

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)

MINUTES FOR

MARCH 15, 2022

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Tullahoma, Coffee and Franklin Counties, Tennessee assembled at the Municipal Building, in Tullahoma, for a rescheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Ray Knowis presiding and the following named members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen: Jenna Amacher, Daniel Berry, Rupa Blackwell, Jimmy Blanks, Robin Dunn and Sernobia McGee . All seven (7) Board Members were present.

Jennifer Moody, City Administrator; Stephen M. Worsham, City Attorney and Rosemary Golden, City Recorder were present at the meeting.

Mayor Knowis called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was said by Rev. Emily Plunk and she led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Recorder, Rosemary Golden, called the roll.

COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES:

Mayor Ray Knowis recognized the Honorary Alderman Ms. Biftu Regaa. She is a senior at the Tullahoma High School (THS). Ms. Regaa is involved with the following organizations at the school and community: Vice-President of the THS National Honor Society; President of the FBLA, a member of the National English Honor Society; a member of the Mayor's Youth Council. She would like to attend Vanderbilt University to further her studies in the medical field.

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION: - NONE -

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: - NONE -

The Agenda was presented for approval. Alderman Amacher wanted to add Resolution No. 1893 (**Supporting a statewide moratorium on gas and diesel taxes**) to the agenda.

A motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Resolution No. 1893 was made by Alderman Blackwell and it was seconded by Alderman Amacher.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

ALDERMAN MCGEE - Ms. McGee said she attended a Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce event; a Tullahoma Housing Authority meeting and the Motlow College Gala, an annual fund-raising event.

ALDERMAN BERRY - Mr. Berry stated he was absent last BMA meeting since he had to bury his grandfather. He stated he has been sick ever since and so he had nothing to report.

ALDERMAN BLACKWELL - Ms. Blackwell said prior to next week's Tullahoma Board of Education meeting there will be a ceremony to honor the Coleman's (the THS band directors). She said she recently volunteered at the Tullahoma Middle schools assisting students with "What healthy relationships should look like". Ms. Blackwell said she has received feedback on what type of investments the downtown merchants want to see over the next several years.

ALDERMAN DUNN - Ms. Dunn said the "Go Green" committee will be giving out free rain barrels (provided by Coca Cola and the River Network) at the Farmers Market on April 18, 2022.

ALDERMAN AMACHER - Ms. Amacher said she was absent last meeting due to personal issues; we all need a mental health day. She was a guest at the Motlow College Gala. She attended a recent Coffee County Commission meeting where they discussed the possibility of the consolidation of the Health Departments. Her small business "shout out" goes to a Ms. Tonia Berry. She is the owner of All Angles Body Contouring Studio located at 311 North Jackson Street. Ms. Amacher said she received a phone call from a downtown business regarding the columns/posts that are at the end of the Wall Street Alley, they want them removed.

MAYOR PRO TEM BLANKS - Dr. Blanks stated he had attended a Tullahoma Utility Authority meeting. He said, "Shop Tullahoma". Dr. Blanks said he also would like to see the columns/posts removed from the alley on Wall Street.

HONORARY ALDERMAN REGAA – Ms. Regaa said last week the DECA organization competed at the state level. In addition; the FBLA organization will be competing in April at the state level. She stated students at the high school are working on a project to make a nice walking path from the band practice field to the school building. She is looking forward to attending college and using her skills to find solutions to public health issues.

MAYOR RAY KNOWIS - Mr. Knowis stated he is working with the Mayor’s youth group to select the winners of the contest, “What I like most about Tullahoma”. This contest was open to all students in grades K-5. He thanked Alderman Dunn for her help with organizing the recent Ted-X event at South Jackson Civic Center. Mayor Knowis said he attended an Airport Authority meeting. He stated the Tullahoma Rotary Club recently celebrated their 100-year anniversary and they intend to donate \$15,000 towards the beautification of the downtown area. Mayor Ray Knowis thanked Beverly Lee in her efforts to get Tullahoma recognized as one of the top five “Great American Defense Communities” in the United States.

