

**January 28, 2008**

**REGULAR MEETING 1**

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on January 28, 2008, 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 Vassar, Rankin, Fender, Davis, Sulcer, Henry, Brooks and Harmon.

Steve Irby, pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church, led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Alderman Brooks, seconded by Alderman Davis, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 17, 2007, and the called meeting on January 3, 2008, as transcribed. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Alderman Vassar commended Robin Breaux Director of the Animal Control Department and stated they are doing a great job.

Chief Kel Nicholson presented Civilian Employee of the Year to Glenn Skipper for his hard work on documenting evidence that is collected. Sherwood Police Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Glenn Smith for helping in the arrest of the peeping tom around Brockington and a robbery suspect.

Alderman Sulcer, Chairman of Advertising & Promotion Commission, stated they met and discussed upcoming 2008 events.

**Ordinance No.1768, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8 OF ORDINANCE 729, ZONING REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** was read. Dwight Pattison explained to the council that this ordinance clarifies the zoning regulations when it refers to rezoning of property from R-2 to R-3 multi-family use. This clarifies that if you request rezoning then you have to submit a site plan for rezoning, but a complete development plan is not required. The property is rezoned, then you submit the complete development plan for the site. The site plan shows a general layout of the property. Alderman Rankin asked if this was a civil drawing. Mr. Pattison stated this would be before you had all the civil drawings. Alderman Sulcer asked if there have been previous problems with this. Mr. Pattison stated there had been, so this would clarify future misunderstandings. A motion was made by Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, 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. A motion was made by Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, 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. A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Rankin, to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**Resolution No. 1-2008, entitled, "A RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING NAN GENTRY TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE"** was read. A motion was made by Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Davis, to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**Resolution No. 2-2008, entitled, "A RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING LES BRUNSON TO THE STREET COMMITTEE"** was read. A motion was made by Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Harmon, to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

**Resolution No. 3-2008, entitled, "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KEN MEDLOCK TO THE SEWER COMMITTEE"** was read. A motion was made by Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Hillman gave the following State of the City:

The Hot Check Department issued approximately 27,000 warrants for 2007. Revenues deposited in the general fund were \$1,676,783.58. This was a decrease by \$471,381.80 from 2006. For 2008, the Hot Check Department signed up with the Department of Finance to hold the tax return of hot check violators.

The District Court handled 5,345 criminal cases, 19,916 traffic cases, and 639 DWI cases for 2007. Revenue of \$1,568,370.60 was paid to the General Fund.

The Human Resources Department implemented digital imaging, all staff is regular full time, and they have improved customer service with employees and departments, and improved relationships with vendors for employee benefits. In 2008 the department will implement safety training programs for all departments, conduct job analyses to reduce Workers' Compensation costs, and implement employee relations training programs for all supervisors.

The Police Department had a reduction of thefts by 16%, burglaries by 27% and arrested 278 more DWI suspects compared to 2006. The department had a drop in use of force by 35%. Robberies doubled in 2007 and there were three (3) homicides, and one (1) remains unsolved. There are currently 66 sworn positions, seven (7) currently unfilled. The patrol test is scheduled for April 7, 2008. The police department was able to purchase approximately \$60,000 worth of equipment from drug forfeiture money.

The Computer Services moved servers to the new more efficient rack servers. A new energy dropped ceiling was installed that will allow for maintained controlled temperature for the entire computer department. The department is moving toward new server racks that will improve system efficiency and save considerable space.

The Animal Services Department continues to successfully adopt animals. The department received more than \$18,000 in donations through the Frannie Fund. This not only helped rescue Frannie, but also will be used for many animals in the future.

The Senior Citizens Department conducted several new classes. Eight-two seniors from Sherwood received 11,777 meals from the Meals on Wheels program. The vans were driven 31,000 miles providing personal service to local seniors. The existing parking lot was resealed and the new parking lot was installed containing 63 new spaces. The 2008 goals are to increase activities and classes by 10%, complete landscaping around the new parking lot, and make the Senior Center more accessible during the 41 election days.

The Parks and Recreation Center had another great year. The Sherwood Sports Complex played host to approximately 800 youth baseball and softball players, approximately 200 basketball and soccer players. There were countless volunteer hours given by adults. The complex hosted 25 invitational, regional, state, and world softball and baseball tournaments. The University of Arkansas Athletic Department and the Sherwood Parks Department had an agreement in 2007 for the Ladybacks to play at the Sherwood complex. They will also return on April 2, 2008. The Bill Harmon Recreation Center had its highest membership since the center opened in 2002. There was also an increase in room and pool rentals. The 2008 plan is to increase advertisement in local media outlets. The Henson Tennis Center saw many tennis players of all ages and skill levels.

The Public Works Department served the citizens of Sherwood by meeting the needs of household garbage pickup. The leaf vacuum was available for residents. The Public Works department in 2008 will focus more on drainage and small street repairs.

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**REGULAR MEETING 3**

The Permits, Planning and Engineering Department continued a steady pace of single-family permits. In 2006, 207 permits were issued, and 2007 saw a number of 205 permits. The value of construction permits increased more than \$20 million in 2007 from 2006.

Sherwood Forest hosted numerous weddings and other events. A brochure was created to use in marketing the facility. Events for 2008 and 2009 are already being booked on a daily basis. Cosmetic work to the building and grounds is in progress. The goal for 2008 is to increase revenues through marketing. The After School program as well as the Summer Day Camp program is held on the Sherwood Forest property.

The Finance Department expenditures for 2007 were 8% less for the General Fund than projected. The Street Fund expenditures were 18% less. The sales tax sewer fund has approximately \$10 million in reserves as a result of the 60-month sales tax. It is the Mayor's goal that portions of these funds will be used to convert septic system customers onto a sewer system and improve the existing system.

The 2008-year is off to a busy start with the proposed annexation of Gravel Ridge and the new Wal-Mart store set to open June 2008.

Mayor Hillman stated that the low bid for the Outdoor Emergency Warning System came in at \$101,142.00. She stated that upon consulting with the City Engineer and Storm Warning person all feel that the 20-year agreement would be sufficient on the sirens. Alderman Vassar asked how long it would be until the sirens would be operational. She wants to make sure there are warning systems up and running for the upcoming tornado weather. Chief Kel Nicholson stated the current system is working. Once a month the day shift officers sit at the siren locations to make sure the sirens are operational. If problems are noticed it is then reported to Michael Clayton or Paul Brown. The main problems that have occurred is the rotation of the siren. Mayor Hillman advised the new sirens would project further out. Alderman Vassar suggested that the current sirens be left operational until the new sirens are in place. A motion was made by Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to accept the low bid contract. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Hillman announced that the Sherwood Mayor's Youth Council will be having a fish fry at Sherwood Forest on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 5:30-7:30 p.m. Lance Green- Mayor, Jordan Pruitt-Vice Mayor, Tristin Walker, Kelsey Lancaster and Ben Steckling were introduced. Mayor Hillman stated they would be available after the meeting for anyone wanting to purchase fish fry tickets.

Mayor Hillman announced the March 11, 2008 special election regarding the Gravel Ridge annexation.

Don Hindman, Director of Senior Citizen Department, announced that early election for the February presidential primary starts Tuesday, January 29, 2008, and will end on Monday, February 4, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center.

Alderman Rankin announced that City Engineer Michael Clayton will be leaving employment with the City of Sherwood.

A motion was made by Alderman Vassar to adjourn.

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**REGULAR MEETING 4**

ATTEST:

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Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

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Virginia R. Hillman, Mayor