

**February 26, 2007**

**REGULAR MEETING 1**

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on February 24, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Aldermen Rankin, Fender, Davis, Sulcer, Henry, Brooks, and Harmon; Mayor Danny Stedman, City Attorney Steve Cobb, and City Clerk Virginia Hillman. Alderman Vassar was absent.

Alderman Sulcer led in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

A motion was made by Alderman Davis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 22, 2007, as transcribed. Alderman Rankin seconded the motion and the roll call was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent.

Sherwood Fire Chief Frank Hill and Sherwood Fire Commission Chairman Mike Anderson addressed the council. On February 18, 2007, firefighters and police were dispatched the scene of a vehicle accident where the vehicle was on fire and the driver was trapped inside. Emergency personnel were on the scene immediately and extinguished the fire. Rescue personnel worked two hours to extricate the driver from the burning vehicle. Firefighters Zack Harmon, Ritchie Hargrove, Charles Maxwell, Jonathan Shock, Jodie Hartman, and Chief Hill were present and each were presented a certificate of accommodation. Police officers Jason Hopkins, Ryan Baker, and firefighter Khristy Sanford were not in attendance but also received recognition.

Mayor Danny Stedman gave the following State of the City:

The City of Sherwood is growing and prosperous. Actual revenues exceeded projected revenues by \$501,172 for 2006. Actual expenditures were \$838,582 less than projected expenditures for 2006. Resulting in a \$649,754 surplus. With the second highest educational and family income levels in the State, Sherwood also boasts the lowest per capita crime rate in the Central Arkansas region. Our City has the lowest tax rate for individuals and businesses for any community in Central Arkansas. Despite our steady growth, the City's services have continued to meet the needs of our residents without the need to raise additional tax revenue. Our departments have stayed under budget in 2006 and successfully managed the public's money. I would like to share with you a few of the highlighted activities for 2006.

**Advertising & Promotions Department**

Finished 2006 3 percent under budget. During 2006, the Advertising & Promotions Department hosted 225 events.

Over 9,000 residents attended our Fourth of July Celebration and Sherwood Fest. These events were made possible by the hundreds of volunteers who assisted our staff. This past year, our Enchanted Forest Holiday Trail of Lights, our largest ever, was visited by 9,063 individuals and raised over \$26,000 in donations.

Sherwood Forest is also home base for the Sherwood Day Camp and After-School Program. The Day Camp was attended by 157 children. Fifty-four children participated in our After-School Program.

**Animal Services Department**

Finished 2006, 3 percent under budget. The department saw another busy year, taking in 1,406 animals. Over 1,100 animals were adopted or reclaimed. Animal Services Officers responded to 1,759 calls in 2006, issuing 243 citations and warnings.

With the help of Sara Dawson, who agreed to serve as Volunteer Coordinator, the Department created P.A.W.S. (Partners Auxiliary

**February 26, 2007**

**REGULAR MEETING 2**

Working for the Sherwood Shelter). In 2006, P.A.W.S. volunteers raised over \$4,000 to help Shelter animals.

The new Doggie Park and Memorial Garden was opened to allow individuals considering adopting a Shelter animal to spend time with them in a secure, safe environment.

#### **City Clerk's Office**

Administration was 4 percent under 2006 budget. Privilege License collections were \$207,065 for Sherwood businesses during 2006, issuing over 100 new privilege licenses to first-time businesses.

During 2006, the City Clerk's Office made disbursements of more than \$18 million dollars. All financial accounts are reconciled and maintained through this office, as well as funds collected through the Hot Check department, are disbursed back to merchants.

#### **District Court & Hot Checks Division**

Was 1 percent under budget for 2006. This department has seen increases in cases in all divisions, resulting in an increase in revenues of \$340,000 this past year for the City. This increase is attributed to closer monitoring of cases by Court staff and increased coordination with the Sherwood Police Department.

The District Court issued 26,926 warrants and processed 4,976 cases for hot checks during 2006. The Court currently has payment plans for 7,883 individuals, up 237 cases from FY 2005. This resulted in a \$69,650 decrease in the cost of collecting fines for the year.

The issue of jail overcrowding in Pulaski County continues to be a challenge for the Court

#### **Computer Services Department**

Finished 12 percent under 2006 budget. The department currently maintains the City's 7 Local Area Networks with 15 servers and 152 computers, as well as hundreds of peripheral devices, in 14 separate locations around the City.

During 2006, they completed several hardware and software upgrades designed to improve the reliability and speed of the City's 7 networks.

The Computer Services Department took over management of the City's Website from U.A.L.R., creating more flexibility and timeliness in updating information. A significant new project for the department was the development of the City's internal Intranet site for employees; which, in the coming years, will be the primary communications medium.

#### **Office of Economic Development**

Was 6 percent under 2006 budget. During 2006, 123 new businesses have opened in Sherwood bringing over 1,000 new jobs to our community. Two national call centers; Cardinal Health and FTD.com, brought over 750 quality jobs to Sherwood.