CITY ATTORNEY - Mr. Stephen M. Worsham stated he is working on several items for the City. He also thanked Ms. Beverly Lee, as she was instrumental in Tullahoma being named one of the “Great American Defense Communities”.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR – Ms. Jennifer Moody stated the Fire Department will be having a promotional ceremony on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 3:00 in this board room. She stated the Recreation Department and the Public Works Department worked together to get a mulch walking path installed at the Disc-Golf Park. The recreation department had 472 responses to their recent survey, and the number one request was to install bathrooms at the Johnson Lane Park facility. We have had several employees receive special certifications in the last few weeks.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEM NO. 22-31 – MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2022, REGULAR MEETING.

ITEM NO. 22-32 – JANUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT.

ITEM NO. 22-33 – ANNOUNCE 4 VACANCIES ON THE TULLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL.

ITEM NO. 22-34 – APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FOUR (24) MOTOROLA XPR 2500 IN-CAR RADIOS FROM MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA FOR THE TULLAHOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,813.52.

ITEM NO. 22-35 – ACCEPT A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR DOWNTOWN LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE TULLAHOMA NOON ROTARY CLUB.

Alderman Amacher asked for Agenda Item No. 22-34 to be pulled and put under the New Business Section of tonight's agenda for further discussion.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the captions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and seconded by Alderman Blanks to approve the items listed above on the consent agenda.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 1572 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 (BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMAN) OF TITLE 1 (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION) OF THE TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE MAYOR, AT HIS DISCRETION, MAY ESTABLISH AND APPOINT A POLICY COMMITTEE AND AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FROM MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, for approval on the second and final reading.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1572 and he stated the information can be found starting on page 17 of tonight's agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve Ordinance No. 1572 on the second and final reading.

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, explained the reasons for the text amendments to this section of our code.

A discussion ensued.

Alderman Amacher made a motion to amend the wording (no less than the full/entire board), however this lacked a second, so it failed.

The question was called.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

The original motion was called.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ORDINANCE NO. 1573 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE TO AMEND SECTION 303 (NOISE CONTROL, GENERALLY) OF TITLE 11 (MUNICIPAL OFFENSES) TO ADD A PROHIBITION AGAINST LOUD ENGINE BRAKING AS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT A, for approval on the second and final reading.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1573.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to approve Ordinance No. 1573 on the second and final readings.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

Aye(s): Berry, Blackwell, Blanks, Dunn, Knowis, McGee
Nay(s): Amacher

The vote being six (6) ayes and one (1) nay; the motion passed and it was so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM NO. 22-36 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA AND TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,730 WITH NO LOCAL COST SHARE. (CONTRACT #CRR070480)

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 22-36 and stated the backup information can be found in tonight's agenda packet starting on page 26.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$167,673 for highway-rail grade crossing improvements in the City of Tullahoma.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ITEM NO. 22-37 - CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN FOR THE ARTS FOR A LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE ARTS WITH THE TULLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL. THE TOTAL COST IS \$1,800.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 22-37.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve the contract with the American for the Arts (AFTA) for a local economic impact study of the arts.

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, gave a brief explanation and then deferred to Mr. Greg Gressel, the Director of the Arts Council for a more detailed explanation.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ITEM NO. 22—38- CONFIRM THE TULLAHOMA AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TAEDC) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAEDC BOARD AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 22-38.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to confirm the appointment of a new Executive Director of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation (TAEDC) as recommended by the City Administrator and TAEDC Board.

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, gave her recommendation and had words of encouragement for Mr. Winston Brooks.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 1893 – A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE MORATORIUM ON GAS AND DIESEL TAXES.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Resolution No. 1893.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and was seconded by Alderman Amacher to adopt Resolution No. 1893.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

ITEM NO. 22-34 – APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-FOUR (24) MOTOROLA XPR 2500 IN-CAR RADIOS FROM MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA FOR THE TULLAHOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,813.52.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 22-34 and stated this item had been pulled from the consent agenda by Alderman Amacher.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve the purchase of twenty-four (24) Motorola XPR 2500 in-car radios from Mobile Communications America for the Tullahoma Police Department in the amount of \$20,813.52.

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, gave the background information.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:41p.m.

CITY RECORDER

MAYOR