

**City Council Building  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
April 16, 2002  
6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Hakeem called the meeting of the Chattanooga Council to order with Councilmen Benson, Franklin, Littlefield, Lively, Page, Pierce and Robinson present; Councilman Taylor was absent due to personal commitment. City Attorney Randall Nelson, Management Analyst Randy Burns and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal, CMC, were also present.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. McKinley Holloway, Pastor of New United Church, gave invocation.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published and signed in open meeting.

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

Chairman Hakeem stated that this was his last day as Chairman and that his colleagues have given him a "hard time"! He stated that he has enjoyed serving and working with each of them. He stated that he had been asked about the criteria for the Chairman's Award and does not have any! He stated he has attempted to identify individuals who have displayed a volunteer spirit within the City of Chattanooga, who have gone the "extra mile" and have shown they like and enjoy Chattanooga. He stated the Award was initially set up for one individual and acknowledged the presence of last year's recipient, Kenneth "The Hammer" Hays.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**  
**(Continued)**

*Chairman Hakeem presented the first award to seven members of the Youth Council* who have gone the "extra mile", given of themselves and serve as role models and mentors to others. He presented *Jennifer Berglund, Dennis Clark, Sadiqua Crutcher, Crystal Featherstone, Kathryn Phillips, Michael Prater and Rachel Stuart* with a mahogany desk clock with photo frames *recognizing them for their leadership skills*. He emphasized that the desk clock was chosen so that the youth could give serious consideration to "time" for doing their homework, getting to school on time and all other "good things"! He stated the rationale for the photo frames was to house family photos, particularly for those going off to college. He congratulated Ms. Crutcher for the part she played in "The Wiz" this past weekend at the Tivoli Theatre and acknowledged that Ms. Phillips' aspiration is to be in charge of the City/County forensic laboratory as a forensic medical examiner.

Chairman Hakeem stated Ken Hays, as last year's Chairman's Award recipient, was a true role model; that he gave of himself and was at work at 6:00 or 7:00 a.m., staying until 7:00 p.m. in the evening. He stated the individual receiving this year's Chairman's Award has the same work ethic and, in addition to that, works with neighborhoods and communities with regard to her area of expertise in an effort to broaden the economic development base for Chattanooga and Hamilton County. He stated this individual goes to neighborhood meetings, is friendly, works with people at all stages and levels and indicated that the Council has benefited from this person's wisdom and dedication to the job. At this point he presented this year's "*Chairman's Award*" to *Amy Walker Cherry* for her "friendship, dedication and economic development proficiency".

In accepting the award, Ms. Cherry stated that the award is a tremendous honor for her, indicating that in Chattanooga anything great or any great success is the product of great partnerships. She stated without a doubt the Mayor's office feels very much the great support and partnership of outstanding Council and the outstanding Council Chairman. She stated she has a great boss and we do have a tremendous, great community. She thanked Chairman Hakeem and Council members for the award.

Chairman Hakeem concluded the special presentation by expressing appreciation to the young people of the Youth Council who are setting the example of the best Chattanooga has; that he is hopeful they will come back to work in Chattanooga as opposed to taking their skills elsewhere.

**COUNCIL ELECTION: COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Hakeem asked for nominations for the position of Council Chairman.

**Councilman Lively placed in nomination the name of Ronald Littlefield as Council Chairman**, stating he was an individual who came on the Council with "fire in his eyes", took a sabbatical for eight years and has come back with a much kinder, gentler approach. **Councilman Pierce seconded the motion.**

Councilman Pierce made the motion that the nominations close on the one said name; Councilman Lively seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**On the motion and second by Councilmen Lively and Pierce, Councilman Littlefield was unanimously elected as Council Chairman.**

At this point, Chairman Littlefield asked Councilman Hakeem to join him at the podium and stated all members of the Council join in thanking him for his years of service. He presented Councilman Hakeem with a coffee mug that had the City's Seal on the front side, with the backside bearing the three years he served as Chairman and the two years he served as Vice Chairman. He stated that he set an example that is going to be hard to follow! He stated that he was pleased to work with Councilman Hakeem when he served as Vice Chairman when the Council was first seated. He stated that life is strange and makes "full circle" sometimes and looks forward to working with him!

(At this point, Councilman Hakeem was given a standing ovation by those in attendance.)

