

AGENDA SESSION
September 28, 2010
3:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Ladd called the agenda session to order with Councilmen Benson, Berz, Scott and Gilbert present; Councilmen Murphy, McGary and Rico joined the meeting later; Councilwoman Robinson was absent due to personal commitment. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Daisy Madison, Steve Leach, Lee Norris, Jerry Stewart, Richard Beeland, Danny Thornton, Gary Hilbert, Ariel Soriano, Chief Parker, Karen Rennich, Paul Page and Captain Lee.

AGENDA; SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Dan Johnson stated **Ordinance (a) on final reading: Special Exceptions for Nightclubs/Similar Uses by imposing a 90 day moratorium on granting special permits** was discussed last week in Legal and Legislative Committee.

In reference to **Resolutions**, Mr. Johnson stated **(a) – (f) would be discussed in today's Public Works Committee meeting. Resolutions (g) for property declared surplus and (h) awarding a bid by Thomas Brothers Construction for the Ohls Avenue and Anchor Glass Brownfield clean-up projects** was also discussed last week.

In reference go **(h)** Councilwoman Scott inquired as to what glass frits are. Paul Page responded that it is ground up glass which is not ground to the point it becomes sand as it is actually glass. Councilwoman Scott asked where the glass frits are going to go with Mr. Page stating that a lot will be left onsite and a deep hole will be dug and the frits will cover it.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she knows there are constantly new regulations inquiring as to the kind of protection. Mr. Page stated every building and construction site has to be permitted and show what they are doing; and if they are anywhere out of line in that regard it will be controlled by inspectors.

Councilwoman Scott stated she was not referring to clean up. City Attorney McMahan stated there are hazardous waste disposal regulations which basically regulates hazardous waste from the "cradle to the grave" with a transportation process and alternate processes of putting it in the landfill. He stated there is always the possibility someone in the chain of hazardous waste can go bankrupt and there will always be the possibility of an abandoned site where an area is contaminated. He stated that is what the superfund laws were set up to handle; that they are still the responsible party and financial resources of government make them clean it up.

Councilwoman Scott stated the glass one is just a little different. Mr. Page stated it is not hazardous waste; that they are going to locate the rest of the property and fill it with what they dig out so they can build on it. He stated it will be covered with a three foot cover to actually put utilities in if necessary.

Mr. Johnson continued with the agenda and stated **Resolutions (i) for Amendment Five of a grant with TDOT and (j) for a contract with Geographic Technologies Group, Inc.** concern RPA, noting that the first is for a study and the second is for software upgrade.

Councilwoman Scott asked if the \$468,000 is the grant money; that she has four sheets that have the breakdown of the years. She stated the total amount was over \$500,000 for 2011 and asked if the \$116,800 is in-kind participation by RPA. Karen Rennich stated that it is her guess it is a 20 percent match and could confirm that tonight (at Council meeting); that there is a 20 percent mach on those items depending on what they are, except for the work program, staffing and other projects.

Councilwoman Scott stated she is trying to get at who is paying \$116,000 and if it is the city of Chattanooga. Ms. Rennich stated those are salaries and benefits; that they pay 20 percent of salaries and benefits of RPA for the Director and four staff members. Dan Johnson stated that it is in-kind matching.

Councilman Benson stated Ms. Rennich is talking about “we” which is not the city; that it is a match with the city and county. Ms. Rennich stated “we” references the RPA and the TPO is housed in RPA which they fund some of their “stuff” through.

Councilwoman Scott stated the \$116,000 is in the budget already and there will not be an additional match outside that. Ms. Rennich stated she does not recall asking for additional matching funds and would get back with Councilwoman Scott to confirm the number; that TPO is different due to the contracts through TDOT and GDOT.

Mr. Johnson stated **Resolution (k) for an agreement with Chattanooga Golf and Country Club** would be discussed in Public Works Committee today.

AGENDA, OCTOBER 5, 2010

There was no discussion regarding the October 5 agenda as there were no items on the agenda at this point.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Johnson stated two Board appointments will be requested for approval at tonight’s Council meeting: **Dr. Hill Craddock to the Tree Commission** for a term expiring June 30, 2013 and **Ms. Jackie Thomas to the Board of Sign Appeals** for a term expiring September 28, 2013 representing District 9.

PURCHASES

Mr. Johnson presented the following purchases for approval at tonight's Council meeting:

- **Purchase of Services for Cubical Re-spacing** for the Public Works Department with COS Business Products & Interiors for \$10,482.37 for the purpose of moving cubicles around. Admin. Madison explained that the matter has been bid twice.
- **Purchase of RAE System Multi-RAE and RAE Link** for the Fire Department with Care Safety for \$22,144.04.

