

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)  
MINUTES FOR  
May 22, 2023**

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 meeting on Monday, May 22, 2023, 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, Kurt Glick, Jerry Mathis, Derick Mann and Bobbie Wilson.

Mr. Kenney Pearson, Interim City Administrator; Mr. Stephen M. Worsham, City Attorney, Mrs. Sue Wilson, Finance Director, and Mrs. Lori Ashley, City Recorder were present at the meeting.

Mayor Ray Knowis called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was said by Rev. Don Dixon, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Recorder Lori Ashley called the roll.

**COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: N/A**

**PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Knowis proclaimed May 21 - 27, 2023 as National Public Works Week.

A special Budget Presentation was given by Finance Director Sue Wilson.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

Keri McGary, 702 East Decherd Street, spoke to the board regarding the zoning on Decherd Street. She asked that the board vote in favor of the Revised 2011 Comprehensive Plan. She asked that the board waive the fees for the Juneteenth Special Event.

Jim Woodard, 2011 North Jackson Street, encouraged the Board of Mayor and Alderman to reinstate Ms. Casta Brice. He thanked Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Mary Samaniego for their hard work getting new business in Tullahoma which has helped raise our sales tax 12%. Encouraged the board to find affordable housing for Tullahoma.

Marian Galbraith, 1811 Country Club Drive, spoke to the board about the need for more affordable housing in Tullahoma and passing the Revised 2011 Comprehensive Plan.

Greg Sandlin, 106 Albemarle Drive, encouraged the board to pass the Revised 2011 Comprehensive Plan. Tullahoma needs more quality first time

homeowner opportunity housing options. Billions of dollars are coming to AEDC, 1,000 craftsman and engineers will be hired in the coming years at the base. Would like to see the 2025 election for two school board members and judge to be postponed until 2026 to save the city money and get more people engaged in the election.

Fran Gray, 121 Autumn Lane, thanked the Fireman and Daniel Berry for attending the Purple Olympics. Casta Brice was asked to volunteer this year, and she is missed and adds more than just work to the city.

Ashli Shockley, 1104 Pickett Drive, gave the definition of a liaison. Questioned agenda item 19, Ordinance No. 1595. She begged the board to bring Casta Brice back.

Dr. George Wilson, 408 Albemarle Drive, spoke about the ethics complaint he filed against Daniel Berry. He stated his investigation shows a personal, complex, convoluted personal relationship between Mr. Berry and Mr. Denby. Dr. Wilson believes a more intense investigation will connect all the dots.

## **THE AGENDA WAS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mathis to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry to add an item to tonight's agenda asking the City Administrator to reinstate Casta Brice. The motion dies for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Mann and seconded by Alderman Berry to remove Item No. 23-99 from tonight's agenda. Mayor Knowis stated that he has scheduled an Executive Session for June 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. to update on all pending legal matters facing the City of Tullahoma by Robert Burns and Austin Evans from the Law Firm of Howell and Fisher PLLC.

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

On roll call all members present voted aye to approve the amended agenda and it was so ordered.

## **REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**ALDERMAN AMACHER** – Began by giving her condolences for the loss of loved ones to Mrs. Bobbie Wilson, Mr. Derick Mann, and Mr. Jerry Mathis. Thanked Ms. Jamie Moorehead for her assistance in putting together an expungement fair to be held in September. She hosted a meeting at the high school along with Mayor Knowis and Interim City Administrator Kenny Pearson, teaching the different functions of government. She recognized the members of the Tullahoma Housing Authority that were present, she also welcomed Mrs. Pamela McGhee, the new Executive Director. The city pays TUA

to live stream the meetings that are held because the board wants people to see what's going on in their city.

**ALDERMAN BERRY** – Attended the recent Planning Commission Meeting, he apologized for losing his temper and raising his voice.

**ALDERMAN GLICK** – No report.

**MAYOR PRO TEM MATHIS** – Addressed Finance Director, Sue Wilson and asked that she present the board with each department's budget for last year and the current year and include explanations of large increases.

**ALDERMAN WILSON** – Gave an update on all upcoming events held at the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center and South Jackson Civic Center.

**ALDERMAN MANN** – Thanked everyone that reached out to him and his family during a very difficult time. He attended the budget meetings and commended the Department Heads for their presentations. Thanked Sue Wilson and Kenny Pearson for their work on the budget. In speaking with Ms. McGary, they have come up with a plan for donations for school children. Mr. Mann has purchased fifty children's backpacks and will have a bin at the summer board meetings for donations to fill the backpacks by August 7th.

