

AGENDA SESSION
AUGUST 21, 2012
3:00 P.M.

Chairman Ladd called the meeting of the Agenda Session to order with Councilmen McGary, Benson, Rico, Scott, Robinson, Murphy, Berz and Gilbert present. City Attorney Michael McMahan; Management Analyst Randy Burns; and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the City Council, were also present.

Others present included Johnny Feagans, Dan Johnson, Lee Norris, Mark Keil, Jana Lowery, Jerry Stewart, Corey Wuntz, Matt Lea, Jim Templeton, Bill Payne, Greg Haynes, Larry Zehnder, Tony Boyd, Daisy Madison, Steve Leach, Richard Beeland, Danny Thornton, Chief Parker, and John Van Winkle. Rick Wood and Maria Sirchia joined the meeting later.

Mr. Johnson began the meeting by stating that Jana Lowery would present pictures of how the new automated agenda will work and will explain how the agenda will be handled; that we are going to a new paperless system.

Ms. Lowery presented the Council with a handout showing how the basic day to day operation would work concerning their packets. She noted that a lot of work would be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday—that the information would be prepared and ready for the Council to see; that the final agenda will be on Friday, at noon and then on to the Council on Friday at 2:00 P.M., and there could be no changes or adjustments; that by 2:00 they would have a finished agenda packet, which will be published to mail and a link for e-mail—citizens will have access by Friday at 2:00 P.M. She further explained that on Tuesday there could be changes to the Agenda—that the City Attorney’s office will take the adjustments for a revised agenda, and these adjustments will be posted to the web. She explained that the City Council could look at their screens for the agenda and minutes to date; that this would be available next week, and she just wanted the Council to get an idea of what it will look like (agenda). She noted that this week’s is listed—Resolutions, Ordinances, and a preliminary agenda, and the final revision. She stated that they were still working on organizing the folder, and there would be a folder for each council meeting. She asked the Council to click on “revised”, and that is the reason it is in “blue”. She stated that they were very close to each Ordinance being available to “click” on text and being able to see the backup, and this should make for quick access during the meeting. She noted that there was a little problem right now but soon you should be able to “click” on an ordinance and see all of the backup material. She mentioned a flow chart later in the week and council meetings will be published.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she thought this was wonderful; that a lot of people call the Council Office wanting copies of things; that people will be able to get this information and read through it and then make a copy and give feedback. She stated that this was phenomenal and transparent. She wanted to know, as we go forward, if people wanted to look up something specific, would this be archived and searchable? Ms. Lowery responded that this is searchable.

Councilman McGary asked if the Council would still receive paper packets? Mr. Johnson responded that we do not plan to waste trees.

Attorney McMahan added that the department heads need to know that the process starts with them; that they will have to send items in in electronic form; that Maria Sirchia will be on a tight schedule.

Chairman Ladd noted that she was pleased that all on the Council recognized the transparency and the process for the citizens, and she thanked those responsible.

Mr. Johnson noted that going back to the home page, there were some questions on Boards and Committees, and this is on the website—that there were going to be mistakes and oversights and urged the Council to feel free to offer suggestions; that this would take awhile but that they would welcome suggestions.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she recognized that IS is putting this on the web but also the Mayor's Office is getting data; that it is just wonderful and is an example of what citizens have been asking for—that they can see who is on boards and when we add minutes to this, they will know that everyone is working for them.

Councilwoman Berz gave a personal thanks to Dan Johnson; that she had seen all of the e-mails; that Mr. Johnson made this happen, and she appreciated it. He responded that he did not make it happen—that Philip Stevens had spearheaded this and had done a great job.

Mr. Johnson continued with the agenda, noting that **Ordinances (a) and (b)** are Public Works' items, and he did not think there was any problem with these; that **Ordinance (c)** is a recommendation from the Beer Board. **Ordinance (d)** is a zoning issue.

Ordinance (a) First Reading concerns on-site parking and was discussed in the Legal and Legislative Committee last week. Chairman Ladd noted there were people present in the interest of this, and it would be taken up in Legal and Legislative Committee later today.

Ordinance (b) concerns a change to the Charter relating to election dates.

Ordinance (c) was discussed by Mr. Thornton last week.

Resolution (a) was discussed last week and concerns our telephone contract. He asked Attorney McMahan if we have a "blanket" contract? Attorney McMahan responded that he had not had a chance to complete this and asked to give them one more week.