Chief Parker explained that this is for gas detection equipment that is being purchased with grant money and not out of the general fund.

- **Purchase of Service for Lawn Care Services** for Human Services with Grasscapes, Inc. for approximately \$25,000.00 annually

Councilwoman Scott asked how we do lawn maintenance; that it be explained how other people do lawn maintenance for us and how it is decided whether we do it or they do it. Mr. Page responded that Parks and Recreation and Public Works do it; that we contract out for some of them using the square footage on the bids. He referenced keeping property clean until it is sold as the acreage equals so much.

Mr. Johnson explained that this one is federally funded for all the day care sites.

Councilman Murphy asked if Mr. Page is speaking of properties on back taxes; that within the city some of that does not get cut often. He stated when a house goes back on back taxes we tell them that we cannot cut the grass and asked if the county is paying (to cut the grass). Mr. Page responded "no"; that they refuse because the county says it is in the city's limits and it is our loss and they will not participate on their half of cutting the grass; that they have fought this battle for five years or more he knows of.

Councilman Murphy asked if they have been assessed the cost of the property when they eventually do sell. Mr. Page stated they send a check but it is half and we do not get the other.

Mr. Johnson stated we do not control the closing of those sales that involve the county for whatever reason and that is the way it is done. He stated he and everyone has tried see if we can get a procedure set up to get reimbursed for those expenses, noting that Daisy Madison can tell how long she has fought the battle. Admin. Madison stated we have not gotten far with every administration that has started in.

Councilwoman Berz asked if the matter has gone to a court room for a lien on the property. Admin. Madison quickly interjected "we have done that".

Councilwoman Scott asked that Councilwoman Berz' question be answered. City Attorney McMahan stated lien statues cover demolition and are restrictive in what we can lien.

Councilman Benson stated the city has been getting the short end of the deal for a long time and asked if there is some way to bring this to a "head" and get equity.

Councilman Murphy suggested contacting the County Commissioners to which Admin. Madison quickly responded "we have done it".

Councilman Benson stated something creative needs to be done now to make them be fair with us. Mr. Johnson stated it depends upon how much they want to re-up their sales tax agreement. Councilwoman Scott stated it she did not think a solution would be reached today.

- **Purchase of a blanket contract for Tri-Mountain Mountaineer Jackets** for the Fire Department with Kay Uniforms for approximately \$15,296.00 annually.
- **Purchase of a blanket contract for Goat Browsing** for the Public Works Department with Natural Land Clearing, Inc. for approximately \$20,000.00 annually.

Admin. Leach stated this is a requirements contract that the goats would be used on property that equipment could not go on, such as the side of Missionary Ridge. He stated they did not do any goat browsing this year due to the economy and budget; that they have a lot of folks wanting re-implementation as it is a good project!

Councilman Murphy stated this is a great program and one of the questions he has from constituents is about the browsing above the Brainerd Tunnel and Bragg Reservation and the timing of it; that it seems to be every year that it came through Bragg in the fall and seems if the goal is to make the invasive vine not grow, early spring would make more sense to do more injury to the plant.

Admin. Leach stated they have moved from the Ridge at the Tunnel over to Bragg toward the end of the season; that they have had people at Bragg agree to supplement the budget to support that and it is a very public partnership.

Councilman Murphy asked if it could be done in the spring of next year. Mr. Johnson noted that there have been classes on this and Lee Norris is an expert on goat browsing!

Councilman Gilbert inquired as to the locations for the goat browsing. Admin. Leach responded that they go to steep inaccessible properties or any place it is felt it is not safe with mower apparatus.

Councilman Gilbert stated the program should be shared with other departments if they need them. Admin. Leach stated it is a good project and a good way to clean property very quickly.

Councilwoman Ladd concluded the discussion by stating this is not a "b-a-a-a-ad" idea!

- **Purchase of a Liberator Wireless System with Helmet Kit** for the Police Department with Department Issue, Inc. for \$12,692.00.

Councilwoman Berz inquired as to this purchase request. Captain Lee stated this provides for a wireless microphone that is connected to the police officers' helmet rather than the shoulder microphone and will have total radio communication. He stated it is a grant purchase at no cost to the city or the police department, as well as no matching funds.

- **Purchase of Asolo Fugitive Gtx 416 Boots** for the Police Department with Mountain Gear, Inc. for \$10,470.24.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.