

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)  
MINUTES FOR  
MAY 24, 2021**

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 24, 2021 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 Board Members were present.

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

Mayor Ray Knowis called the meeting to order.

**COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: - NONE -**

**PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Ray Knowis by the virtue of the authority vested in him, did hereby proclaim that the week of May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week. He stated he presented a proclamation last week to Robert "Butch" Taylor at Public Works.

Mayor Ray Knowis by the virtue of the authority vested in him, did hereby proclaim Monday, May 31, 2021 as Glen "BI" Staples Day in Tullahoma. Mayor Knowis read the proclamation and stated that last week he presented it to Mr. Staples family members (specifically, his granddaughter) at Farrar Elementary school.

Mayor Ray Knowis read a proclamation from the Tennessee Governor Bill Lee proclaiming June 19, 2020 as Juneteenth Day.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

The five (5) applicants (Mr. Robin Guidicy, Mr. Steve May, Mr. Jamie Moorehead, Mr. J.T. Northcutt and Mr. Andrew Rice) for the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation (TAEDC) Board were given an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Steve May, past Director of Marketing Operations for Jack Daniels, gave a history of his past accomplishments and requested to be considered for the open seat.

Mr. Andrew Rice, Vice President of CFC Recycling, gave a history of his past dealings with the city and his accomplishments. He requested to be considered for the open seat.

Mr. Robin Guidicy, owner of Grand Lux Inn, said that him and his wife moved into the area a few years ago. He said he would bring fresh eyes and fresh ideas to the board. He requested to be considered for the open seat.

Mayor Knowis said he received an email from Mr. J. T. Northcutt stating that he was out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting and he asked the Mayor to read his prepared letter to the Board regarding his qualifications.

Ms. Jamie Moorehead had also sent an email to Mayor Knowis stating that she was sorry but she was unable to attend tonight's Board Meeting.

Mayor Ray Knowis said that later in tonight's meeting there is an agenda item to select a qualified applicant to serve the remainder of a term on the TAEDC board, the term would expire on July 26, 2024.

Ms. Christy Amacher, small business owner at 115 North West Atlantic Street, said she was here tonight to reveal some issues that need solutions and resolutions. She stated that she (her business/office building) has been recently harassed by several departments within the City (planning and codes/fire department/administration). She stated she would like to resolve these issues.

Alderman Berry asked Ms. Christy Amacher to email her documents to him.

Mr. Scott McCain, owner of the 4 the Win Cigar Shop and Lounge, said he rents office space from Ms. Christy Amacher. He stated he would like to see the Planning and Codes department make a packet or a check list for new small businesses. He said this would help eliminate a lot of stress and miscommunication. Mr. McCain asked for support for small businesses.

Mr. Richard Shasteen, Fire Chief, spoke since his name was mentioned in Ms. Christy Amacher's comments. He gave his brief account of the last several weeks of visits and communications with Ms. Christy Amacher. He said he would like to resolve these issues and keep everybody safe but Ms. Amacher had said to contact her attorney, Flossy Davis.

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

**ALDERMAN BLACKWELL** - Ms. Blackwell said she attended several meetings and events including: a Planning Commission meeting; a Storm Water presentation; a Tullahoma Board of Education meeting; a Domestic Violence Task Force meeting; an outing at Splash Island and a Tullahoma Day Care meeting. She is working on having a forum with the Community Council on Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Blackwell said the "Body Project" for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade female students at THS is still in the works. Her next scheduled "Coffee and Conversation" will be Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 9:10am to 10:30am at the Celtic Cup.

**ALDERMAN DUNN** - Ms. Dunn said the next "Go Green" event is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 6:00pm at the South Jackson Civic Center lawn. There will be a movie/film regarding re-greening the desert. She said the Horse Play Organization is looking for volunteers for one hour a week for eight weeks. Ms. Dunn said she attended a "You have been crowned" event sponsored by Alderman McGee.

