Chairman Ladd called the Agenda Session to order with Councilmen Benson, Rico, Berz, Scott, Gilbert, and Murphy present. City Attorneys Phil Noblett and Patrick Bobo; Management Analyst Randy Burns; and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Brian Shultz, Greg Haynes, John Bridger, Danny Thornton, Paul Page, Steve Leach, Lee Norris, Gary Hilbert, Richard Beeland, Chief Maffett, Jerry Stewart, Mike Patrick, Mark Keil, Johnny Feagans, Dennis Malone, Brian Kiesch, Bill Payne, Daisy Madison, Chief Parker, Dickie Hutsell, Jim Templeton, Gene Hyde, Sgt. Francis, and David Johnson. Mayor Littlefield joined the meeting later.

Chairman Ladd jokingly stated that we keep people confused by not knowing what room we will be meeting in. She called on Dan Johnson to go over the agenda.

Mr. Johnson noted that the first Ordinance (a) for Final Reading deannexes certain properties on Elder Mountain, and there would be some discussion on this at the meeting tonight. Ordinance (b) amends the City Code in regards to the C-7 North Shore Commercial/Mixed Use Zone. Ordinance (c) for an abandonment of a sewer in the 8000 Block of Volkswagen Drive was discussed two weeks ago.

Ordinances—First Reading—(a) through (c) are zoning issues. Chairman Ladd stated that Ordinance (a) would be discussed in Legal and Legislative Committee. Ordinance (d) is an abandonment and a Public Works’ item. Ordinance (e) amends the Budget Ordinance and entails changes that have just been talked about as far as agencies are concerned. He stated that a new copy had just come out that would simplify this and that the Council was getting a copy of it.

Resolution (a) is a Grant from the Tennessee Division of Forestry in the amount up to and including $20,000 to buy trees. Resolution (b) is a Parks and Recreation item and happens annually involving Trust for Public Land extending a Conservation Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed $100,000 to be paid in four quarterly installments of $25,000 each for a term of one year. Councilwoman Scott asked if Mr. Wood was present. He was not, but Mr. Johnson directed her to Adm. Zehnder. Councilwoman Scott wanted him to pass on to Mr. Wood her appreciation for the documentation as to where we are on this process, stating that it was very helpful to her.
Resolution © is also a Parks and Recreation item to enter into an agreement with Tower Construction Co. for the demolition and replacement of siding at Wyatt Recreation Center in an amount not to exceed $36,757.00.

Resolution (d) is a COPS Grant to hire 23 police officers and pay their salaries for three years. Resolution (e) is a Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, which we will split with Hamilton County Sheriff’s Dept. and the East Ridge Police Department. Resolution (f) authorizes the Fire Dept. to enter into a contract with Parris Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc. to remove and replace the roof at Fire Station #21, with a base bid of $39,800, with a 10% contingency of $3,980, for a total amount of $43,780. Resolutions (g) through (l) are Public Works’ items. Resolution (m) authorizes the acquisition of 3250 8th Ave. as a replacement site for Fire Hall #9 in the amount of $81,000, plus closing costs.

Resolution (n) authorizes $500,000 in local matching funds for the development of a 40-year comprehensive Greater Chattanooga Regional Growth Plan. The County is also doing $500,000 and $1 million dollars will come from private funding. Mr. Johnson noted that this was a big regional planning process.

Councilwoman Berz asked the source of funding and was told the General Fund, with Chairman Ladd adding that this would be in installments—that it was not all one year.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she would like to know the entities that we anticipate will be taking part in this? Mr. Bridger responded that a representative of Southeast Development was present tonight, as was a representative of the Chamber. He called on Beth Jones of Southeast Development to talk more about this.

Ms. Jones stated that $1 million dollars would come from foundations and $1 million dollars from local government; also $1 million dollars from private money and that the Chamber was leading this endeavor. She added that we would be pursuing a federal grant to leverage additional money to make this more robust.

