

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)
MINUTES FOR
JANUARY 11, 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, January 11, 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 and Sernobia McGee. Alderman Robin Dunn was absent. There were six (6) Board Members present.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will conduct its essential business by electronic means rather than being required to gather a quorum of the members physically present in the same location because it is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans. This meeting is in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 71.

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

The invocation was said by Rev. Elbert Smith and he led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: - NONE -

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION: - NONE -

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Ms. Jennifer Moody, City Administrator, said she received several emails from (Marie Desilets, Howard Thompson and Amber Williams) Tullahoma citizens. The emails she received, she has forwarded to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. These emails will be printed out and become part of the approved minutes. Ms. Moody wanted to give these citizens a chance to speak at this meeting as well.

Ms. Trisha Fritz, member of the Mayor's Study Committee on a Proposed Community Council for Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Fritz stated the Community Council for Diversity will move forward without the backing or assistance of the City Government. Their next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30pm at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. She asked that people please be sure to wear a mask as the meeting will be adhering to CDC guidelines.

Ms. Marie Desilets, 511 Edgewood Drive, has submitted an email to Ms. Moody. Ms. Desilets began to read her email, but ran out of time. In her email, she had asked for the removal of / or the resignation of Alderman Amacher from her position on the City Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Ms. Desilets' full email will be placed in the minutes of this meeting (see attachment).

Mr. Cecil Harden said he was a retired Tullahoma Police Officer, former US Marine and a current Tullahoma/Manchester Business Owner; said he knows Jenna Amacher and supports anything she does. He said she is not a racist. He said he is a black man.

Mr. Howard Thompson, 301 Bragg Circle, has sent in an email to Ms. Moody and would like his email to be included as part of the minutes for this meeting (see attachment). He indicated in his email that the Community Council for Diversity and Inclusion did not need to be part of the function of the City.

Ms. Amber Williams, 701 North Collins Street, has sent in an email to Ms. Moody. She tried to speak during the meeting however the phone connection was not clear or loud enough. In her email, she indicated she would like to have Ms. Amacher removed as a leader of our City. Her email will be included as part of the minutes for this meeting (see attachment).

Mr. Greg Sandlin, 106 Albemarle Drive, thanked the BMA for their consideration regarding his potential appointment to the Planning Commission. He stated earlier he had quoted a former President (Thomas Jefferson) and now he realizes it was unwise to post it; so he has withdrawn that post.

Aldersperson Jenna Amacher, 206 Amherst Drive, stated she had sent a response to the Channel Six (6) News Station. She said she has never met Ms. Desilets and has asked Ms. Desilets to reach out and get to know her. Ms. Amacher said, "It is time to be united and let's get back to the City business".

REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

ALDERMAN BLACKWELL - Ms. Blackwell said she will continue her "Coffee and Conversation" this Thursday at 4:00 at the Celtic Cup. She said the Domestic Task Force agency will be forming a partnership with the Haven of Hope organization and starting in February they will be speaking to 7th and 8th graders concerning "healthy relationships". There will be a fund raising event on January 21, 2021 for the United Way organization. Ms. Blackwell said the Community Council for Diversity and Inclusion will be having their next meeting on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30pm at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. She asked that people please be sure to wear a mask as the meeting will be adhering to CDC guidelines. She thanked all of the Tullahoma School system workers and staff. The Tullahoma Board of Education will host a virtual meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Ms. Blackwell said the Planning Commission will be working on updating our Comprehensive plan.

ALDERMAN DUNN - Ms. Dunn was absent.

ALDERMAN BERRY - Mr. Berry stated he will hold a virtual “Conversation with the Community/Town Hall meeting” on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:30pm. He said he had organized a cleanup day at the Maplewood Cemetery but Public Works got there first and cleaned it up. He is trying to find another location to clean up and help out the Public Works Department. Mr. Berry encouraged people to attend the upcoming Community Council for Diversity and Inclusion meeting on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30pm at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He said, “We are all neighbors, let us get to know each other and let us work together and get on with the business of the City”.

