

August 25, 2003

REGULAR MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on August 25, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Aldermen Henry, 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 July 28, 2003, as transcribed. Alderman Davis seconded the motion and the roll call was unanimous.

Alderman Sulcer announced that a pizza party was given by the Advertising and Promotion Commission for the Babe Ruth twelve year old baseball team before leaving for the World Series. Volunteers and vendors are needed for Sherwood Fest on Saturday, October 18th. St. Vincent Rehab Hospital is again hosting a fishing derby for physical challenged children at Lake Cherrywood on October 10th from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 noon. Volunteers are needed to help bait hooks, etc.

City Engineer Michael Clayton stated that the North Little Rock Wastewater has proposed a 21% increase of usage rates which would affect approximately 5,000 Sherwood residents. The City has worked hard to provide equal rates for all Sherwood residents. Plans are underway to build a wastewater plant that would service the 5,000 customers.

Alderman Fender announced that the signal light at Shelby Road and Kiehl Avenue is functioning.

Mayor Harmon announced that the Federal and Arkansas State Highway Departments have turned down the proposal by the City of Sherwood for the location of the North Belt Loop. They are instead proposing an exchange at Brockington Road, locating on the South side of Highway 107, placing an interchange at Kellogg Road and passing through Camp Robinson. The proposed route will be directed thorough property currently being developed. The City prefers the North side of Highway 107 due to the fact that it is undeveloped property. Metroplan will be conducting public hearings. Everyone is encouraged to attend the public hearings. Metroplan will not approve a plan that is not consistent with the Sherwood Master Street Plan. The route proposed by the Federal and State is not in agreement with our Master Street Plan.

Mayor Harmon announced that property throughout Pulaski County has recently been reappraised. Citizens 65 and over and also those who are disabled are eligible to have appraisals frozen as a result of the 2000 legislature. Also they are eligible for a \$300 homestead exemption. He encouraged Don Hindman, Senior Citizens Director, and the press to get the word out to the residents to ensure that those who are eligible are not taxed on assessments made after the year 2000.

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REGULAR MEETING 2

Mayor Harmon announced that the Budget Committee for the City had met and revenues for the City are down. There are multiple factors, which include a decrease in revenue in the Hot Check Department. Sanitation dump expenses are way up due to increase in fees and also 550 new homes have been constructed in the City which are now receiving sanitation service. Fuel costs are up also which has caused over budget expenses for departments which must use vehicles on a daily basis. The budget committee has recommended a survey be conducted throughout the City. Residents would be polled asking if they would prefer a decrease in services or an increase in taxes. The Sanitation Department currently exceeds a one million dollar annual operating budget for which there are no revenues collected to compensate for the residential service.

Lee Church, Sherwood Fire Department Chief, announced that Fire District #5 will begin circulating petitions soon for the annexation of the Trammel Road area into Fire District #5. The proposed petition will be given to the Mayor's office before circulation begins. Also, Sunday, August 31st will be the first Annual Bass Fire Department Tournament held at the Arkansas River at the Alltel ramp with a \$1,000 prize. The third annual Firefest will be Saturday, October 4th. St. Vincent Hospital and the Sherwood Rotary club will be assisting with this event also.

Alderman Stedman announced that the Sherwood Rotary is in the process of building a veterans memorial. The entrance to Sherwood Forest and Maryland Avenue is the proposed location. Private funding and memorial bricks will be the source of funding.

Mayor Harmon announced that the Arkansas Municipal League and the Arkansas Association of Counties are working to broaden the tax base on service industries. The plan has already eliminated Medicare and Medicaid from the proposals. Attorneys, accountants, doctors, along with other service industries will be included.

A motion was made by Alderman Vassar to adjourn.

ATTEST:

Virginia Hillman
City Clerk

Bill Harmon
Mayor