**MAYOR RAY KNOWIS** - Mr. Knowis stated he spoke at the high school along with Alderman Amacher and Kenny Pearson about their perspective roles in city government. He said Alderman Amacher gave a great lesson on civics to the children. He attended the budget meetings and said the department heads did a great job. TUA is increasing their water rates .18 per thousand gallons. The average household uses four to five thousand gallons a month. Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Memorial Day Service at 11 a.m. in History Park. There will be a dedication of New Pavers and Scholarship Winners.

**CITY ATTORNEY** – Mr. Worsham was absent. Mr. Griffith did not have a report.

**INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – Mr. Pearson stated he was on vacation last week and was able to do so during this busy time because of the great staff he has. Sue Wilson filled in as acting City Administrator while working on the budget. Parks & Recreation got the pool opened on time and had a 7/8 under baseball tournament with 600-800 kids in attendance. He was able to get a letter to Verizon prior to leaving for vacation. The citizens comments, request, and concerns email is active and can be found on the city website. The emails will be forwarded to all Alderman and the Department Head that is chosen.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Item No. 23-87 – Minutes of the May 8, 2023, regular meeting.**

**Item No. 23-88 – Approve the annual TDOT Maintenance Contract for the provision of routine maintenance of state routes.**

**Item No. 23-89 – Set a Public Hearing and First Reading for June 12, 2023, on a text amendment (ZTA #233) to the Tullahoma Zoning Ordinance to allow the Micro-brewery use in the I-1 (Restricted Industrial and Warehousing) zoning district.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve the item(s) on the Consent Agenda.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance No. 1593 – An Ordinance to adopt the revised 2011 Tullahoma Comprehensive Plan,** for passage on the second and final reading.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Ordinance No. 1593.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ordinance No. 1594 – An Ordinance of the City of Tullahoma, Tennessee adopting the Annual Budget and Tax Rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024,** for passage on the first of three readings.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Ordinance No. 1594.

A discussion ensued.

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

**Resolution No. 1940 – A Resolution establishing In-Lieu of Tax Payment for the Tullahoma Utilities Authority for fiscal year 2024.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mathis to approve Resolution No. 1940.

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

**Item No. 23-90 – Consider approval of a Bid Award to Harton Family Partners in the amount of \$1.00 for the improved right-of-way of William Northern Boulevard and authorize the City Attorney to prepare all necessary documents to support the sale of city-owned property.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Item No. 23-90.

A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher to postpone Item No. 23-90. Motion died for lack of a second.

On roll call all members present voted to approve Item No. 23-90 as follows;

Aye(s): Berry, Glick, Knowis, Mann, Mathis, Wilson  
Nay(s): Amacher

The vote being six (6) aye(s) and one (1) nay(s); the motion passed and is so ordered.

**Item No. 23-91 – Consider approval and Authorize the Mayor to Sign related documents for a Land Exchange Agreement with Harton Family Partners on property located on William Northern Boulevard and Lakeway Place.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Item No. 23-91.

On roll call all members present voted to approve Item No. 23-91 as follows;

Aye(s): Berry, Glick, Knowis, Mann, Mathis, Wilson  
Nay(s): Amacher

The vote being six (6) aye(s) and one (1) nay(s); the motion passed and is so ordered.

**Item No. 23-92 – Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Ragan-Smith for the North Jackson Streetscape Implementation and pedestrian crossing at the Tullahoma High School.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Item No. 23-92.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted to approve Item No. 23-92 as follows;

Aye(s): Berry, Glick, Knowis, Mann, Mathis, Wilson  
Nay(s): Amacher

The vote being six (6) aye(s) and one (1) nay(s); the motion passed and is so ordered.

**Item No. 23-93 – Consider approval of a two-year agreement with REA Service, LLC in the amount of \$7,852 to annually service the three boilers**

**and two AAON units that control air temperature and humidity for the indoor pool area.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Glick to approve Item No. 23-93.

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

**Item No. 23-94 – Consider approval of a Performance Agreement with Sixwire valued at \$7,500, for The Tullahoma Parks and Recreation Department Independence Day Celebration.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Glick to approve Item No. 23-94.