Sherwood benefited by an increase of 100,000 square feet of retail space with the opening of Fort Thompson, Mardel's, and Academy Sports. Metropolitan Bank and the National Bank of Arkansas both opened new facilities in 2006. Grandpa's Catfish restaurant opened in the space vacated by Delta Dental.

Significant announcements also highlighted the year. Wal-Mart announced its intention to return to Sherwood with a new 24-hour Supercenter. Construction has also begun on Sherwood's first motel, a 60-room Best Western Inn, which will open this spring.

**Engineering, Permits, & Planning**

Was 7 percent under budget. Sherwood continues to grow with 251 new single-family homes permitted this past year. The Sherwood City Council voted last year to annex over 1,200 acres of land north of the City. When it is approved, this will be the largest annexation in Sherwood history.

The Department completed two major floodway and floodplain studies with the potential of removing 121 residential homes from the floodplain, reducing their homeowners' insurance cost dramatically. Another study along Five Mile Creek currently being conducted, will remove 21 additional homes from floodplain areas.

The Sherwood Wastewater Utility was expanded to include a 4,000-gallon per minute pumping station on Brockington Road, designed to serve a population of 16,500 people. Treatment capacity was also increased this past year from 300,000 gallons per day to 1,125,000 gallons per day.

**Office of Human Resources**

Was 3 percent under 2006 budget. The Office of Human Resources processed 9,288 paychecks during 2006, with a total annual payroll of nearly \$9 million dollars. There were 694 applications for 95 jobs announced. The City also maintained a turnover rate of 9.4%, nearly 6% below the national average for similar organizations.

E-Guide, the new Employee Intranet site, was launched in November of last year providing an array of personnel employment information. Employees can also register for 11 online personal and professional development courses offered through E-Guide.

The Office of Human Resources imaged 38,000 pages of personnel records with the goal of making them accessible in a secured manner from any computer anywhere in the world.

**Parks & Recreation Department**

Was 3 percent under 2006 budget. The Duran Youth Center hosted a number of programs for the City's youths.

The Sherwood Sports Complex was home to over 800 youth baseball and softball players, and 200 basketball and soccer players. They also hosted 25 invitational regional, State, and world softball and baseball tournaments during 2006. The Bill Harmon Recreation Center continues to grow in individual memberships and facility rentals.

The University of Arkansas' Lady Razorbacks Softball Team, called the Ladybacks, played its first home game away from Ladybacks Yard in Fayetteville at the Sherwood Sports Complex to a record crowd of 2,500 fans.

**Police Department**

Was 8 percent under 2006 budget. During 2006, the Sherwood Police Department's Patrol Division responded to 991 accidents. In 2006, the burglary rate dropped 25 percent. Sherwood maintains the lowest overall crime rate of any community in Central Arkansas. Last year, Officers also served over 1,000 more warrants than the previous year.

**February 26, 2007**

**REGULAR MEETING 4**

The Sherwood Police Department became certified under the National Incident Management System (N.I.M.S.). This is an emergency incident command procedure designed to train first responders in multi-jurisdictional responses so that communications and protocol will be the same for each agency involved.

The C.O.P.P.S. Division adopted "A Child is Missing" program. This is a computer-based telephone program that alerts the community to missing children, as well as adults who need medical attention. The program has already helped to locate three missing children and an elderly adult.

**Public Works Department**

Was 5 percent under budget. In 2006, a new rear-loading garbage truck to upgrade the reliability of our sanitation fleet was purchased. The Sanitation and Recycling section of Public Works serves 8,269 Sherwood households and 72 Sherwood businesses with weekly pick-up of trash. They also have a scheduled weekly pick-up of yard waste for single-family homes.

A new traffic signal was installed at the intersection of North Hills Boulevard and Seminole Trail improving access for residents in that subdivision.

The Department also completed approximately \$250,000 in street repairs and sidewalk improvements during 2006, and \$70,000 in drainage projects.

**Jack Evans Senior Citizens Center**

Was 8 percent under 2006 budget. This past year was busy for the Jack Evans Senior Citizens Center. The Center offered 10 separate programs with 480 individual classes that met throughout the year.

The Center also supported our seniors by offering transportation services for those who cannot drive. This past year the staff made 6,895 trips with senior citizens to medical appointments, grocery stores, shopping, and other basic needs in the Little Rock metropolitan area.

The Jack Evans Senior Citizens Center, in cooperation with the Jacksonville Senior Center, ensured that 8,929 meals were provided for Sherwood senior in their homes through the State's 'Meals On Wheels' program.

As we look to 2007, with a mission to provide world-class municipal government to the citizens of Sherwood – prosperity and growth for Sherwood is positive. With city government focused on a culture of customer service, proactive continuous improvement of daily operations, planned growth and teamwork, Sherwood can be a benchmark city for the entire country.

