintained, and enhanced many in-house written applications. Some of the accomplishments for 2013 include the upgrading of our network infrastructure with new faster switches and the replacement of two aging servers. Computer Services has also made significant progress upgrading desktop computers from Windows XP to Windows 7.

Planning and Permit staff saw an increase in Planning Commission cases in 2013. Permits for new construction for residential and commercial buildings were up for the third year in a row. The overall value of construction permits decreased from approximately \$47,781,030 in 2012 to approximately \$35,124,209 in 2013.

The Wastewater Department is continuing the extensive evaluation of the sanitary sewer system that began in 2009. All manholes have been visually inspected and all of the collection system has been smoke tested and inspected via close circuit televising where necessary. A rehabilitation plan for the sanitary sewer system has been developed and over 25,000 linear feet of defective sewer mains have been repaired and/or replaced. The remainder of the system, approximately 11,500 linear feet will be completed this year. The same is true of the manholes. Approximately 700 leaking manholes have been rehabilitated, with an additional 160 to be completed this year. This is being funded through the sales tax fund. When the study and all improvements are complete, sanitary sewer overflows should be greatly reduced. The Wastewater Department is also making substantial improvements to the North Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City reinstated an overlay program in 2012. In 2013, the City awarded the largest overlay contract in recent history at approximately 8050 tons of asphalt which allowed 5 miles of city streets to be resurfaced.

The Public Works Department continues to be responsible for household garbage collections, extra pickup items as well as yard waste including leaf collection. Our crews stay extremely busy with clearing drainage areas of debris, repairs, as well as mowing and weed eating. The year 2013 was off to a busy start with the ice storms and the many challenges resulting.

The District Court handled more than 23,700 cases including DWI, traffic, hot checks and criminal. A total of \$2,321,892 was paid to General Fund. This amount was an approximate decrease of \$200,000 from 2012.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer many opportunities for recreation and fitness. The Sherwood Sports Complex is not only the home fields for the Sylvan Hills-Sherwood Optimist baseball and softball teams, but was also home to four local high schools and The Sherwood Soccer Club. The Bill Harmon Recreation Center is host to the Sherwood Sharks swim team, the Sherwood Youth Basketball League, Sherwood After-School Program, the Rollin' Razorbacks, and accommodates private parties and room rentals each year. The Greens at North Hills was proud to be showcased

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by hosting the AR State Golf Association Match Play Championship and the PGA Junior Tour Overall. Sherwood Forest continues to be a popular facility for large events. The facility continues to improve as renovations and updates are ongoing. The Henson Tennis Center also hosted 10 different adult teams in STA competition this past spring and summer, covering all levels of men's, women's and mixed tennis. They experienced a banner year with several teams making it to the State finals and two men's teams going to regionals in Atlanta. A one-quarter mile walking trail was completed around the fishing pond at City Hall by funds from a Recreational Trails Grant in the summer of 2013.

Once again, the Human Resource office sponsored an employee Health & Benefits Fair with 120 employees attending with 25 vendors participating. Free flu shots were offered to employees and 100 received their shots during the event. The 2013 fair was a huge success with not only companies that provide direct services to the city but area companies as well. Most of these vendors have already asked to participate in 2014. The department continues to encourage attendance at BHRC as part of the health and wellness program. In June 2013, nine employees received a free day off and in November 2013, thirteen employees received a free day off for attending 12 times each month in six consecutive months. The Human Resources continues to receive positive feedback from employees from the information received in the monthly health and wellness newsletter.

Our Police Department had a very busy year. Currently the police department has 12 sworn officer positions open and two openings in the dispatch/detention branch. The city crime rate shows a 14% overall increase for 2013. Several grants were obtained to help defer the costs of bullet resistant vests, traffic enforcement, DWI enforcement, in-car video equipment, and equipment for the jail. Our new radio system should be on line soon. The police department continues to train in several areas that will increase our professionalism and response capabilities. We continue to be able to provide the residents with outstanding patrol service and follow-up investigative response. With our step in grade pay scale now in effect we are hoping this helps the department in retaining our officers and on the recruitment of new officers. Our new Police sub-station was opened in the First Arkansas Bank building for use as a COPPS office and substation for the residents of Gravel Ridge.

The year 2013 continued with new growth economically. Redevelopment of existing areas as well as new development continued throughout the year. Our Hotel and Restaurant tax increase is reflective of our new growth. The restoration of the Roundtop Filling Station has generated much interest. The city was awarded a \$50,000 grant and will apply again this year for additional funds. The first phase of a new subdivision on Oakdale, Miller's Glen Addition, will be ready soon. Engineering services are complete on Maryland and hopefully right-of-way acquisition will begin soon. We embrace 2014 with great anticipation for the city's continued growth.

Under old business Alderman Harmon gave an update on the sign ordinance revision. Alderman Harmon stated that he and Andy Wilson, who works in the Permit and Planning Office, are drafting a new ordinance, and this will be done a section at a time so that the ordinance can be accurate and cover all that is needed. Alderman Heye asked that the electronic signs also be included in this revision.

Under new business Mayor Hillman stated she has been approached by a citizen who is interested in buying city property located at 403 Calloway. Mayor Hillman stated the property was donated 20 years ago to the city for a neighborhood park that never came about. Sonny Janssen stated that after the property was donated, there were hearings to turn the lot into a park area for the residents. At that time the residents were not interested in a park. The lot has sat empty. Mayor Hillman stated that the lot at one time had a For Sale sign on it. Mayor Hillman asked the council if they were in agreement to sale the property at the appraised value. Alderman Heye asked that it be advertised that the lot is for sale so other people could have the opportunity to purchase the property. Alderman Lilly stated he would like to make sure that there are no stipulations as to what can be done with the property from the person who donated it. Alderman McMinn stated to make sure there was a clear deed and title. Alderman Keplinger, seconded by

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Alderman Harmon, made a motion to sell the property at the appraised value. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Hillman stated that Alderman McMinn would serve on the committee for Economic Development for 2014.

Mayor Hillman made the following announcements:

- Ribbon Cutting at Sharky's Fish & Chicken, January 28, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.
- February 25, 2014, World Spay Day

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Butler, made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

Virginia R. Hillman, Mayor