

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sherwood City Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, City Clerk Charlotte Watson, City Attorney Steve Cobb, Council Members Brooks, Williams, Broderick, Wade, Thomas, McCullough, Townsend and Treat.

Scotty Howard, Pastor of New Life Church Sherwood led the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Council Member Williams recognized Sherwood Police Department Patrol Officer Donzell Lewis for exceptional service to a Sherwood resident.

Mayor Heye-Townsell recognized Sylvan Hills Middle School teacher Lillian Hemphill for her selection as one of 100 delegates to participate in the "We the Teachers:" National Fellowship.

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Broderick, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 27, 2026. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

July 2026 City of Sherwood Financials

Council Member Williams questioned the Parks and Recreation "Athletic Services" budget line, particularly the inclusion of compensation for swim coaches. Staff explained that Athletic Services includes expenses such as baseball and softball umpires, basketball referees, scorekeepers, swim coaches, and other athletic-related services.

Discussion included the City's assumption of the Sherwood Sharks swim program and its existing paid coaching structure. Council members also discussed the distinction between paid swim coaches and volunteer coaches in other youth sports.

Council Member Williams expressed concern that the Athletic Services line is categorized under the Sports Complex even though it includes expenses outside the Sports Complex. Staff agreed that future budgets could provide greater detail and more clearly separate sports-related expenses.

No further questions were raised regarding the financials.

Committees/Commissions

Planning Commission: No items to consider

A proposed ordinance entitled, "**An ordinance establishing a policy for review and approval of service and maintenance agreements**" was read for the first time. Council Member Broderick explained that discussion concerning the City's license plate reader system prompted the proposed ordinance, although the ordinance is intended to apply more broadly to service and maintenance agreements. The council discussed the importance of ensuring that Council members are aware of new contractual obligations and recurring expenditures. Staff explained that departments submit maintenance and service expenses during the annual budget process and that contracts are reviewed by legal counsel before execution. Staff further explained that departments cannot add expenditures outside of the approved budget without appropriate Council action when additional funding is required.

Staff reported that the Police Department has approximately 41 maintenance contracts and estimated that the City could have approximately 100-125 service and maintenance agreements across all departments.

Council members discussed whether the proposed ordinance should require annual reapproval of existing agreements or instead require Council review when a new agreement is initiated. The intent of the proposed ordinance was clarified as providing Council awareness of new service and maintenance obligations rather than requiring annual reapproval of previously approved agreements.

Resolution 15-2026 previously approved by the Council was read **"A resolution authorizing application to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism for assistance to develop recreational facilities for the City of Sherwood"** Staff explained that the purpose was to reaffirm a previously approved grant application for a playground project at the Sports Complex. The estimated project cost is approximately \$132,000. The grant match requirement was clarified as 50/50, rather than the previously reported 80/20 match. If awarded, the anticipated grant amount would be approximately \$65,652.82. The City intends to budget the full estimated project amount in the 2027 Parks and Recreation budget in case grant funding is not received. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member McCullough, made a motion to affirm the council's decision to pass resolution 15-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Public Works Update: Public Works Director Josh Penland provided updates on current and upcoming projects.
 - Drainage and Erosion Projects
 - Sherwood Acres phase 1: Project is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.
 - Trail Creek & Harmony drainage project is complete
 - Witts/Barbara: potential to add drainage pipe
 - Amber Oaks: Drainage work scheduled
 - Street Overlay projects: Approximately 60% of the annual work is complete. Cranford Construction is expected to resume work at the end of September. The remaining streets include Seminole, Trail Ridge, Misty, Maxine, Whit's, Grandview, Summit, Brier, Cherry, and Turtle.
 - Sidewalk Projects: The Seminole Trail sidewalk project was approximately 90% complete. The Indianhead pedestrian improvement project, budgeted at approximately \$188,000, expected to go out for bid at the end of the month. Power Line trail is awaiting approval for phase one before proceeding to bid.
 - Disaster Debris Removal: Public Works is soliciting qualifications for a disaster debris removal contractor. Director Penland explained that following the 2023 tornado, the City did not have a debris removal contract and had to utilize North Little Rock's contract. The City plans to establish both a debris removal contract and a separate monitoring contract.
 - Traffic Signals: Progress continues on improvements to coordinate the North Hills and Country Club traffic signals with North Little Rock. Staff also plan to consider battery backup systems for traffic signals at Kiehl Avenue and Brockington Road and Kiehl Avenue and Highway 107 as part of the 2027 budget.
 - Winter Weather Preparation: The city received a liquid spreader that was approved in the current budget. Due to an error by the supplier, an additional unit was received. Public Works staff fabricated the necessary mounting hardware, resulting in two available units. Additional winter weather equipment may be considered in the 2027 budget.
 - Sanitation: The city is seeking qualified CDL drivers.
- Parks Department updates – Blake Calloway
 - Duran Park: Demolition of the existing courts has begun. The project includes site preparation, a retaining wall, sidewalks, restroom facilities, and a new basketball court. The anticipated project timeline is approximately six months, with completion expected toward the end of December, subject to weather, equipment, and construction schedules. Existing swing equipment is expected to remain.
 - Cherrywood Spillway: Demolition of the Cherrywood spillway has begun, with an anticipated completion period of approximately 30 days, weather permitting. As the water level drops, City crews plan to remove trees, tires, and other debris around the park and fishing areas to improve public access.
 - Cherrywood Playground: The existing damaged playground equipment has been removed, and new equipment has been ordered. The City is awaiting delivery and will also replace the existing turf.
 - Youth Sports: Baseball and softball registration has closed, although late registrations may be accepted when space is available. Fall Ball registration