I would like to share with you a few highlights of this year so far.

I am pleased to inform you that the northern portion of Brockington Road from Indian Bay to Highway 107 should be under construction by this summer. Metroplan has indicated it would help expedite the southern portion for future construction.

All parties concerned in the connection of Maryland Avenue from Brockington to Highway 107 have agreed to begin construction this year.

**February 26, 2007**

**REGULAR MEETING 5**

Litigation is under way to determine our city's sovereign right to franchise electric service to whomever it chooses and free our citizens and businesses from North Little Rock Electric.

- Wal-Mart Supercenter will begin construction this year and open in early 2008.
- A second hotel has announced to begin construction this year.
- The PCSSD has committed to building a new middle school in Sherwood.
- The preferred North Belt route has been selected by the highway department which fits the city's land use and is consistent with our Master Street Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with cooperation and teamwork, our future could never be brighter.

Alderman Sulcer, Advertising and Promotion Chairman, stated that the Advertising and Promotion Commission did not meet during the month of February but will meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Rankin, Parks and Recreation Chairman, announced that the Lady Razorbacks are returning to Sherwood on April 18<sup>th</sup> to play a doubleheader at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Sherwood Optimist Club has registered approximately 1,000 for softball and baseball.

**An ordinance No. 1731 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE REZONING 207 BROOKSWOOD FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO C-3 COMMERCIAL; AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND LAND USE MAP; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** was read for the first time. A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Rankin, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The ordinance was read for the second time. A motion was made by Alderman Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Rankin, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The ordinance was read for the third time. A motion was made by Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The emergency clause passed 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent.

**An ordinance No. 1732 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE REZONING 208 BROOKSWOOD FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO C-3 COMMERCIAL; AMENDING THE ZONING MAP AND LAND USE MAP; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** was read for the first time. A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The ordinance was read for the second time. A motion was made by Alderman Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The ordinance was read for the third time. A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Rankin, to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent. The emergency clause passed 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent.

Alderman Fender, Street Commission Chairman, announced that there will be public hearings on the North Belt preferred route. The first public hearing will be

February 26, 2007

REGULAR MEETING 6

March 20<sup>th</sup>, Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The second public hearing will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. At Cato Road Elementary School.

**Resolution No. 4-2007 entitled "A RESOLUTION FINDING THE APARTMENT AT PARCEL #23S-024-00-002-09 LOCATED IN SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 8815 WOODBINE APT. #1102, TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE"** was read. Alderman Sulcer stated that the surrounding apartments appear to have several children and there is concern for their safety since the referenced apartment had meth use. Michael Clayton, City Engineer, stated that the City was working to use the guideline of North Little Rock. North Little Rock has an in-depth plan for condemnation. A motion was made by Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, to adopt the resolution. The roll call was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent.

**Resolution No. 5-2007 entitled "A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR REPAIRS OF THE PULASKI COUNTY JAIL"** was read. Mayor Stedman stated that Jeff Rollins of the Pulaski County Quorum Court asked if the City would support a resolution requesting one time funds from the State of Arkansas for improvements for the Pulaski County Jail. A motion was made by Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, to adopt the resolution. The roll call was 7 ayes; Alderman Vassar absent.

Alderman Sulcer asked for an update regarding Roundtop. Linda Nickle, Economic Director, stated that no decision has been made regarding the grant requested for improvements of the structure. Alderman Sulcer also asked for an update on the emergency sirens. Michael Clayton, City Engineer stated that eight of the ten sirens are currently fully operational. Two sirens are making a siren noise but are not fully operational. The sirens are tested weekly. The police department dispatch currently controls the sounding of the sirens.

Mrs. Jones of 387 East Maryland Avenue addressed the council regarding drainage on her property. She stated that Scott Kelly from the Code Enforcement Department visited her property and stated that a portion of the moisture was sewage. Mrs. Jones questioned who would be responsible for the repairs. Mayor Stedman stated that the City will research the matter and will be back in contact with her.

Alderman Brooks asked for an update regarding the lawsuit between the City of Sherwood and North Little Rock Electric. The dispute is regarding whether or not the City of Sherwood has a choice as to what electric provider we choose. City Attorney Steve Cobb stated that the lawsuit had originally been administratively dismissed with the understanding that the lawsuit could be re-instituted. First Electric and North Little Rock Electric have had several meetings regarding an agreement for the payment of outstanding bonds of North Little Rock Electric as well as trying to determine a fair price for North Little Rock Electric's equipment. Recently, the lawsuit was re-instituted. The court date is not until February 2008. A motion hopefully will be filed this spring that perhaps will expedite the resolution. A cooperative agreement is being prepared that should allow for future development in areas where the dispute lies.

Alderman Ranking announced April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. for opening ceremonies of the ballpark

Alderman Davis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Brooks.

ATTEST:

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Virginia Hillman, City Clerk

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Danny Stedman, Mayor