City Attorney Nelson stated that it is the pleasure of the City Attorney to present to the incoming Chairman with a new gavel by which to "beat" Council members into submission! He stated that the gavel would be engraved over the next week. He also indicated that Chairman Littlefield served as Chairman under this new form of government during a very turbulent time and did an outstanding job guiding the Council into the new form of government, and welcomed him back!

(At this point, those in attendance gave Chairman Littlefield a standing ovation.)

**COUNCIL ELECTION: COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Littlefield asked for nominations for the office of Council Vice Chairman.

**Councilman Benson stated that he is proud to place in nomination the name of John Franklin, Jr.**, a second-generation contributor to our City, noting that his father served on the former City Commission and his mother worked in the school system. He stated that he has watched John, Jr. grow up and mature and is very proud of him. **Councilman Lively seconded the motion.**

Councilman Pierce made the motion that the nominations close on the one said name; Councilman Page seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**On the motion and second by Councilman Benson and Lively, Councilman Franklin was unanimously elected Council Vice Chairman.**

(At this point, those in attendance gave Vice Chairman Franklin a round of applause.)

Chairman Littlefield stated that this is a very congenial Council, indicating that he has worked with Councils all over the county and does not recall ever working with a governmental body that has such ease about it; that people disagree and debate issues and do not get angry. He stated this is a credit to Councilman Hakeem and others and expressed hope that the relationship stays this way!

**AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Franklin,  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED,  
 KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, BY AMENDING ARTICLE V,  
 SECTION 404, SUBSECTIONS (2), (3) AND (6) TO INCORPORATE NEW  
 LANGUAGE RELATIVE TO MINIMUM LOT AREA FOR MULTI-FAMILY  
 DWELLING UNITS**

passed second reading. On motion of Councilman Page, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the Ordinance passed third and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

## REZONING

### **2001-055: Hefferline & Kronenberg Architects**

Jerry Pace, Director of Operations with the Regional Planning Agency (RPA), stated condition ten of this ordinance requires a zero setback; that the nature of this building's design will meet the intent of the zero setback. He requested that condition ten in the ordinance be amended to reflect the word "recommended" as opposed to "required".

At this point, City Attorney Nelson amended the ordinance in open meeting, changing the word "required" to "*recommended*".

**Councilmen Pierce and Robinson made the motion and second to substitute the amendment to this Ordinance; the motion carried.**

On motion of Councilman Pierce, seconded by Councilman Lively,

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE 1300 BLOCKS OF CARTER STREET AND FORT STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM M-1 MANUFACTURING ZONE TO C-3 CENTRAL BUSINESS ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

passed second reading. On motion of Councilman Hakeem, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the Ordinance passed third and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

## CLOSE AND ABANDON

### **MR-2002-053: Cecil Drake**

The applicant was not present; there was no opposition.

Councilman Franklin stated that this matter was discussed in today's Public Works Committee meeting and approval is recommended.

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilman Benson.

**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING AN UNNAMED ALLEY LOCATED IN THE 2000 BLOCK OF DAISY STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE**

passed first reading.

## REZONING

### 2002-040: City of Chattanooga

On motion of Councilman Benson, seconded by Councilman Pierce,

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE TRACTS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE 6000 BLOCK OF HALL ROAD, 6000 BLOCK OF OOLTEWAH-GEORGETOWN ROAD, 8700-8900 BLOCKS OF OLD LEE HIGHWAY AND 7800 BLOCK OF OLD CLEVELAND PIKE, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM TEMPORARY ZONES TO PERMANENT ZONES, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE**

passed first reading.

#### CONTRACT: CAMP, DRESSER & MCKEE ("CDM")

Councilman Franklin stated this matter was discussed in today's Public Works Committee meeting. He stated Rob Taylor brought this Resolution forward and explained its validity with a maximum of \$25,000, and assured Committee members that Camp, Dresser and McKee is a well-recognized firm in the industry. He stated the Committee recommends approval.

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAMP, DRESSER & MCKEE ("CDM") TO PRODUCE AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS REPORT FOR THE 940-ACRE PARCEL KNOWN AS ENTERPRISE SOUTH, WITH COMPENSATION BASED UPON TIME, EXPENSE AND MATERIALS NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00)**

was adopted.

