

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on Monday May 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, City Attorney Steve Cobb, City Clerk Charlotte Watson, Council Members Brooks, Harmon, Lilly, Sanders, Williams, Broderick, Thomas and Wade.

Robert Campbell led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Sanders, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 24, 2023, as transcribed. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Heye-Townsell opened discussion for the April 2023 City of Sherwood financials. No comments were made.

Council Member Brooks, Chairman of the Advertising & Promotion Commission, stated that the focus of their meeting was the parking lot project at the Greens at North Hills. Blake Calloway stated that the project had been out for bid and the bids were opened. There will be a preconstruction meeting with the low bidder to go over the specifics for the project. Blake further explained that there will be a plan for parking while the project is underway. The A&P Commission will meet in June and there will be no meeting for July.

Council Member Harmon, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, gave an update. The Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet this month. Council Member Harmon did give updates on all the open projects. The restrooms at the baseball and softball complexes are substantially complete and open for use. The restrooms at Henson Park are completed. The pickleball and basketball courts at Henson Park are expected to be completed by mid-June. The pools are all cleaned up and painted and ready to open on Saturday, May 27th. Sherwood Day Camp is completely full for the start of the summer day camp program. The Indianhead pickleball and basketball courts have been poured and must sit for 15 to 20 days before striping can be done. The city hall lighting has been completed and the process of running electricity for the lighting along the trails in front of city hall has begun. Additional baskets have been added to the disc golf course.

A proposed ordinance **entitled "An ordinance amending the official zoning districts map and for other purposes" (2428 Wildwood Ave)** was read for the first time. City Planner, Shelby Schmittou, stated that this was an applicants request for a rezoning from C-3 general commercial to C-4 highway open display district. This is compatible with the highway corridor and land use plan. The Planning Commission had no issues and recommended approval. Council Member Brooks clarified that this property was at the corner of Warden Road and Wildwood. The reason for the rezoning request is so that the property owner can use the sign currently on the property. Shelby Schmittou explained that the staff had discussed with the Planning Commission reviewing the city sign ordinance to prevent this type of request in the future. The commission did request this request be approved because it was compatible with the land use plan. Council Member Broderick expressed concern that if this rezoning request was approved it could open it up for commercial use in the future that the city did not want. Council Member Harmon asked what the service station across the street from this property was zoned. Ms. Schmittou responded that it is zoned C-3. Council Member Harmon questioned why the commission didn't bring an amendment to the sign ordinance instead of this rezoning request. Ms. Schmittou responded that the staff would have to review the sign ordinance and propose a change to the Planning Commission and then ultimately bring it to the city council. Council Member Brooks noted that the council had declined a request for C-4 zoning in that area previously because the applicant wanted to install a car lot. Council Member Williams recommended that this ordinance only be read one time tonight to give the planning commission time to possibly bring an amendment to the sign ordinance before the council. Council Member

Harmon noted that the city council is not supposed to consider the reasons behind the request. He noted it is improper for the council to consider these reasons.

Ordinance 2447 entitled, "An ordinance temporarily suspending the payment of administrative fees associated with applications for rezoning and/or replatting in specific areas of the city, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes" was read for the first time. Mayor Heye-Townsell explained the city is looking at the areas of the city affected by the tornado and allowing citizens to have the opportunity to change property from residential to C-3. She indicated that several property owners had already expressed interest. Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Harmon, made a motion to amend the ordinance by changing the title to read **"An ordinance temporarily suspending (not to exceed four months) the payment of administrative fees associated with applications for rezoning and/or replatting in specific areas of the city, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes."** The roll call vote was unanimous to pass the amendment.

