

AGENDA SESSION
September 8, 2009
3:00 P.M.

The Agenda Session was called to order by Chairman Benson, with Councilpersons Berz, Murphy, Ladd, Scott, Gilbert, McGary, Rico and Robinson present. City Attorneys Phil Noblett and Crystal Freiberg and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Richard Beeland, Mayor Littlefield, Anthony Sammons, Gary Hilbert, Lee Norris, Steve Leach, Dennis Malone, Daisy Madison, Dan Johnson, Chief Cooper, Paul Page, Donna Kelley, Larry Zehnder, Vickie Haley, Stan Sewell, Chief Parker, Chief Maffett, David Johnson, Chief Raulston, Mark Keil, Al Chapman, Missy Crutchfield, Jim Templeton, Barry Bennett, Jerry Stewart, Greg Haynes, and Mo Minkari. Gayle Keown and Mary Jo McAfee joined the meeting later.

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Mr. Johnson proceeded with the Agenda, noting that **Ordinances (a), (b) and (c)** were zoning changes that had been covered last week. **Ordinance (d)** established event fees for Parks and Recreation. Adm. Zehnder did hand out a packet with new fees highlighted in yellow, stating that they had not gone up significantly and were not controversial. The question arose if there was any differentiation between fees being charged for people who lived within the City and those without, particularly in regards to Zoo membership and golf courses. There was no differentiation, primarily because it is a traditional issue with sensitivity to all people living in Hamilton County. Councilman Murphy did not feel that this was an offensive issue that would be hostile or ugly. Councilman Rico questioned making tourists pay more. Councilwoman Scott felt that we needed more data to see who our visitors are and if this is merited. Adm. Zehnder stated that they could start tracking this now for budget discussion next year; that they would need to develop data. Councilwoman Berz noted that we would be using this data for serious decision making, and we needed to follow rules that were valid. Albert Waterhouse was present, agreeing with Councilwoman Berz that the research needed to be expanded, and he would be happy to help. Councilman Murphy felt that Adm. Zehnder's folks could do the job.

Ordinances (e) through (i) are zoning matters.

Ordinance (j) is the Budget Ordinance, which will be deferred.

Mr. Johnson noted that **Resolutions (a) and (b)** are tied together and deal with Oracle; that this business will be given to Duley Hopkins, and the City will gain \$25,000. Councilwoman Scott wanted to know if this ended this, with Mark Keil stating that it should not be back before the Council. Councilwoman Scott felt that \$4.5 million should get a computer going, with Mr. Johnson correcting that it was an Enterprise System. She wanted to know if it would make the City money? Mr. Johnson responded that it would make us ½ way more efficient. Mr. Keil added that we were paying less than other cities—that it is ERP or Enterprise Research Planning, and we will know exactly what things will cost, and there will be checks and balances to make us more efficient. It should be up and running by October 19th of this year. The annual cost of maintenance will be \$80,000 a year. Councilwoman Scott wanted to know if every system in the city will talk to each other? Mr. Keil explained that this system does inventory and everything, with Mr. Johnson stating that it would eliminate silos.

Resolutions (c) and (d) are Public Works' items. **Resolution (e)** requests an opinion from the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee with regards to the authority of the City Council to enact an ordinance that would give preference to contractors that utilize local labor. **Resolutions (f) and (g)** are PUD's, which Barry Bennett covered last week. **Resolution (h)** is a Public Works' item. **Resolution (i)** is a proposal for a TIGER Grant for up to \$40,000,000 and will tag on to Public Works' committee. **Resolution (j)** concerns a contract with George Wright Construction, Inc. for repairs to the second floor of the City Hall Annex in an amount not to exceed \$50,583.75, including a contingency. It was noted that this would house the City Attorney's office. Councilwoman Scott confirmed that this would be all of the City Attorney's staff, and they would now become city employees. Attorney Noblett stated this was what was being proposed. It was noted that this is already in the Budget. Chairman Benson asked about the savings, with it being said that it was not big numbers.

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Ordinance 6(a) is relative to the placement of business directional signs and will be handled in Public Works. **Resolution (a)** deals with the 401(a) Retirement Plan in relation to IRS Codes. **Resolution (b)** designates an economic Recovery Zone, some tracts being in the downtown area. Councilwoman Scott questioned how we could do this based on criteria that we do not have (Census). Frank Wrinn explained that we wanted to be eligible—that these are high poverty numbers. Councilwoman Scott questioned if there were any houses. Mr. Wrinn responded that the Federal Government defines this, and there will be new information on the census, and this can be re-formulated; that it is safe to include all that is eligible. Councilman McGary asked what would happen if in the 2010 Census, this is not in the Recovery Zone? Mr. Johnson responded that we would have to re-address this. Councilwoman Scott agreed that we should get all we can get but did not like to see a lot of money brought in under false pretenses—in downtown where no one lives. Mr. Johnson stated he did not see a downside here. (Councilman Murphy questioned why we were discussing Resolutions outside of Legal and Legislative?)

Resolutions (d) through (i) are street name changes and will be discussed in Public Works. **Resolutions (j) and (k)** are also Public Works' issues.

Mr. Johnson went over one purchase of a blanket contract for safety shoes, with a dual award to Sears Shoe Store and ASR for approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. Councilwoman Scott questioned where the shoes were going. It was noted that in addition to Public Works that Parks and Recreation also use safety shoes. She questioned 318 pairs of shoes a year.

At this point Councilwoman Berz announced that the follow-up Special Committee to set the agenda for Friday's Budget meeting will be at **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9th**. The actual meeting will take place on **Friday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.