#### CONTRACT: RHEACO SERVICE, INC.

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Hakeem,

**A RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE CONTRACT FOR ROOFING RENOVATIONS TO THE CEDAR HILL HEAD START CENTER TO RHEACO SERVICE, INC. FOR THEIR LOW BID IN THE AMOUNT OF FORTY-NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$49,250.00) WITH SAID FUNDS TO BE PAID FROM THE HEAD START PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

was adopted.

**EASEMENT**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Hakeem,  
**A RESOLUTION GRANTING AN EASEMENT, MORE PARTICULARLY  
 DESCRIBED HEREIN, TO THE ELECTRIC POWER BOARD ON HAMILTON  
 COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 145K-C-007, FOR INSTALLATION AND  
 MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**  
 was adopted.

**OVERTIME**

Overtime for the week ending April 12, 2002 totaled \$11,744.51.

**PERSONNEL**

The following personnel matters were reported for the various departments:

**CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

✍ **DOUGLAS L. QUINN** – Retirement, Firefighter, effective April 25, 2002.

**CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

✍ **TAMMY DAVIS, PENNY R. WORLEY, SUSAN G. ELLIOTT** – Hire, School Patrol Officer, \$25.01 per day, effective April 8, 2001.

✍ **LARRY SWAFFORD** – Death, Police Sergeant, effective April 13, 2002.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION:**

✍ **MICHELE OLSON** – New Hire, Programmer, Pay Grade 16/Step 4, \$36,069.00 annually, effective April 19, 2002.

**PURCHASES**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the following purchase was approved for use by the Public Works Department:

**HOLOX, LTD (Lowest and best bid)**

**BOC GASES (Secondary backup, prices are competitive and reasonable)**  
**R0059680/P0017260**

Lime Slurry

\$33/ton (Holox, Ltd.)

\$34/ton (BOC Gases, second backup)

**PURCHASES (Continued)**

**MIDLAND RESOURCES (Lowest and best bid)**

**R0061629/P0017397**

Ferric Chloride Liquid

\$256.85 per dry ton

**M. L. KING/MCCALLIE AVENUE TWO-WAY PAIRING**

City Attorney Nelson stated the Legal and Legislative Committee received a presentation from the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) regarding the two-way proposal to make McCallie and M. L. King a two-way street. He stated part of the consideration is that the matter should go to Planning for mandatory referral as referenced in State law. He stated a motion would be in order to refer the matter to Planning so they could come back with a recommendation for the second week in May.

**Councilman Benson made the motion to refer the matter to the Regional Planning Agency; Councilman Pierce seconded the motion.**

Councilman Page asked Councilman Benson if he would be willing to revise his motion to reflect that a master plan be done; that he is very concerned that consideration has not been given to potential development on Riverfront Parkway and the UnumProvident plans. He stated that he wanted to make sure there is a master plan so that the City does not end up in gridlock.

Councilman Benson stated that he did not know that it would be right to do that now and expressed agreement that a master plan is needed for traffic, as well as land use. He stated that he would hate to attach that to the motion, noting that that particular matter should be in a second motion. He stated there is a need to get the mandatory referral matter before the Planning Commission and then, if necessary, delay whatever vote the Council would take on it (after it is received by the Council). He stated by State law it has to go through the Planning Commission sequentially, and then come to the Council.

City Attorney Nelson noted that under the mandatory referral statute Planning only has thirty days in which to act and he did not think it would be possible for Planning to put together a study in that short period of time.

**M. L. KING/MCCALLIE AVENUE TWO-WAY PAIRING**  
**(Continued)**

Councilman Page stated that his question is if there is enough research or input into the changing of the McCallie and M. L. King Avenues to a two-way street and the potential effect it will have on other actions of this Council in the future. He stated there is somewhat of a mandate that we at least make sure it would not have an adverse effect on any plans that may involve these two thoroughfares; that he does not know how he could vote on it without assurance from the RPA and traffic department that this is the way the City needs to go regarding traffic flow of the future.

Councilman Franklin stated that he could "relate" with Councilman Page's issues and his hesitancy; that he feel developers and those who have done research have taken a methodical approach in this process, dating back to when UTC was putting together pieces for their dormitories. He stated the process has been methodical as it relates to sewer drainage in that area and noted that the Riverfront Parkway issue is just as significant. He stated in reference to comments made in Committee, it is his thinking a master plan is needed for that piece (at some point) and it is just as important as the two-way pairing. He stated it is his thought to move forward with this and allow RPA to come back with a very good recommendation so the Council can have an opportunity to peruse it without holding up the process.