Ordinance 2447 entitled, "An ordinance temporarily suspending (not to exceed four months) the payment of administrative fees associated with applications for rezoning and /or replatting in specific areas of the city, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes" was read as amended for the first time. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Sanders, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance as amended on the second reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. Ordinance 2447 entitled, **"An ordinance temporarily suspending (not to exceed four months) the payment of administrative fees associated with applications for rezoning and /or replatting in specific areas of the city, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes"** as amended was read for the second time. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Lilly, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance as amended on the third reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. **Ordinance 2447 entitled, "An ordinance temporarily suspending (not to exceed four months) the payment of administrative fees associated with applications for rezoning and/or replatting in specific areas of the city, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes"** was read as amended for the third time. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Harmon, made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. The ordinance was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The emergency clause passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Council Member Lilly stated that the Street Committee did meet. Country Club project is complete. Maryland is substantially complete. Hemphill street project is coming along at a good pace. The committee did get feedback on the speed trial on Shoshoni and Mohave. The average speeds and the number of speeders dropped dramatically. The one thing that did not change much was the high end speeding. The speed cushions seem to be making a positive impact on the speeding problem in that area. The street committee and the mayor are working on a policy to bring before the council on when/where speed control methods would be used throughout the city.

Council Member Lilly recommended that the proposed ordinance entitled **"An ordinance amending ordinance 810 with the adoption of a uniform speed limit for local streets pursuant to the Sherwood master street plan, and for other purposes"** be read only once and then council members can look at the streets on the city map and recommend any changes on streets in their ward. Council Member Williams asked if collector streets were normally 30mph speed limits. Brian Galloway responded that these streets should be either 25 or 30 mph. Mayor Heye-Townsell responded that another goal of this ordinance is to have consistency for law enforcement. The proposed ordinance **entitled "An ordinance amending ordinance 810 with the adoption of a uniform speed limit for local streets pursuant to the Sherwood master street plan, and for other purposes"** was read one time.

Resolution 34-2023 entitled, "**A resolution appointing certain persons to serve on the Sherwood audit and financial affairs committee**" was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell introduced Jannie Cotton, TJ Thompson, Mary Rader, Bob Ferguson and Kevin Lilly as members of this committee. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Thomas, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance 2448 entitled, "**An ordinance establishing fees and playing times for free access for play by youth at the Greens at North Hills and for other purposes**" was read for the first time. Council Member Harmon explained that the guidelines written in this ordinance is how the Greens at North Hills has been operating. Youth golfers will be charged a \$10 green fee for play at any available time. Youth golfers who are Sherwood residents are allowed free access for play during certain times of the year. Members of the Sylvan Hills High School golf team will be allowed free access subject to availability. The high school will provide a golf team roster to the pro shop. Council Member Williams, seconded by Council Member Harmon, made a motion to amend the ordinance in section 1 to read "Youth golfers (age 17 and under) shall pay a green fee of ten (\$10.00) for play at any available time." Council Member Broderick asked if it would help the high school golf team to have access to the golf course during the school day. Council Member Williams responded that most of the golf team did not have an athletic period during the school day. Council Member Harmon clarified that this ordinance allowed the Sylvan Hills high school golfers free access to play at any time subject to availability. The amendment to the ordinance was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance 2448 entitled, "**An ordinance establishing fees and playing times for free access for play by youth at the Greens at North Hills and for other purposes**" as amended was read for the first time. Council Member Harmon noted that this ordinance gave free and significantly reduced green fees to any youth golfers who play at North Hills. Council Member Broderick asked if Abundant Life School has a golf team. Mayor Heye-Townsell responded that they do not have a golf team. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Sanders, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance as amended on the second reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance 2448 entitled, "**An ordinance establishing fees and playing times for free access for play by youth at the Greens at North Hills and for other purposes**" as amended was read for the second time. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Wade, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance as amended on the third reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance 2448 entitled, "**An ordinance establishing fees and playing times for free access for play by youth at the Greens at North Hills and for other purposes**" as amended was read for the third time. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Sanders, made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. The ordinance was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution 35-2023 entitled, "**A resolution authorizing the retention of services for disaster monitoring consultant services, federal grant compliance management for disaster recovery funding, accounting and compliance management for current and future disaster recovery funding and for other purposes**" was read. Council Member Lilly asked if this resolution would change the agreement with FEMA or any cost recovery for the city. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Thomas, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote.

