

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 27, 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.

Derek Allen, Pastor of Baring Cross Baptist Church led the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Thomas, made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 22, 2026. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

No questions on June 2026 financials.

Committees/Commissions

Advertising and Promotion Commission: Council Member Brooks noted that the commission had a special called meeting regarding the Lake Cherrywood Spillway repairs. Austin Spears, Sherwood Facilities Manager, detailed the reasons for the increase in costs. The original budget was \$100,000. The project costs increased after soil core samples identified the need for 14-foot steel sheet piling beneath the spillway and additional structural improvements to prevent water undermining the new spillway. The A&P Commission unanimously approved paying for half of the overage.

Planning Commission: No items to consider

Wastewater Committee: No items to consider

A proposed resolution entitled, **“A resolution authorizing the execution of the contract for the Sherwood Acres Drainage Improvement phase 1 project”** was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell noted the project funds were previously budgeted. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Broderick, made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

A proposed resolution entitled, **“A resolution appropriating additional funds for spillway repairs at Lake Cherrywood, and for other purposes”** was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell explained that the anticipated cost overage would be approximately \$93,000. The overage would be split equally between the A&P Commission and the city. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Williams, made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

A proposed resolution entitled, **“A resolution regarding the repairs of Lake Cherrywood playground necessitated by vandalism, finding that an emergency exists in the contracting for repairs, authorizing an emergency contract, waiving competitive bidding, and for other purposes”** was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell reported that the fire damage exceeded \$207,000. The city’s deductible is \$10,000 and insurance has approved the repairs. The original installer will perform repairs to ensure compatibility and safety. Council members emphasized the playground is an important community asset. Mayor Heye-Townsell stated that the damage was not caused by Sherwood residents and the repairs will begin as quickly as materials become available. Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member McCullough, made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

A proposed resolution entitled, **“A resolution authorizing the execution of the contract for the Jacksonville/Cato Phase 2 road project”** was read. Mayor Heye-Townsell reported that since January 2023 over \$8.8 million in grant funding had been secured. Of that \$8.8 million approximately \$6 million had been obtained for this project.

Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Townsend, made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7 ayes, Council Member Treat abstained.

Old Business

- The sidewalk project from Shoshone to Oneida expected to go out for bid in August.
- Neighborhood property maintenance
 - Council Member Brooks presented concerns regarding overgrown lots, vacant properties, sidewalk obstructions, property maintenance, inoperable vehicles and rat harborage
 - Residents were encouraged to report violations using the City's online reporting system and assist neighbors when possible
- Public Comment was given by Linda Brewster of 9049 Meadow Gardens in Sherwood. Ms. Brewster addressed concerns regarding
 - vehicles blocking sidewalks
 - accessibility issues for seniors and individuals with disabilities
 - safety hazards created when pedestrians must enter the roadway
- Code Enforcement update presented by Calvin Anderson. The topics included:
 - The status of multiple blighted properties
 - Demolition timelines for properties
 - Timeline for court proceedings
 - Process for determining red-tagged properties
 - Condemnation process
 - Mayor Heye-Townsell explained that property owners receive opportunities to repair or demolish structures. The City may condemn dangerous properties and condemnation requires city funding for demolition with recovery of these costs through liens.

New Business

- Economic Development Report presented by Tammy Tompkins.
 - New businesses that have come to Sherwood in the second quarter of 2026 include Natural Development Learning Center, Revolution Mortgage, Robs Cobbs Food Truck, Soul Sanchez Food Truck, Takumi Restaurant, Express Coin Laundry, Grandpa's Catfish House, Holistic Path Body and Mind, and Riverside Contractors.
 - 22 home-based or remote businesses were established in the second quarter of 2026.
 - Business development updates included
 - McLarty Volkswagen completed major showroom renovation
 - Lock Supply continues construction on their location
 - Omni Craft Brewery is delayed due to construction costs.
 - Three franchise businesses currently negotiation to locate in Sherwood
 - Zaxby's closed and Mardel is beginning phased closure
 - Sherwood submitted application for state Opportunity Zone designation
 - The potential benefits include incentives for housing development, military housing opportunities and significant federal tax incentives for developers.
- Flock Camera System Presentation
 - Police Chief Hagar explained the background of the FLOCK LPR(License Plate Reader) cameras in Sherwood. The LPR cameras were first installed on police vehicles from 2012-2015 and were used to identify vehicles on a hot list (stolen vehicle, missing person, warrant, etc.). Chief Hagar indicated the technology was not good and the police discontinued use of these cameras. Chief Hagar explained that in 2021, there was a double homicide and child abduction. The city was able to arrest the suspect and find the child due to the LPR camera system in North Little Rock.

- Police Chief Hagar detailed statistics for the number of cameras in Arkansas. The Sherwood cameras are located at points of egress and ingress to the city.
- Police Captain Scott Hicks demonstrated the function of the LPR cameras and discussed the following topics related to LPR cameras
 - Cameras capture license plate information only
 - No speed enforcement capability
 - No facial recognition
 - No continuous vehicle tracking
 - Data retained for 30 days
 - Searches are limited to sworn officers
 - Monthly audits conducted
 - LPR cameras are a tool used for missing persons, stolen vehicles, wanted persons and criminal investigations
- Council Member Townsend clarified the following points
 - Traffic signal cameras are only used to facilitate traffic light changes when vehicles approach.
 - City does not have a surveillance room.
 - The live view camera only stores the previous 24 hours of recording and then the data is deleted.
 - Audits are completed at the end of each month by Captain Hicks and law requires those to be kept for 18 months.
 - Citizens cannot FOIA license plate information for vehicles they do not own.
- Captain Hicks explained the use of a drone pilot program.
- Mayor Heye-Townsell expressed support for the department and emphasized the importance of this technology as an investigative tool.

Announcements

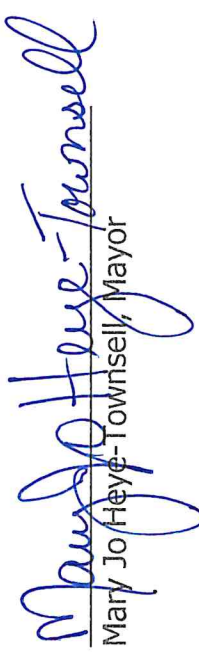
- Aug. 1-2: Arkansas Tax Free Holiday
- Aug. 2: School Supply Drive @ Sherwood Pools, donate school supplies for free pool entry
- Aug. 4: Senior Luncheon, 11:30 am, Jack Evans Senior Ctr, RSVP by July 31
- Aug. 7: Mayor's Youth Council registration opens, interviews begin Aug. 31
- Aug. 8: Movie Night at the Thornhill Pool, Super Mario Bros. Movie
- Aug. 9: Closing Day at Fairway Pool
- Aug. 10: Mom's Pool Party at Thornhill
- Aug. 13: Sherwood Volley Online Registration Closes
- Aug. 21: Fall Baseball & Softball registration closes
- Aug. 21: National Senior Citizens Day, seniors can celebrate with a Dip Party at the Jack Evans Senior Center at 11am, RSVP 501-834-5770

Adjourn

Council Member Brooks, seconded by Council Member Townsend, made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Charlotte Watson, City Clerk



Mary Jo Heye-Townsell, Mayor