Councilman Pierce expressed agreement with Councilman Franklin's comments and noted appreciation for Councilman Page's concern. He stated when studies are done and there is an attempt to go into "new ground", it is almost impossible to ask for a master plan for everything the Council decides to move on. He stated that he did not see where a master plan for Riverfront Parkway ties in with the two-way street issue; that there are several one-way roads in the downtown area and once these streets become two-way, if the Council acts on it, they (one-way streets) will become two-way; that other streets will be developed around what has been done. He stated that he does not see holding up the process and the Council needs to move on; that this is something that has been "on the board" for almost ten years and we are still talking about it even though it has advanced a little to this point. He stated that the Council could make a decision once the infrastructure is in place.

**M. L. KING/MCCALLIE AVENUE TWO-WAY PAIRING**  
**(Continued)**

Councilwoman Robinson stated that it is important to “connect the dots” and make sure these plans all “marry up”; that we had definite studies on Riverfront Parkway narrowing with a new intersection of housing at Lookout and Second Streets and was assured that it would reduce the flow of traffic that has to exit Riverfront Parkway onto Chestnut and Fourth Streets. She stated the study has been in-depth and all have a very good idea of how that will work. She stated one unknown piece at this point may be the way the traffic is going to circulate when UnumProvident closes a couple of one block segments when their campus is enlarged. She stated it might not be necessary to do a full-blown study to make sure the pieces work together; that if a “red flag” comes up she is certain it will be dealt with. She stated that the Council should be assured that the RPA would work with all due dispatch to get a grid for the downtown area.

Councilman Page stated that the word “master plan” might have been a misnomer on his part; that he is not asking for anything elaborate; that he would like for something to come to the Council that indicates this fits together in some way and right now he has not heard that and it concerns him a great deal. He reiterated that he is not asking for an elaborate study, but would like the City’s traffic department and the RPA to “say” this looks like it will work and are convinced it will work, however, no one has told him that at this time. He again expressed concern that someone has the professional ability to analyze this and can do it.

Chairman Littlefield stated this is a good example of why master plans are referred to Planning; that we have a downtown and riverfront plan underway. He stated Councilman Page’s questions need to be addressed and he is hopeful they will be in the final process; that all on the Council share his (Page’s) concern.

Councilman Hakeem inquired as to whether design standards should be considered in this two-way concept? He stated if business development is to occur along M. L. King, the vision of the type of structure and building that should be there might not be what persons are interested in right now. He expressed concern regarding the quality of the structures, indicating that he would not want to see the least attractive or inexpensive structure going up.

Councilman Benson stated the motion is to get this to the Planning Commission; that the Planning Commission is an advisory board that can do one of three things: reject, pass or make no recommendation.

**M. L. KING/MCCALLIE AVENUE TWO-WAY PAIRING**  
**(Continued)**

Councilman Benson stated if Planning does not make a recommendation they can hold it up for a year or whatever it takes to make certain we can justify the final decision; that we need to get it in the process. At this point he "called for the question" on the motion to refer the matter to the RPA.

Councilman Page asked if the RPA would review the matter thus far with regard as to how it will fit within the total City? He stated that he does not want to vote unless he can be assured it would connect.

Barry Bennett, Executive Director of the RPA, responded "absolutely". He stated something of this magnitude would be considered in light of the impact it will have in the downtown area, as well as suburban neighborhoods in the City, which is part of the study that is being done. He stated a transportation plan recently adopted and in place will have to be revised and amended in light of the new studies depending upon what the ultimate result is. He stated this summer they plan to go back into the comprehensive plan for the entire City and county, and a number of components that ties all the areas together and the transportation plan will be a vital part. He assured Councilman Page all concerns will be addressed as part of the planning process.

**DISTRICT 4 COMMUNITY MEETING**

Councilman Benson reminded everyone of the District 4 community meeting scheduled for April 25 at 7 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church. He stated the Mayor is scheduled to be there and requested that department heads or their representative(s) attend, also. He stated a good turnout is expected.

**DISTRICT 9 NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION**  
**PROJECT**

Councilman Hakeem stated that the District 9 neighborhood revitalization project is coming along well; that citizens are "buying into" the concept. He stated businesses and institutions in District 9 are working to make it a reality and it is felt it is going to be a project that will have an implementation stage when it is completed. He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone and take ideas or concepts and use them in other business.