A proposed ordinance entitled, "**An ordinance amending the Sherwood property maintenance code as established by ordinance 1878, and for other purposes**" was read. Council Member Broderick noted that this is only an amendment to the

existing ordinance. The existing ordinance only refers to weeds but did not define what that included. Council Member Harmon suggested that there is a list of specific invasive plants on the University of Arkansas website that could be referenced. Council Member Broderick noted that this amendment does not prohibit Sherwood citizens from growing one of these invasive species on their property. It only states that if the invasive species grows onto an adjacent property, the owner must take care of removing it from their neighbors property. Council Member Broderick asked the council to only read this ordinance once tonight and get with her before the next meeting with any amendments or questions.

Resolution 36-2023 entitled, **"A resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Sherwood, Arkansas to utilize federal-aid transportation alternatives program or recreational trails program funds"** was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell explained that this resolution refers to applying for grants for sidewalks on Kiehl Ave. Council Member Broderick asked what the cost potentially could be. Finley Vinson, Engineering Consultant, responded that the maximum grant award is \$500,000. For example, if the total cost of the project was \$700,000 and the maximum award was given then the city would be responsible for \$200,000. Mayor Heye-Townsell explained that the goal for this grant is to use it for the most expensive portion of sidewalks on Kiehl. The plan is to complete the sidewalk on Kiehl between Woodridge and Shelby which would connect two existing sidewalks. Council Member Williams asked if any part of the cost would not be covered by the grant. Mr. Vinson responded that in some situations the utilities might not be covered if it is on a private easement but generally it is covered. The intent of the grant is that all costs would be covered. Mayor Heye-Townsell noted that if the city is awarded the grant and the cost is more than the city wants to spend, the city can choose not to use the grant. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Thomas, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance 2449 entitled, **"An ordinance recognizing Juneteenth as a city holiday, declaring an emergency and for other purposes"** was read for the first time. Sherwood resident Molly Jones of 1510 Hawkwood Road spoke in support of the ordinance. Council Member Harmon, seconded by Council Member Lilly, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. Ordinance 2449 entitled, **"An ordinance recognizing Juneteenth as a city holiday, declaring an emergency and for other purposes"** was read for the second time. Council Member Lilly, seconded by Council Member Thomas, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third reading. The roll call vote was unanimous. Ordinance 2449 entitled, **"An ordinance recognizing Juneteenth as a city holiday, declaring an emergency and for other purposes"** was read for the third time. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Sanders, made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The emergency clause passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Old Business

- Heather Jenkins, Sherwood Public Information Officer, gave an update on Senate Bill 201/Act 671. This act will require 38% of registered voters that reside North of Maryland Ave in the defunct Gray Township to sign a petition to get the wet/dry issue on the November ballot. The Act will go into law on July 1, 2023 then about July 5, 2023 a petition request will be sent to the Pulaski County Board of Elections asking for a formal petition initiative in accordance with the Act. They will have 45 days from the date of the request to provide the voter rolls to begin the petition initiative process.
- Mayor Heye-Townsell gave an update on the tornado debris clean up. The city is in the process of restoring the debris field to its original use. The majority of the mulch was taken to Alternative Waste Management Solutions in Mayflower.

New Business

- There was no new business

Announcements

- A Solar Eclipse Committee is being formed for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact the city.
- Saturday, June 24th will be Hot Dogs with the Mayor and Chiefs at City Hall Park.
- City offices will be closed on May 29, 2023 for Memorial Day
- Sherwood fireworks will be July 3rd at the Greens at North Hills
- A ribbon cutting for the new pickleball and basketball courts at Indianhead will be announced soon
- The Senior Citizen Luncheon will be June 5th at 11:30 am with a Kentucky Derby Theme
- Sherwood pools will open May 27th, 2023

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Harmon made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:


Charlotte Watson, City Clerk


Mary-Jo Heye-Townsell, Mayor