**ALDERMAN AMACHER** - Ms. Amacher said she missed the Tourism Council meeting last week since she was out of town. She said she attended several meetings and events including: a Storm Water Presentation; a visit to the Tullahoma Airport and the Skydiving hanger. Ms. Amacher said she has received several phone calls and emails regarding the new murals that are being painted around town on buildings. She has also received phone calls regarding the cross walk at Turkey Creek Road and East Lincoln, near the Kings Cross Church.

**ALDERMAN BERRY** - Mr. Berry stated he will turn in his written report of his recent meetings and events to the Mayor. He did state the mural on the side of the Masonic Lodge Building appears to be the "all seeing eye" on the back of a dollar bill.

**ALDERMAN MCGEE** - Ms. McGee said she attended several meetings and events including: a Tullahoma Housing Authority meeting; a Storm Water presentation and the presentation of the proclamation to the family of Mr. Glen B.I. Staples at Farrar Elementary school. She thanked Alderman Dunn for attending the "You have been crowed" event.

**MAYOR PRO TEM BLANKS** - Dr. Blanks stated he had attended a Tullahoma Utility Authority meeting; a Storm Water presentation and a Duck River Utility Commission meeting. He said, "Shop Tullahoma".

**MAYOR RAY KNOWIS** - Mr. Knowis stated he had attended several meetings and events including: a Planning Commission meeting; a Storm water presentation; a VFW welcoming meeting; a Horse Play fund raising event and a "Women Impacting the Community" banquet. He said the Planning and Codes Department is trying to help protect citizens.

**CITY ATTORNEY** - Mr. Stephen M. Worsham stated he is working on several items for the City. He stated last month there was over \$25,000 collected in past due property taxes, fines and fees. He asked the board if they would agree to allow Ms. Moody and himself to begin negotiations regarding two parcels of land.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and seconded by Alderman Blanks to authorize Mr. Worsham and Ms. Moody to begin negotiations with two property owners (in South Tullahoma) regarding past due property taxes, interest charges, citations, and penalties in order for the City to acquire the property.

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – Ms. Jennifer Moody reported she is authorizing an emergency purchase for a public works baler. She stated the City School system received a \$750,000 grant for their Virtual learning program. Ms. Moody attended the “Women Impacting the Community” banquet. There were 500 people per day that went to Splash Island on opening weekend. She stated the Coffee County Joint Economic Development Committee will activate its group/meetings again. Ms. Moody plans on meeting with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) on Tuesday regarding the Wilson Ave. widening project. She asked that Agenda Item No. 21-78 (Confirm the Parks and Recreation Director Appointment as recommended by the City Administrator) be removed from tonight’s agenda as the candidate asked for his name to be withdrawn for personal reason. She stated J.P. Kraft (in house candidate) will serve as the interim Parks and Recreation Director for now.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEM NO. 21-70– MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2021 PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**

**ITEM NO. 21-71 – SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 14, 2021 ON A REQUEST TO REZONE 109 AND 115 W. VINE STREET FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-1) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (C-2)**

**ITEM NO. 21-72 – SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 14, 2021 ON A REQUEST TO REZONE 609 CORNISH STREET FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (C-2)**

**ITEM NO. 21-73 – SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 14, 2021 ON A REQUEST TO REZONE 407 N COLLEGE STREET FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-3)**

**ITEM NO. 21-74 – ANNOUNCE A VACANCY ON THE TULLAHOMA AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD AND A VACANCY ON THE DUCK RIVER UTILITY COMMISSION**

**ITEM NO. 21-75 – APPROVE A VEHICLE PURCHASE OF A CARGO VAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,552.81 (BELOW STATE CONTRACT PRICING) FROM RUSSELL BARNETT FORD FOR USE IN PROGRAMMING AND CONCESSIONS BY THE TULLAHOMA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**ITEM NO. 21-76 – APPROVE A 5% LOCAL SHARE GRANT MATCH, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,087, FOR A TDOT CONSTRUCTION GRANT TO SUPPORT THE NORTH TAXI LANE REHABILITATION PROJECT, PHASE III, AT TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

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

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1859 – A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PRIVATE ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA TO CHANGE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE AND TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS FOR THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN TO ALIGN WITH THE AUGUST GENERAL ELECTION CYCLE**

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Resolution No. 1859 and he gave some background information and then stated more details can be found on page 56 of the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and seconded by Alderman Dunn to approve Resolution No. 1859.