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

**Item No. 23-95 – Consider approval of the purchase of two, hard-wired camera systems for the D.W. Wilson Community Center and the C.D. Stamps Community Center in the amount of \$18,155.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Glick to approve Item No. 23-95.

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

**Item No 23-96 – Consider approval and Authorize the Mayor to sign related documents for a Barter Agreement with the City of Tullahoma and the City of Manchester to purchase a K-9 “Storm” and exchange patrol vehicles in the amount of \$7,000.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Item No. 23-96.

A discussion ensued.

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

**Item No. 23-97 – Consider approval of directing the Interim City Administrator to waive the Special Event and Sign Permit fees in the amount of \$1,130 for a Juneteenth Event at CD Stamps and Jefferson Street Park hosted by Beyond Strength JRM.**

A motion was made by Alderman Mann and seconded by Alderman Berry to approve Item No. 23-97.

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

**Item No. 23-98 – Consider approval and direct the Interim City Administrator to draft a Resolution renaming South Wall Street Alley to South Eugene London Street.**

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Mann to approve Item No. 23-98.

A motion was made by Alderman Glick and seconded by Alderman Berry to amend Item No. 23-98 taking out the word South and renaming the street Eugene London Street.

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

On roll call all members present voted aye to approve the amended Item No. 23-98 and it was so ordered.

**Item No. 23-100 – Consider adopting the proposed plan for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to work with staff and MTAS to revise the Charter for the City of Tullahoma.**

A motion was made by Alderman Mann and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Item No. 23-100.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and seconded by Alderman Glick to appoint Derick Mann to work with the staff and MTAS to revise the Charter for the City of Tullahoma.

On roll call members present voted to appoint Derick Mann to work with the staff and MTAS to revise the charter as follows;

Aye(s): Amacher, Glick, Knowis, Mathis, Wilson  
Nay(s): Berry  
Abstain: Mann

The vote being five (5) aye(s), one (1) nay(s), and one (1) abstain(s); the motion passed and it was so ordered.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted to approve amended Item No. 23-100 and it was so ordered.

**Ordinance No. 1595 – An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tullahoma, Tennessee by Amending Title 14 (Zoning and Land Use Control), Chapter 2 (Zoning Ordinance), Section 202, (Board of Zoning Appeals) by deleting it in its entirety and substituting a New Section 202, Board of Appeals.**

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Ordinance No. 1595.

A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher to overrule the chair to not allow Attorney Giffin to speak. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mayor Knowis and seconded by Alderman Berry to postpone.

On roll call all members present voted to postpone Ordinance No. 1595 as follows;

Aye(s): Berry, Knowis  
Nay(s): Amacher, Glick, Mann, Mathis, Wilson

The vote being two (2) aye(s) and five (5) nay(s); the motion to postpone failed.

On roll call all members present voted to approve Ordinance No. 1595 as follows;

Aye(s): Amacher, Glick, Mann, Mathis, Wilson  
Nay(s): Berry, Knowis

The vote being five (5) aye(s) and two (2) nay(s); the motion passed and is so ordered.

**Item No. 23-101 – Consider approval under the provisions of 1-710(2) of the Code of Ethics to determine if the ethics complaint filed against a member of the Board of Mayor and Alderman has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. Discussion shall ensue by the full Board with Alderman Berry to abstain from voting.**

- 1. Formal Complaint against Alderman Berry for violations of Section 3 of the Code of Ethics for not disclosing his vested personal interest with a local developer and voting on development projects in favor of the developer.**

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and seconded by Alderman Wilson that Item No. 23-101 does have merit to warrant further investigation.

A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and seconded by Alderman Mathis to postpone Item No. 23-101 indefinitely.

On roll call all members present voted to postpone indefinitely as follows;

Aye(s): Amacher, Glick, Mathis  
Nay(s): Knowis, Mann, Wilson  
Abstain: Berry

The vote being three (3) ayes(s), three (3) nay(s) and one (1) abstain(s); the motion failed.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and seconded by Alderman Wilson that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation by the Comptroller's Office.



On roll call all members present voted that Item No. 23-101 has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation by the Comptroller's Office as follows;

Aye(s): Amacher, Glick, Wilson  
Nay(s): Knowis, Mann, Mathis  
Abstain: Berry

The vote being three (3) aye(s), three (3) nay(s) and one (1) abstain(s); the motion failed.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Alderman at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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CITY RECORDER

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MAYOR