Councilwoman Scott asked if any more cities in Hamilton County would participate with us? Ms. Jones responded “not at this point”, to her knowledge. Councilwoman Scott asked if we were planning to ask them to participate? Ms. Jones stated that we would seek every government that we could find to make a contribution to the plan, if it would be in their best interest. Councilwoman Scott asked if fund raising would go on for three years? Ms. Jones responded that she would think “yes”—that as the momentum gets started that other funding sources would want to come to the table. Councilwoman Scott asked if a presentation would be made to other cities concerning this; that Hamilton County and the City would be funding this for a good reason and other entities might not know about the bounty, and they need to be part of the
planning process. Ms. Jones stated that we were still in the preliminary planning process; however, she did think other cities had a “taste” at this point; that we were very much in the pre-planning process that would enable us to leverage additional funding.

Councilman Benson stated that he thought Councilwoman Scott had summed it up; that everyone would profit, and he would suggest strongly that we go to them about this, and also North Georgia and show them what their benefits will be. He asked if they did not choose to participate if we could extract them? Ms. Jones responded that we might not have robust participation, but it might not be in our best interest to exclude anyone—that this might preclude a robust planning effort. Councilman Benson stated that as long as we “carry the water”, they will let us; that they should be paying their fair share. Ms. Jones agreed that ownership involves having a stake in the game.

Councilwoman Berz stated that this was a very ambitious project; that she would like to see the plan and see that we are getting “a big bang for our buck”; that when they publish a Plan, she would like to know what the money is paying for.

Ms. Jones responded that John Bridger could share the RFP so that the Council could see how ambitious this is. She emphasized that the Plan was not written yet; that similar efforts are going on around the country in progressive areas; that we are trying to insure that this will be the most livable city in the entire world; that this is thinking out of the box; that it is very scary to think that we could get complacent about our successes—that we could be in danger of going backwards—that intangibles become tangibles; that this is a very robust plan; that the Feds want us to be pro-active, and this Plan is for future generations to come.

Councilman Murphy stated that he was speaking in response to Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Benson—that they had made good points; that this is a tremendously expensive project, and we have no shortage of people to ask for help; that the process is in the works and many are interested in this; that this is essential; that his only concern was that this be transparent and above board; that we need to do this, and we need to keep faith with philanthropies and businesses; that he would support this and wanted to know of Mr. Brown, from the Chamber, how far we were into this?

Mr. Brown responded that we had issued the RFP a couple of weeks ago; that we did an RFQ, asking for qualifications and got 17 responses, and we selected 7. Councilman Murphy asked if the Council could be told “who made it”? Mr. Brown responded that everything was very above board; that those who read the RFQ’s had no vote on this; that it was designed to meet federal standards.
Ms. Jones added that those who laid the criteria out did not know what the teams were; that there was a very definitive break in meeting criteria and seven came out on the top of the list, and the RFP was submitted; that these were very diverse teams that came from throughout the entire country; that it was a pretty intense and laborious project.

Councilman Murphy asked if the entire process was outlined here “in toto” and was told “yes”. Mr. Brown stated that questions were submitted and responses provided.

Councilwoman Scott stated that this was an exciting time, and she would like to get to interview the final one so that they could give the Council an overview of Step One.

Ms. Jones stated that there could be a final two or three, and they would be prepared to spend an entire day; that this is too important to the region, and we want to make sure we get the right people; that Chattanooga had a long history of doing some of the things on our own—that this is the “Chattanooga Way”, but we do need expertise; that this is a good process, and we continue to learn from others around the country.

**Resolution (o)** authorizes the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with Hamilton County to provide for joint funding of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission for the next five years.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she was interested in learning more about how the $500,000 fee was arrived at; that she was concerned about a five-year contract in a transitional year; that she knew it could be renewed, and we could get out but wanted to know if they had to come back every year, and we had to decide?

Mayor Littlefield responded that we had laid out a schedule; that the City was taking over the responsibility of the Planning Staff and RPA; that the County needed to pay and others who participate; that this was worked out with the Planning Staff and was calculated on cost of services; that some are in our growth boundary and a cost of services was worked out; that the number arrived at was a negotiated number; that it was fair and new money to us; that a portion was our money anyway.