ALDERMAN MCGEE - Ms. McGee said both of her December meetings for the Tullahoma Housing Authority and the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation meeting were cancelled. Ms. McGee said she attended a “Wreath Across America” ceremony last month at Oakwood Cemetery and Mt. Zion Haley Cemetery. She said the Coffee County Health Department will be needing volunteers for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at the Fairgrounds. The Health department is asking for grace, since this is all new to them.

ALDERMAN AMACHER - Ms. Amacher said the next Tourism Council meeting is scheduled to be on Thursday, January 21, 2021 via Zoom. She wanted to give a “shout out” to a small business; Smith Window Tint and the owner Josh Smith at 300 West Lincoln Street. Ms. Amacher said she is working on an “Expungement Fair” to be held once this COVID-19 virus passes.

MAYOR PRO TEM BLANKS - Dr. Blanks said he was happy to see Alderman Sernobia McGee back since she is a cancer survivor and a COVID-19 survivor. Dr. Blanks apologized if he had offended anyone in the past and he wants to move on and get on with the business of the City.

MAYOR RAY KNOWIS - Mr. Knowis stated he had received an email from one of the Board Members (after the meeting last month) lodging a complaint. He forwarded it to all members of the BMA. He asked going forward if the Aldermen would refrain from sharing insensitive and personal comments. The Aldermen should address the Chair and not the other Aldermen. He stated we need to get to the business of the City.

CITY ATTORNEY - Mr. Stephen M. Worsham was sick and therefore absent.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - Ms. Jennifer Moody reported the State Legislative will go into session next week. There will be a virtual meeting set up soon for the BMA and local representatives. Ms. Moody had a meeting with the Tullahoma Utility Authority (TUA) to discuss our future Comprehensive Plan and growth plans for the City. The Police Department's building is getting closer to being completed. They are working on a punch list and ordering the furniture. The American Water Color Society has an event at the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center scheduled for February 6, 2021 starting at 10:00am. The Building and Codes Department has hired a new Building Maintenance person and they are working on cleaning up 95 cases. She hopes everyone stays safe and healthy.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ITEM NO. 21-01- MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

ITEM NO. 21-02 - MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2020 MAYOR'S STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM NO. 21-03 - FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2020

ITEM NO. 21-04 - SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR 5:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 ON A REQUEST TO RE-ZONE A PARCEL AT 104 SOUTHSIDE STREET FROM C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO R-3 HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

ITEM NO. 21-05 - ACCEPT AN ANONYMOUS DONATION OF A PREVIOUSLY-OWNED 55" TELEVISION, ESTIMATED AT A RETAIL VALUE OF \$250, FOR THE CD STAMPS COMMUNITY CENTER.

ITEM NO. 21-06 - APPROVE A THREE-YEAR RENEWAL OF THE LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ATTORNEY STEPHEN M. WORSHAM, FOR A TERM ENDING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024.

ITEM NO. 21-07 - ACCEPT THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. GREG SANDLIN TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM, EXPIRING OCTOBER 26, 2025, ON THE TULLAHOMA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and seconded by Alderman Blackwell 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: - NONE -

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM NO. 21-08 – CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REQUEST TO DECLARE AN AREA OF 5,000 SQUARE FEET INSIDE THE E. DECHERD STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 320 S. POLK STREET PROPERTY AS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY FOR SALE.

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption of Agenda Item No. 21-08 and said the details could be found in the agenda packet on page 61; he then read some from that page. He stated the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on November 16, 2020 and voted (6-1) to send the Board of Mayor and Aldermen a favorable recommendation.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and was seconded by Alderman Blanks to approve the request to surplus property.

A discussion ensued and Ms. Moody gave some more information.

On roll call all members present voted as follows:

Ayes: Amacher
Nay: Berry, Blackwell, Blanks, Knowis and McGee

The result being one (1) Aye and five (5) Nays; the motion failed.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:37m.

CITY RECORDER

MAYOR