### COMMITTEES

Councilman Benson scheduled a meeting of the **Health, Education, Human Services and Housing Opportunities Committee for Tuesday, April 23 immediately following the Parks and Recreation Committee** meeting.

Chairman Littlefield stated that the City Attorney described the action the Council acted on regarding the two-way street issue as discussed in this afternoon's **Legal and Legislative Committee**. He stated the *Charter* draft was discussed and it was recommended that the matter be placed on the agenda for first action next week. He requested that Council members who have not perused the document do so prior to next week and indicated limited copies are available in the Council office. He stated that Special Counsel Mike McMahan distributed a second draft of the Noise Ordinance that will be discussed in Committee on **Tuesday, April 23 at 3 p.m.**

Councilwoman Robinson stated that today was a special day for the Parks and Recreation Department as numerous volunteers were recognized for their support and dedication throughout the year. She expressed sincere appreciation to all the hours volunteers put into the Parks and Recreation program. She reminded Council members of the meeting of the **Parks and Recreation Committee scheduled to Tuesday, April 23 at 4 p.m.**

### WYATT RECREATION CENTER DEDICATION AND RECEPTION

Councilwoman Robinson invited everyone to the reception and name change of the Colville Street Recreation Center to the Wyatt Recreation Center scheduled for Saturday, April 20 at noon. She stated the Center was named in honor of Frances Wyatt who gave twenty-two years of dedicated service there.

### LEMUEL DUCKETT

Lemuel Duckett addressed the Council regarding an ongoing problem with the ordinance regarding abandoned cars. He asked what constitutes the abandonment of a car?

City Attorney Nelson indicated that Mr. Duckett would be provided a copy of the ordinance.

**LEMUEL DUCKETT (Continued)**

Mr. Duckett indicated that he is rebuilding a car. Chairman Littlefield stated there are certain limitations contained within the ordinance and asked if he has had a discussion with Neighborhood Services?

Mr. Duckett indicated that he has tried to; that he has been to court on the matter. Chairman Littlefield inquired if the matter was heard before Judge Williams? Mr. Duckett indicated Judge Williams and another court had heard it.

Chairman Littlefield then indicated that there is not much else the Council can do at this point. City Attorney Nelson again indicated to Mr. Duckett that a copy of the ordinance would be provided.

Chairman Littlefield inquired as to what the Judge said regarding this matter? Mr. Duckett stated that the Judge gave the vehicle back to him and indicated there was no violation.

City Attorney Nelson stated that the ordinance speaks for itself as to what constitutes abandonment and what does not. Mr. Duckett stated that the Judge said there was no violation and the matter has been filed again.

Chairman Littlefield stated that it sounds like an issue that has quite a file and has been to two courts. He stated more needs to be known about the situation before the Council can act, again indicating that Mr. Duckett would be provided a copy of the ordinance.

Mr. Duckett stated that he has to be back in Court next week and this is getting expensive; that it is money he could be using to restore the vehicle. Chairman Littlefield indicated to Mr. Duckett that he has been cited to court and there is not much the Council can do.

Mr. Duckett stated he has been to court, the matter was handled and now the same lady has started action all over again; that there is a need to put a stop to this.

Chairman Littlefield indicated to Mr. Duckett that he has been cited to court and that he should go ahead and address his concerns to the Judge. Mr. Duckett stated that Judge Williams told him to take the matter to the City Council. Chairman Littlefield stated the matter could not be retried before the Council, as the Council does not have the ability.

**LEMUEL DUCKETT (Continued)**

Mr. Duckett then indicated that the matter was also heard before Judge Moon; that he appeared before Judge Williams and then to Judge Moon.

City Attorney Nelson stated that he does not know how Mr. Duckett got before Judge Moon; that Judge Moon is in Sessions Court, a Court of level jurisdiction with City Court. He stated State law says City Court enforces City ordinances; that perhaps Mr. Duckett would have to take the matter up with the Attorney General for proceedings under State law. He indicated that he did not understand how the matter was heard before Judge Moon. Councilman Pierce indicated that it was possibly a mistake on City Court's part.

City Attorney Nelson stated Judge Moon does not have jurisdiction over City ordinances, only State law. It stated if it were a presiding Judge in City Court, he (Nelson) imagines it was cited under State law.

