

February 27, 2012

REGULAR MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on February 27, 2012, 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 Fender, Brooks, Harmon, Lilly, McMinn, Butler, Heye, and Keplinger.

Dr. Ricky Lee, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Sherwood, led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2012, as transcribed. The roll call vote was unanimous.

State Representative Barry Hyde presented Fire Chief David Teague and Brian Gray, President of the Fire Association, with a \$5,000.00 check for the Sherwood Fire Department for safety equipment.

Mayor Hillman opened up for discussion of the 2010 Legislative Audit for the City of Sherwood. No comments were made.

Alderman Brooks, Chairman of the Advertising and Promotion Commission, stated they did meet. The next meeting will be March 7, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Harmon, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, stated the committee did not meet. Alderman Harmon addressed the council about the confusion of the capital improvement funds bond money. Alderman Harmon stated that originally it was understood that the money belonged to the Sherwood Public Facilities Board. Alderman Harmon read a ruling from an attorney with Friday, Eldridge and Clark, the firm that did the bond issue and it stated the money belonged to the city. The Public Facilities Board received information from Legislative Audit that the Public Facilities Board owned the funds and should be releasing the money. Alderman Harmon stated that legislative audit is getting an opinion from the attorney general's office. Alderman Harmon stated that during the wait to see who the money actually belongs to that there are outstanding invoices and jobs that need to be done with the capital improvement funds. Alderman Harmon suggested that an ordinance be approved to allocate the money to pay the invoices until a determination could be made as to whom the money belongs to. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Brooks, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the below ordinance on the agenda. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance No. 1930, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING THE SUM OF SIXTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND 32/100 DOLLARS (\$16,792.32) FROM THE SHERWOOD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES AT THE GREENS AT NORTH HILLS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" was read. Jim Nickels, State Representative, addressed the council and informed them he is on the Joint Audit Committee and he gave the audit staff the ruling from Friday, Eldridge and Clark Law Firm, but the audit committee had facts that led to their finding the money belonged to the Public Facilities Board. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Lilly, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes. Alderman Brooks abstained. The ordinance was read for the second time. Alderman Heye, seconded by Alderman Butler, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes. Alderman Brooks abstained. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Harmon, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 7 ayes. Alderman Brooks abstained. The emergency clause passed with a roll call vote of 7 ayes. Alderman Brooks abstained.

Alderman Brooks, representing the Personnel Committee, stated the committee will meet on March 1, 2012, at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center.

February 27, 2012

REGULAR MEETING 2

Resolution No. 3-2012, entitled, “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, REPLACING NAN GENTRY, TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE” was read. Alderman Fender, seconded by Alderman Butler, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Alderman Lilly, Chairman of the Street Committee, stated the committee met, and discussion was on Brockington Road, curbside recycling and money that FEMA gave to the City for repairs for damage due to flooding.

Mayor Hillman gave the following State of the City:

2011 was again a busy year in our City. We experienced many challenges as well as opportunities. We embraced them with a “can do” attitude.

The City of Sherwood 457 (b) plan for non-uniformed employees began in January with employee participation rates very high. The automated time and attendance project is underway. Once again, the Human Resources office sponsored an employee Health and Benefits Fair. Free flu shots for employees were available at that time. Job audits were conducted on every full time employee. The department is now in the process of ensuring that every full time employee receives a copy of their job description with their essential duties. The department is currently working with the Arkansas Municipal League and their Health and Wellness Coordinator to begin a program for City of Sherwood employees.

The computer services department continued to maintain operations of 200+ computers and servers, as well as other devices. Also, desk-help support for all departments within the city was provided.

The District Court handled more than 25,000 cases including DWI, traffic, hot check and criminal. A total of \$2,611,366.93 was paid to General Fund.

The Animal Services Department continues to successfully adopt animals. 95% of adoptable animals were placed with new families. The department responded to more than 1600 request for service calls. The department conducted and coordinated a successful Pet Fair and Fun Raiser, participated in Spay Day as well as education programs in the schools.

Our Senior Center had another successful year meeting needs and providing activities for our senior community. Meals on Wheels, wellness checks, AARP driving classes, computer classes, along with many activities including bingo, Bunco, and aerobics were made available. Our bean bag baseball was a competitive group out on the road as they competed with other communities in Central Arkansas. The department also was successful in once again securing a grant for a new van. The 2012 small ramp van was acquired by the city at no cost. Eighty percent funding was provided by the grant award and the remaining 20% percent was funded by appropriations from local legislator allocations.

