Chairman Benson called the Agenda (Work) Session to order, with Councilperson Berz, Ladd, Scott, McGary, Gilbert, Rico and Robinson present. Councilman Murphy joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Richard Beeland, Chief Parker, Daisy Madison, Dennis Malone, Larry Zehnder, Steve Leach, Gary Hilbert, Beverly Johnson, Jerry Stewart, Paul Page, Lee Norris, Debie Mikel, and Frank Wrinn. Mayor Littlefield joined the meeting later, as did Chief Dodd.

Chairman Benson stated that the Mayor was supposed to be here to address the Council; in the meantime, he asked Mr. Johnson to proceed with the Agenda.

Mr. Johnson stated that Ordinances on Final Reading were discussed last week, adding that **Ordinance (c)** dealt with the Advisory Board of Multicultural Affairs and that **Ordinances (d) and (e)** were zoning matters and were discussed last week.

**Ordinance First Reading (a)** will fall under a later committee today.

**Ordinances (b) and (c)** are Public Works’ items.

**Resolution (a)** amends Resolution 25834 by changing the amount of Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Act Funds from $3,008,000.00 to a total of $3,529,529.00 and changing the amount of Emergency Shelter Grant funds from $85,000 to $84,000 and changing the distribution of the funds as shown.

**Resolution (b)** authorizes the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development to submit an application in response to HUD’s Notice of Fund Availability for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in an amount not less than $5,000,000.00. This is an application for Stimulus money by Beverly Johnson.

**Resolution (c)** authorizes the Mayor to execute an Agreement with TDOT for a State Project from I-75 Interchange to Apison Pike at Old Lee Highway so as this may be carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. Mr. Johnson stated that Adm. Leach would cover this in Public Works.
Resolution (d) authorizes the Mayor to execute 8 Local Agency Project Agreements with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Adm. Leach will also cover this.

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Ordinance 6 (a) and (b), amending the City Code were held and will be covered next week.

Ordinance (c) appropriates from the Department of Parks and Recreation to FOZ an amount not to exceed $30,000 for their fundraising campaign to develop an ADA accessible playground at Warner Park.

Ordinance (d) will be discussed in Public Works later.

Resolutions (a) and (b) are street name changes and will be discussed in Public Works.

Resolution (c) authorizes fundraising and solicitation efforts to support Go!Fest, hosted by the Chattanooga Zoo for the cost of $8,000, with additional funds designated to help build an all-access PlayCore playground at Warner Park.

Resolution (d) authorizes Neighborhood Services and Community Development to reallocate $25,000 from the Neighborhood Program Initiatives to support non-eligible CDBG expenditures for the 2009 World Changers Home Repair Projects.

Resolution (e) authorizes a contract with Volkswagen to provide on-site fire protection with all related costs being fully paid by Volkswagen. Chief Parker will tag on to Public Works to discuss this.

Resolution (f) authorizes a 12-month contract with Strategy Facilitators Consultants to assist the Mayor in coordinating inter-organizational, strategic planning, and federal resource utilization for sustainable economic development in an amount not to exceed $8,890 per month or a total annual contract amount not to exceed $106,680.00.

Mayor Littlefield was present to speak to this. He had with him Frank Wrinn and Keith Hinch who represent Strategy Facilitators Consultants. He explained that they are the team that enabled us to bring in $2.4 million dollars in brownfield grants over the last few years. We had a $1.4 million dollar grant, and this is just the beginning with a lot of work to do; they supplement what we do with a Plan and work with regional organizations. He stated that Mr. Wrinn could explain this in planning terms.
Mr. Wrinn stated that he would keep this brief and passed out a sheet entitled “Obama—American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan”, which is made a part of this minute material. He stated that this would give a better idea of where the City stands with Recovery and Reinvestment. He stated that our plans are a good fit with the Federal Government, and we are showing progress with the Brownfield Program; that we are focusing on this under the new conditions; that Keith Hinch is an economist and is our mainstay. He asked Mr. Hinch to speak.

