

January 27, 2003

REGULAR MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on January 27, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Aldermen Vassar, Rankin, Butler, Fender, Sulcer, Davis and Stedman, Mayor Bill Harmon, City Attorney Steve Cobb and City Clerk Virginia Hillman.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Vassar to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 23, 2002, as transcribed. Alderman Sulcer seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Captain Golden of the Sherwood Police Department was present to recognize the Police Officer of the year for 2002. Each year an officer is selected from among their peers for outstanding service. Officer David Smith received the award.

Alderman Rankin made a motion to move the Sherwood Planning Commission business from item number eight on the agenda to item number six. Alderman Sulcer seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous. The representatives for the property located at 901 East Kiehl Avenue have made changes which are significant enough to request another review by the Sherwood Planning Commission. Alderman Rankin made a motion to refer the 901 East Kiehl Avenue property back to the Sherwood Planning Commission. Alderman Davis seconded the motion and the roll call vote 6 ayes and 1 nay.

Alderman Vassar made a motion that the Council meet in executive session to discuss candidates for the Alderman position for Ward 2, Position II. Alderman Rankin seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous. After the executive session, Alderman Vassar made a motion that the Council cease executive session. Alderman Rankin seconded the motion and the roll call vote was 7 ayes. Alderman Vassar nominated David Henry to fill the Alderman position for Ward 2, Position II. Alderman Rankin seconded the motion and the roll call vote was 6 ayes and 1 nay. Mr. Henry will fill the unexpired term of his wife Clara Henry, who passed away January 1, 2003 after 22 years of service on the Sherwood City Council. Judge Butch Hale was present and swore Mr. Henry in as Alderman. Mr. Henry took his seat on the Council.

Mayor Harmon recognized the Boy Scout troop from Immaculate Conception. The scouts are currently working on their merit badge.

Alderman Sulcer announced that the Advertising and Promotion Commission received more than \$8,600.00 from donations for the Enchanted Forest during the holiday season. Also, the Taste of Sherwood will be May 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All proceeds will go the Sylvan Hills Athletic Department.

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Alderman Rankin announced that the Parks and Recreation Committee is exploring the possibility of increasing fees within the parks system. Registration begins next week for the upcoming baseball season.

Mayor Harmon announced that the Sherwood Sewer Committee met with North Little Rock Wastewater to explore the possibility of purchasing the Five-mile Treatment Facility. More information will be available as the parties continue to evaluate the possibilities.

Alderman Fender announced that the bids for the traffic signal at Shelby and Kiehl did not receive the anticipated interest when advertised and will be re-bid.

An ordinance prohibiting parking of recreational vehicles or trailers on public streets or right-of-ways was tabled until further review. It is the desire of the Council to amend the current ordinance rather than create a new one.

Resolution No. 1-2003 entitled "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES" was read. A motion was made by Alderman Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Davis, to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 1603 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE GRANTING FIRST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT, PRIVILEGE AND AUTHORITY TO SELL, FURNISH, AND DISTRIBUTE ELECTRIC POWER AND ENERGY AND ERECT, MAINTAIN, EXTEND, AND OPERATE A SYSTEM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION, TRANSMISSION, FURNISHING, OR SALE OF ELECTRIC POWER AND ENERGY WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE CITY OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS, AND TO ITS INHABITANTS, AND TO USE THE STREETS, ALLEYS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE CITY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; FIXING THE TERMS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY," was read for the first time. Mayor Harmon stated that the charges for First Electric are about 15% less than those of North Little Rock Electric. Mayor Harmon contacted Patrick Hays, Mayor of North Little Rock prior to the ordinance being placed on the agenda. Mayor Hays contacted Mayor Harmon just prior to the Council meeting and requested that the ordinance be delayed until further research. Mr. W. W. Elrod, Attorney for First Electric addressed the Council regarding the possible conversion. Mr. Elrod advised that the vast majority of the property involved is undeveloped. The only residents located in the proposed area at this time are in the Miller Road area. Mr. Alton Higginbotham, President and Chief Executive Officer for First Electric addressed the Council. He stated that when at all possible, all lines would be underground.

Alderman Stedman stated that he thought First Electric would be a great service for the

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residents of Sherwood. A motion was made by Alderman Stedman, 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 Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Davis, 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 Rankin, seconded by Alderman Stedman, to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was unanimous to adopt the ordinance. The emergency clause passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Harmon gave the State of the City for the year ending 2002 as follows:

The General Fund as well as the Street Department worked well within their budgets for the year 2002 despite the decrease in revenues. The 1-% Sewer Sales Account tax ended the 2002 fiscal year with more than 5,500,000 in deposit.

Advertising and Promotions had a busy year. The Enchanted Forest was a huge success with several new lighting displays and more on the way for 2003. The annual Taste of Sherwood netted more than \$8,000 for the Sylvan Hills High School Athletic Department. A Volunteer Appreciation reception recognized more than 300 volunteers. The Annual Fourth of July was a host to more than 3,400 visitors while the Halloween Carnival and Sherwood Fest continue to be successful. The Advertising and Promotions Commission has also allocated \$10,000.00 toward the purchase a message sign center for the City.

The Sherwood Animal Control is one of the best in the nation. The euthanasia rate dropped 2%, making it one of the lowest euthanasia rates in the nation. The shelter actively solicits adoption of animals through local media. The staff is continually becoming more educated to improve the quality of animal control within the City.

Data Processing has worked hard bringing our software and computers up to date. The four employees have had a very busy year with technology constantly changing.

The Human Resource Department will also umbrella economic development for the City. A new position has been created to work for economic development as well as Human Resource needs.

The Parks and Recreation Department enjoyed the opening of the new fitness center with great success. The sports complex hosted numerous tournaments totaling approximately 11,000 players for the 2002 season. The Wally Hall softball tournament and also the Busch Classic tournament were hosted at the sports complex.

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Public Works has been active in coordinating the leaf pickup to better serve the citizens. Drainage, Sanitation and Public Works coordinates well with other departments to accomplish multiple task and projects throughout the City.

The Police Department is currently working with eight officers activated due to the 9-11 crisis. The officers have worked extremely hard to ensure that Sherwood continues to be a safe place. The department is actively pursuing drug traffic and is having great success in locating Meth labs.

The Court system is second to none in the state. More than 39,000 warrants were issued for Hot Checks. More than \$2,000,000 was deposited into the general fund as a result. The criminal court division issued more than 5,700 warrants with more than \$1,000,000 deposited into the general fund.

The Senior Citizen's Department were busy with many events including, line dancing, computer instruction classes, trips, and dining out. Seniors are transported to and from medical appointments when needed. Grant funds have also been awarded to receive a new handicap van in 2003.

The Engineering and Planning Department was instrumental in 20 substandard houses being razed. Currently there are 405 lots waiting for preliminary planning approval while 126 lots are already approved for building.

Mr. Robert Williams, a resident of #3 Pleasure Lane, addressed the Council regarding Brushy Island Water District. He announced that the State of Arkansas issued a \$20,000 grant to help toward the low water pressure in the Brushy Island District. He requested a 6" line be installed from Warden Road to Pleasure Lane to allow for additional fire protection.

ADJOURN

ATTEST:

Virginia Hillman
City Clerk

Bill Harmon
Mayor