The Parks and Recreation department offered many opportunities for recreation and fitness. Our Henson Park Tennis Center experienced the highest number of teams qualifying for state finals than ever before. Our Ladies 6.5 Combo Team won the state title. The Bill Harmon Recreation Center was utilized more than past years with several new fitness classes available. The center also is host to the Sherwood Sharks swim team, the Sherwood Youth Basketball league, Sherwood After-School Program as well as the Rollin’ Razorbacks. Our Soccer Club almost doubled this year in participation. 2,500 baseball and softball games were played at our Sports Complex this year. Once again, we had the privilege of hosting the Lady Razorbacks softball team. Our Duran Youth Center received some much needed improvements to the art room with funds from a grant.

February 27, 2012

REGULAR MEETING 3

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 floods in April required team effort from the department to work extra hours required to address the numerous problems that accompany flood waters. The department also makes street repairs and maintains our mosquito spraying program.

The construction of the second phase of Brockington Road was substantially complete in December. Although there are a few items to be addressed, the roadway is open to the public. Lee Avenue Bridge over Woodruff Creek, which was damaged as a result of the flooding, was replaced in August 2011. The installation of box culverts on Abercorn, which consisted of the replacement of drainage culverts, was completed in October.

The Permits and Planning Department saw an overall decrease in building permits. There were 535 permits issued in 2011 compared to 687 issued in 2010. Permits for new construction for residential and commercial buildings were down for the third year in a row. However, the overall value of construction permits decreased from approximately \$60,825,325 in 2010 to approximately \$23,751,750 in 2011.

The Wastewater Department is continuing the extensive evaluation of the sanitary sewer system that began in 2009. All manholes have been visually inspected and approximately 80% of the collection system has been smoke tested and inspected via close circuit televising where necessary. A rehabilitation plan will be developed to replace and/or repair defective and undersized sewer mains. This is being funded through the sales tax fund. When the study and all improvements are complete, sanitary sewer overflows should be greatly reduced.

Currently the police department has three officers in the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy that started the second week of January. Several grants have been obtained to help defer the costs of bullet resistant vests, traffic enforcement, DWI enforcement, in-car video equipment, and equipment for the jail. We are looking for grants for the radio system that must be replaced by January 2013, and as of now have been unable to locate any grants.

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.

The city crime rate shows a 9% increase in property crimes and an 8% increase in crimes against persons/violent crimes for 2011. These rates were the identical decreases noted in 2010. The greatest loss in property crimes by far is vehicle burglaries. Many valuable items including computers and other electronic equipment are being left in vehicles. These are prime targets for thieves. We are working to encourage our residents not to leave valuables in their vehicles.

We still have concerns over the lack of operational space our current police facility has. We are looking forward to obtaining the First Arkansas Bank building later this summer for use as a COPPS office and sub-station for the residents of Gravel Ridge. We are also looking at moving part or all of the Detective Division to another location in order to have more room in our building.

The final census numbers were released in early 2011, bringing our population to almost 30,000. Our city is now the 14th largest in Arkansas. New growth always brings challenges and opportunities. Our new Sylvan Hills Middle School opened in August. The excitement that it brings to our community is contagious. The more than 185,000 square foot new facility has seen a huge increase in student enrollment. This is expected to continue.

Our budget process for 2012 was a difficult one. We are no different than any other public entity. The needs are greater than the resources. We are still in need of funding to

overlay and repair our streets. We will work together this year to make this a reality. 2012 is the third year that we have budgeted using projected revenues and not drawing from reserves. Also, curbside recycling was approved to begin in April 2012. Preparations have been ongoing for the rollout of this new program. Letters were mailed out last week with the announcement. Many residents have already called or emailed expressing their excitement. Our city has partnered with our Chamber to hire an economic developer. The Chamber spent many hours developing the implementation of this much needed program. It is with great anticipation and excitement that we once again begin to promote our city as a community of choice to existing and new businesses. Our city is positioned for continued growth and opportunities for our residents.