reached approximately 220 participants. Staff reported meetings with several other cities to improve coordination of schedules, facilities, tournaments, and recreational opportunities. The volleyball season is underway and preparations for the upcoming basketball season have begun.

- Silver Sneakers: The City began offering the Silver Sneakers program at the Recreation Center in June. Approximately 107 participants have enrolled in the program.
- Senior Center: Mark Crutcher has taken over leadership at the Jack Evans Senior Center. Staff reported increased volunteer participation, facility improvements, and expanded programming. Senior Center membership has increased approximately 50% since 2022. The city is also compensating instructors who conduct certain classes and continues to evaluate programming and equitable compensation across recreational programs.
- Wastewater Update: City Attorney Steve Cobb clarified that the City is not engaged in litigation with North Little Rock Wastewater. The City continues to communicate with North Little Rock Wastewater regarding outstanding issues. A study addressing the issues under discussion is expected in early September. A meeting is anticipated after the study is received, with an additional update expected at a future Council meeting.

New Business

- Council Member Williams raised concerns regarding delivery vehicles stopping or parking on the wrong side of the roadway while making deliveries. Police Chief Hagar indicated that vehicles should not park facing the wrong direction of traffic and that officers may address violations when observed.

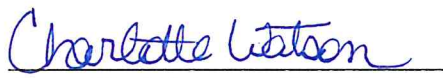
Announcements

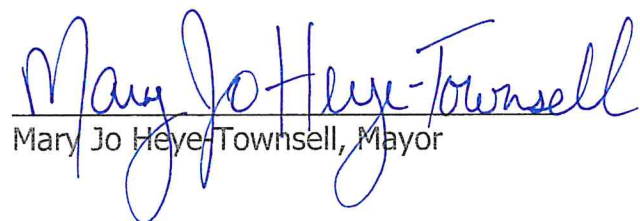
- Sept. 3: AARP Driving Course 1-4pm at Jack Evans Senior Center
- Sept. 7: City offices closed for Labor Day, garbage routes for Mon., Sept. 7 will be picked up on Tues., Sept. 8. Recycle will run one day late
- Sept. 7: Closing Day at Thornhill Pool and Splash Pad
- Sept. 8: Youth Basketball Registration begins
- Sept. 9: Senior Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jack Evans Senior Center, RSVP 501-834-5770
- Septs. 13: Minuteman Day, 8am-3pm, 378 Military Rd, NLR
- Sept. 17: Third Thursday FREE Concert in the Park, Townsend, 7-9pm, City Hall Park
- Sept. 21: First Mayor's Youth Council Meeting
- Sept. 24: Sherwood Chamber of Commerce Fish Fry

Adjourn

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Townsend, made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:


Charlotte Watson, City Clerk


Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, Mayor