Councilman Pierce asked for clarification that if an acting judge sat in for Judge Williams, he did not have the right to hear the case. City Attorney Nelson responded "right".

Chairman Littlefield asked Mr. Duckett to give copies of his documents to the Council Clerk; that the matter would be referred to Better Housing to see if anything can be done.

**RALPH WILLIAMS**

Ralph Williams stated that he is a victim of attack by City and county officials. He stated that he recently received a summons from the Better Housing Commission and the City claiming that he owed \$5,700; that in January of 1996 arsonists destroyed his house. He stated that he wrote a letter to Washington requesting an investigation of procedures by the City and county attorneys. He stated in June of 2000 the property was supposed to be sold to the City and county for \$673.32, and now recently he received the letter from Better Housing claiming that he was to pay \$5,700 as if he still owned the property. He stated because of the conspiracy surrounding the matter he is caught up in a political appraisal, which constitutes harassment by the City and county offices. He stated that he has filed a complaint letter with the Department of Urban Development seeking an investigation into procedures and land grabbing. He stated that this has been going on a long time and that numerous lawsuits and complaints have been filed with the federal government.

**RALPH WILLIAMS (Continued)**

City Attorney Nelson stated in "reading between the lines", Mr. Williams' property burned in 1996 and he was given notice to repair or tear it down, which was ignored; that the City then probably assessed a lien against the property for the amount of money it had to pay to tear it down.

Mr. Williams stated that his property was under federal investigation for fire and he had submitted all the information to them.

Chairman Littlefield stated what basically happened was that the property was cleared.

Mr. Williams stated that he went to a meeting and distributed a copy of the letter from the Criminal Section of the Department of Justice in Washington regarding the investigation. He stated he was never notified of the lien and never got anything from Better Housing from 1996 until now.

Chairman Littlefield asked Mr. Williams if he understood that Better Housing has a procedure they follow as far as mailing and advertisement?

City Attorney Nelson stated that the notice would have been mailed to the address listed on the tax form as the owner of the property.

Mr. Williams indicated that the Deputy delivered a notice to his sister's address; that he was still not properly served. City Attorney Nelson stated that the owner of the property is registered at the address where the letter was delivered.

Councilman Franklin stated that Mr. Williams is one of his classmates and asked if he still owns the property?

Mr. Williams stated according to the papers he received from Chancery Court, the property was sold to the City and county on June 1, 2000.

Chairman Littlefield asked Mr. Williams if he had been getting tax bills? Mr. Williams responded "not from the City and county"; that the only notice he received was from Better Housing suing him for the lien, reiterating that he had never been notified.

Councilman Pierce asked where the eviction notice was sent from Better Housing? Mr. Williams stated that it was delivered to his sister's address.

**RALPH WILLIAMS (Continued)**

Councilman Pierce asked what address Mr. Williams uses to receive tax records? Mr. Williams that the 4006 Dodson property could not be used because the property was burned out.

Councilman Pierce stated that the tax statement is normally sent to where the owner lives and is the first thing Better Housing does as that is the only way they have of getting in touch with the property owner.

Mr. Williams again stated that the summons was served at his sister's house. Councilman Pierce then stated they had to go to the extreme to notify Mr. Williams.

Chairman Littlefield asked Mr. Williams if he had talked with anyone in Better Housing? Mr. Williams responded that he has "not talked with anyone"; that he confronted them when he got to the meeting to explain that his property was under investigation.

Chairman Littlefield asked Mr. Williams to leave his address and telephone number with the Council Clerk so that someone from Better Housing could contact him; that there is probably a thick file as to where the notices were sent.

Councilman Pierce asked Mr. Williams when his house was sold? Mr. Williams responded "June 1, 2000".

Councilman Pierce then asked if Mr. Williams had paid the tax on the property? Mr. Williams responded, "Why pay, when the property is sold to someone else". He stated he does not know who sold the property; that he received paperwork that the matter was going to Chancery Court and the property was sold to the City and county for \$673.32; that the Decree came down June 12, 2000.

Chairman Littlefield again asked Mr. Williams to leave an address and telephone number so someone could reach him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Littlefield adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga Council until Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at 6 p.m.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**(A LIST OF NAMES OF PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IS FILED  
WITH MINUTE MATERIAL OF THIS DATE)**