Resolution No. 4-2012, entitled, "A RESOLUTION FINDING THE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON PARCEL #22S-007-00-081-00, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 29 DEERFIELD TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE" was read. Mr. Micahel Keener, a representative for the Arkansas Federal Credit Union, addressed the council and asked that the council work with the credit union on the property. Mr. Keener stated he recommended to Arkansas Federal Credit Union to donate the property to the city or to work something out with the city. Mayor Hillman stated that contact would be made with Arkansas Federal Credit Union. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 5-2012, entitled, "A RESOLUTION FINDING THE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON PARCEL #22S-002-00-034-00, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 10300 FARRIS AVENUE TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE" was read. Alderman McMinn, seconded by Alderman Brooks, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance No. 1931, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1835 TO INCREASE THE FEES FOR COLLECTION OF WASTE BASED UPON THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" was read. Alderman Harmon, seconded by Alderman Brooks, 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 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 Heye, seconded by Alderman Lilly, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Under old business, City Attorney Steve Cobb spoke representing the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce as President, in reference to the issue with the City getting its own school district. The following statement was made: *Subsequent to the request by the City that the Chamber start the process and study of the question of the possibility and viability of a city school district, the Mayor and Chamber president met with Governor Beebe. In the meeting the governor was advised that this issue was being studied. While the governor did not commit to a position he did not discourage continued study on behalf of the city. More recently the Chamber has obtained a commitment from a Little Rock law firm to provide assistance as the project begins. Prospective entities and individuals have been identified that may provide help in the event a liaison between the City and State government becomes necessary. One impediment to this process was the need to have an Economic Development Director on board to provide the daily attention to this project as it would relate to economic development as a whole. Our objective had been to have this person on board last October, but the chamber could not make an offer of employment until the city had passed the 2012 budget. I am happy to report that we have hired our Director and she is here this evening. Please let me introduce Kelly Coughlin. The school district issue will not be her sole task, but her position is a necessary person as the project takes shape. At this juncture we anticipate receipt of statistics and demographic data to begin our analysis. We anticipate that information in about two weeks.*

Gina Radke of Galley Support Innovations gave the council an update on the grant that their company received with the help of the City of Sherwood. Ms. Radke stated that since the grant they have increased employees from three full-time to twenty full-time and 3 part-time. The company plans on adding 10 more employees in the next year. The company has obtained a \$6 million dollar, six year contract, and is currently being sought out by other companies. Ms. Radke thanked the Mayor and City attorney for their help in obtaining the grant.

John Roberts and David Steinmetz addressed the council regarding the curbside recycling. The carts are currently being delivered to households in the City of Little Rock. North Little Rock and Sherwood will soon follow. The curbside recycling will begin the week of April 9, 2012, and pickup will be on the same day as regular garbage pickup every other week.

City Attorney Steve Cobb stated that he and Mayor Hillman met with North Little Rock Mayor Hayes, and North Little Rock City Attorney Jason Carter in reference to the contract for electricity. Mr. Cobb stated that North Little Rock would like to have an answer from the city by budget cycle of 2012. Members of the council requested the city attorney submit for proposals from Entergy and First Electric.

Mayor Hillman gave information about the property and vehicle insurance policy with Arkansas Municipal League and asked for the council's recommendation. Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Heye, made a recommendation that the city switch to the Arkansas Municipal League Property/Vehicle insurance. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Under new business Alderman Keplinger asked that the city look into the area where the new Mapco is in reference to it being a dry area. Mayor Hillman stated that this is done by township and to change it, it would require 37-38% of voters in that township to sign an initiative petition to have the issue placed on the ballot.

Mayor Hillman made the following announcement:

- Sherwood Animal Services World Spay Day, Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 3-7 p.m. at Wal-Mart Supercenter. Pet adoption and information on spay and neutering pets.

Jim Davis, resident of Oakbrooke, addressed the council stating the residents of Oakbrooke subdivision are pleased that the Oakbrooke sign has been replaced.

The following announcements were made:

Alderman Brooks stated there would be a Keep Sherwood Beautiful Cleanup on Saturday, March 10, 2012, with everyone meeting at the Sherwood Senior Citizen's Center at 8:30 a.m.

Don Hindman, Director of the Sherwood Senior Citizens Center, informed the council that he received a 2012 Dodge Ramp Van that cost \$33,862.00. Mr. Hindman informed the council that the Senior Citizen's center received a grant from the state for \$27,090.00, and that State Representatives helped the Senior Citizen's center with another grant for \$6,772.00, so the van did not cost the city of Sherwood anything.

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Keplinger, made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

Virginia R. Hillman, Mayor