A discussion ensued.

Alderman Amacher made a motion to post pond voting on this Resolution till next meeting. No one seconded the motion so it failed.

Alderman Dunn made a motion and it was seconded by Alderman Amacher to post pond voting on this Resolution until June 14, 2021.

Another discussion ensued.

Alderman Dunn withdrew her motion.

The original motion was called to vote.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

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

The result being six (6) Ayes and one (1) Nay; the motion passed and was so ordered.

**ORDINANCE No. 1554 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE, AS SET FORTH IN THE TULLAHOMA MUNICIPAL CODE, WHICH IS ORDINANCE NO. 1392, TO REZONE AN APPROXIMATELY 51.70 ACRES PARCEL LOCATED AT 330 LEDFORD MILL ROAD (COFFEE COUNTY TAX MAP 108, PARCEL 093.00) FROM A, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, TO R-1, LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT,** adopt on the second and final of two readings.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1554.

A motion was made by Alderman Dunn and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to adopt Ordinance No. 1554 on the second and final of two readings.

Alderman Amacher said she was going to abstain from voting since she is in contract negotiations with the owner of this property, with Mr. Waters.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

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

The result being six (6) Aye(s) and zero (0) Nay(s) and one (1) Abstain; the motion passed and was so ordered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM NO. 21-77 – CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED APPLICANT TO THE TULLAHOMA AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD, TULLAHOMA HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL AND HOUSING FACILITY BOARD, AND TULLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL BOARD, FOR THE REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING ON JULY 26, 2024**

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-77 and said, Mr. Bryan Gagnier has resigned from these boards. The applicants were given the opportunity to speak earlier in the evening. Mayor Knowis then opened the floor for nominations.

Alderman Berry nominated Mr. Steve May.  
Alderman Blanks nominated Mr. J.T. Northcutt.  
Alderman Blackwell nominated Mr. Robin Guidicy.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

Robin Guidicy:	Blackwell
Steve May:	Amacher, Berry Dunn, Knowis
J.T. Northcutt:	Blanks, McGee

The result being four (4) for Mr. Steve May; two (2) for Mr. J. T. Northcutt and one (1) for Mr. Robin Guidicy; Mr. Steve May will serve on the above listed boards until the unexpired term ending on July 26, 2024.

**ITEM NO. 21-78 – CONFIRM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.**

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-78 and said the City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, has requested this item to be removed from tonight’s agenda since the candidate withdrew his application for personal reasons.

**ORDINANCE No. 1556 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022,** for passage on the first of three readings.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Ordinance No. 1556 and he gave the background information.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Dunn to adopt Ordinance No. 1556 on the first of three readings.

Ms. Jennifer Moody, City Administrator, gave her Budget Highlights Address (see attached two-page handout).

A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Alderman Berry and it was seconded by Alderman Amacher to amend the budget by changing the line item regarding the Sports Council-Appropriation; to increase their allocation from \$13,800 to \$25,000 and the \$11,200 increase would come from the Tourism and Cultural budget.

Another discussion ensued.

Alderman Berry withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Amacher and it was seconded by Alderman Berry to amend the budget by changing the line item regarding the Sports Council-Appropriation; to add \$5,000 to their allocation and this \$5,000 increase would be funded from the excess in the Tourism and Cultural budget.

Another discussion ensued.

Alderman Amacher withdrew her motion.

The original motion was called to vote.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

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

The vote being six (6) Ayes and one (1) nay(s); Ordinance No. 1556 passed on the first of three readings.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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**CITY RECORDER**

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**MAYOR**

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