Resolution (b) was given to Attorney McMahan to explain. He stated that this was an electronic system for our permanent paper records and a way to store them.

Resolutions (c) through (h) are Public Works' items. **Resolution (i)** will be discussed later in the Economic Development Committee. **Resolution (j)** authorizes the Fire Chief to enter into a contract for the construction of a new fire station for the sum of \$175,000. This was discussed last week in Legal and Legislative and Safety Committee. **Resolution (k)** authorizes Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with the Chattanooga Rugby Club, Inc. to lease a portion of Montague Park from the City to construct a building. This building will be owned by the City and known as the Montague Park Fieldhouse. **Resolution (l)** was discussed last week. Councilwoman Berz asked if the Special Exceptions Permit had been in place for a while, and the answer was "yes".

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Ordinance 6(a) First Reading will be discussed in Legal and Legislative Committee later.

Resolutions (a), (b), and (c) are Parks and Recreation items and Adm. Zehnder was present for questions. Mr. Zehnder addressed **Resolution (a)**, which was for a Lease Agreement with Dibble Dabble Development, LLC for property located at 717 West Bell Ave. to be used as a parking area by the general public in order to access recreational trails on Stringer's Ridge for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per year. He stated that Rick Wood was present to answer any questions. This concerns the property next to this and is a small triangle; this will be leased to the city for 40 years at no cost; that the Trust for Public Lands will make improvements, and it will be city property; that Valerie Maleug of the City Attorney's office is working out the details.

Resolution (b) authorizes a Professional Services Agreement with Southern Environmental Technologies, Inc. for environmental and engineering services in the amount of \$15,000. This monitors activities at Montague Park.

Resolution (c) authorizes a Berthing Agreement with the Tennessee Aquarium for the use of the South Waterfront for mooring of the River Gorge Explorer. This is a temporary agreement with the Aquarium. We are formalizing this arrangement with a Lease Agreement.

Resolutions (d) through (f) will be discussed by Public Works next week.

Resolutions (g) and (h) will be discussed in the following Legal, Legislative and Safety Committee.

Resolution (i) authorizes payment to Dr. Arun Gandhi for an honorarium and partial travel reimbursement relative to the 2012 Chattanooga Social Justice and Cultural Tour, for an amount not to exceed \$13,000.00. This is a one-time thing that Boyd Patterson spoke of last week.

Resolution (j) adopts a new Flag for the City and hopefully will be discussed in Legal and Legislative Committee.

Resolution (k) approves a Special Exceptions Permit for use of a late night entertainment center located at 4119 Cummings Highway. Councilwoman Scott stated that she noticed a new owner on this property and wanted to know if the transfer was complete? Greg Haynes stated that Bryan would be here next week with all the details—that this is a new request. She wanted to know if this was approved by the original owner, and Mr. Haynes stated that he did not think so.

Mr. Johnson went over the two purchases on tonight's agenda and also reappointments to the Stormwater Regulation Board—Doug Stein, Ken DeFoor, Barry Payne, and Donald Wallis. Councilwoman Scott asked how many are actual residents of the City of Chattanooga? Mr. Johnson explained that they either had to have existing residences or own property in the city. Councilman Benson noted that Barry Payne is representing neighborhoods and that he is a close friend of his—that he is a developer and not a neighborhood representative; that he would like to hold this up so that he could call and talk to Barry—that he is a fine developer in Ooltewah and does not live in the City. Mr. Johnson confirmed that he was listed as a neighborhood representative. Councilman Benson stated that he would still like to talk to him. Councilwoman Scott noted that it looked like only one lived in the City of Chattanooga. Mr. Payne explained that they either had to live at a residence in the city or work at a business in the city that pays the stormwater fee; that Mr. Stein owns a business. Councilwoman Scott asked if this was a nine member board, composed of only one citizen and all others were developers? Mr. Payne responded that two were neighborhood representatives; there is a Council representative; an Environmental representative, and two at large. Councilwoman Scott noted that one of these lives in Georgia. Councilman Benson wanted to know who the two neighborhood representatives were? The response was Barry Payne and Jim Mogul. Councilman Benson stated that residents were taking a "lick" on this fee, and a primary interest should be the neighborhood and residential. He reiterated that Barry was a close friend of his, but he did not understand how he could be representing residential. Mr. Johnson reminded that these are re-appointments and already there.

On motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Rico, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

This meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.