Mr. Bridger added that they looked at the total budget for the two mayors; that dividing the budget was passed on population; that five years was based on total population; that 20% to 30% was spent in the county; that things fluctuate; that this is a huge planning process that will operate in the entire region and is based on population.

Councilwoman Scott pointed out that one of the line inserted says “will get as much services as last year”—may be more-- when in reality 58% or $210,000 is from their perspective when we look at the contract; that Hamilton County has 50% of the Board and the City of Chattanooga the other seven members, which lines up well with
population. She stated that she thought we should think more regionally and have a one-time member from other cities. She questioned why we did not look at the Board membership apportioned by population more than splitting representation; that representation is based on cities—75% of population.

Mr. Bridger responded that he thought this was part of State regulations.

Mayor Littlefield explained that we are a hybrid—Chattanooga and Hamilton County; that in the past we had had representation from other cities, and it changed from that to this; that it is important to have a representative group of citizens—that it is a recommending panel and not a controlling panel; that he did not worry if the County had as many representatives as we do; that the important thing was that we have people who are looking at the future of Chattanooga and Hamilton County, and we need a representative group—that all have to plan for Hamilton County—that we “are married” and have to plan our future together. He went on to say that the other cities do what they want to do anyway; that a good system has been worked out, and it might be changed along the way.

Mr. Bridger added that we will be approaching small municipalities for the fee structure.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she wondered if by the interlocal agreement that we appoint seven members and the county appoints seven, and then we ask a small municipality to come for their funding, and they would have no mechanism for participation.

Mr. Bridger pointed out that Soddy has their own Planning Commission, as does Signal Mountain.

Mayor Littlefield explained that we provide professional help and have our own local body; that we did not make decisions very well for smaller cities, and we decided to let them go their own way; that they participate to some financial degree but now we are faced with a great growth spurt, and we need to be planning for it and need the services of seasoned professionals.

Councilman Benson agreed that a lot of cities have their own Planning Commission but still need our professional services, prompting Mayor Littlefield to say that Councilman Benson is the “Dean of Planning”.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY 19, 2011**

**Ordinance (a) First Reading** is a Public Works’ issue.

**Resolutions (a) through (f)** are Public Works’ items.
Resolution (g) is a Parks and Recreation item for a two-year License Agreement with River City Ducks, LLC, for the use of the Ross’ Landing Ramp to access the Tennessee River for the operation of an amphibious vehicle in an amount of $450.00 per month during the months of March through October.

Resolution (h) is for General Services to enter into an agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc. to complete Brownfield Remediation Services at the old 36th Street Landfill site and the Tennessee Ave. at railroad underpass site, in the amount of $77,200.

Resolution (i) is a Public Works’ item.

Mr. Johnson went over the following purchases. The first for Public Works and a blanket contract for special tank and line cleaning services from Universal Service, Inc. for approximately $160,000 annually. The next, also for Public Works, and a blanket contract for painting and related surface preparation services from Fimco Services, LLC for approximately $200,000 annually. The next for General Services for the purchase of fueling station repair labor from Southern Pump & Tank in the amount of $325.73. This was necessary because it went over $10,000. The next for Public Works and the purchase of restoration of four Patterson Pump Impellers & Housings from Patterson Pump Company in the amount of $65,000. The next also for Public Works and a blanket contract for Traffic Control Services from TR Moore & Associates for approximately $15,000 annually. The next, also for Public Works, and the testing of applicants for Electrical License by Prometric, Inc. for $11,040. The next was for Parks and Recreation for a blanket contract for sodium hypochlorite and muriatic acid for pools from Pro Chemical Products, Inc. in the amount of approximately $25,000 annually. The last was for General Services for an increase of the blanket contract for Citywide Water Coolers & Water from Crystal Springs Water for an estimated $25,000 annually.

Mr. Johnson reported two Board Re-Appointments—Ronald W. Smith to Beer and Wrecker Board and Bradley S. Allen as a reappointment to the Sign Appeals Board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.