Mr. Hinch stated that they were doing quite a lot of work with various agencies of the city. He presented a document that had been developed called “City of Chattanooga Redevelopment Strategies” and is made a part of this minute material. He explained that this document gives us an idea of what we are looking for and the redevelopment opportunities that exist; that the kind of work he was doing is developing ideas of who the stakeholders will be and to “flesh” out a fuller vision. He stated that this was pretty much it and asked for questions.

Mayor Littlefield stated that he, himself, was a planner by background; that these documents are a summary involving a lot of people; that this organization deals with people from the region; that they undertake these tasks and then document it; that this is a necessary prerequisite for qualifying for grants and is the “brick and mortar” of social services. He mentioned the $2.4 million that had been gained from this team, noting that we are at least $2 million dollars ahead of what we are paying them.

Councilman Gilbert wanted to know how they come up with the areas?

Mr. Wrinn spoke in general terms, stating that they used available information from Planning and the Chamber of Commerce and did an overlap to see where redevelopment opportunities are; that it is a concentration of assets; that they could not cover every area; that they would be more than willing to meet with a group of the Council people to give them a full briefing.

Councilman Gilbert wanted to know if Wilcox and Shallowford were included? Mr. Wrinn responded that in a sense every area was “game” and an area of concern; that they really focused on areas with synergy; that improvement was needed in other areas; that there is vast land and empty storefronts where redevelopment is needed.

Chairman Benson noted that we had netted $2 million dollars and wanted to know how this was spent? Mayor Littlefield responded that the money was utilized for loans on brownfield sites. Mr. Wrinn added that $400,000 was a community-wide brownfield asset. He went on to mention four brownfield clean-up projects in the county. Chairman Benson asked if the County was paying anything. Mr. Wrinn responded that the County writes grants, and the City did the property swaps—that Anchor Glass went to the City, and we both won. He mentioned $1 million dollars in the Revolving Loan Fund, stating that we did not go over our threshold.
Councilman McGary wanted to know the scope to secure grants? Mr. Hinch mentioned technical assistance to stakeholder groups and getting into the field and building up capacity to drive the direction of revitalization. Councilman McGary wanted to know how the Council could be beneficial? Mayor Littlefield responded that Mr. Hinch was in Atlanta but that Frank Wrinn is local and would get with the Council when they had neighborhood opportunities that fit.

Mr. Wrinn added that the Council could count on them being back; that they were actually anxious to brief the councilmen; that everyone got frustrated, and there was never enough time to cover the background—that any opportunity to speak, they liked and were better off.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the City had contracted with them since 2006, and she would like an opportunity to sit down and see what we did over the years; that she would like to know the concepts as we go forward.

Mayor Littlefield stated that no city needs brownfields more than Chattanooga; that there is a labyrinth of bureaucracy and federal language and no one vested to do this; that he and Adm. Leach knew Frank Wrinn, and no one gets to the heart of things like this better than Frank; that we had came from nowhere to where we are today; that we were not just piling up documents but qualifying for new Federal funding.

Mr. Johnson continued with Resolution (g) authorizing the Director of General Services to execute an agreement with March Adams & Associates for mechanical and electrical engineering services associated with the requested modifications to the existing building space located at 332 Martin Luther King Blvd. in an amount not to exceed $18,200.00. Chairman Benson asked if this had gone through the new committee and was told “yes”.

Chairman Benson noted that Ordinance 6(a) dealing with the Audit Committee and Council Auditor will be discussed later today.

Mr. Johnson proceeded to go over the following purchases: A blanket contract for Reptile Food for Parks and Recreation (Zoo) from Rodent Pro, Signal Mountain Herpeticulture, and Perfect Pets in the amount of estimated cost of $26,000; a Bomb Truck for General Services from Lee-Smith, Inc. in the amount of $168,980; a blanket contract for Inhibited Hydrochloric Acid for Public Works from Specialty Chemical Co. at an estimated cost of $12,000; and a blanket contract for property maintenance for General Services from Green Top Lawn Care at an estimated cost of $20,000 annually.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.