AGENDA SESSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2012
3:00 P.M.

Chairman Ladd called the meeting of the Agenda Session to order with Councilpersons Scott, Robinson, Rico, Benson, Berz and Gilbert present. Councilmen Murphy and McGary joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan; Management Analyst Randy Burns; and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Daisy Madison, Larry Zehnder, Donna Kelley, Jean Smith, Jenny Lowery, Madeline Green, Danny Thornton, Jerry Stewart, Steve Leach, Lee Norris, Jerry Payne, Alice Cannella, Jim Templeton, Tony Sammons, Ulystein Oates, Ron Swafford, Gary Hilbert, Capt. Roddy, Valerie Maleug, Johnny Feagans, Beverly Johnson, Mark Keil, Jana Lowery and Dickie Hutsell. Boyd Patterson and John Van Winkle joined the meeting later.

Mr. Johnson proceeded to go over Agenda items, beginning with Resolution (a) that provides land for the construction of the Volkswagen Welcome Center and to TVA for transmission lines that was discussed last week. He added that we received $34,000 from TVA.

Resolution (b) authorizes CHA and Dogwood Manor to enter into an annual contract for bedbug eradication with Terminix for service and inspection for an amount of $30,000 to be paid from the Dogwood Manor Operating Fund. Councilwoman Scott stated that she would like more information on this.

Anthony Fears explained that they were trying to do this on an as needed basis, which includes two yearly inspections of all 136 units. Councilwoman Scott asked if he was saying $30,000 is the top end, and we would only treat those that need treatment—that certain areas could be below this amount? She asked if he would explain “bed safe”. He explained that each unit treated would be provided with a bed cover and pillows, which falls on us. Councilwoman Scott asked about the bugs getting into the mattress? Mr. Fears explained that there are traps on the bed which kills the bugs and allows no more into the mattress. She wanted to know if this would “kill” the problem—that bedbugs were difficult to take care of? Mr. Fears responded that he was not an exterminator; that we were just trying to be more pro-active—that the ones we have treated have a better success rate. Councilwoman Scott asked about the success rate and was told it takes two to three treatments. She asked if this was for 100% eradication? Mr. Fears stated that he would stop short of saying 100%; that we have social groups that go from one apartment to another. She asked if there was any more effective treatment on the market? Mr. Fears responded that he did not know.

At this point, Chairman Ladd stated that we would move on “if no one else was bugged by this issue”.
Resolution © authorizes the appointment of Jackie Born as a special police officer for Public Works, Land Development Office. Resolution (d) authorizes the appointment of Donna Thomas as a special police officer for Neighborhood Services.

Resolutions (e) thru (g) were discussed in Public Works last week.

Resolution (h) authorizes an additional estimated amount of $1.8 million extension to the existing Mesh Wireless contract with Excalibur Integrated Systems. Councilwoman Scott asked if by approving this, we were doing a five-year contract? Mr. Johnson explained that the contract is in existence—that we are just correcting an error. She asked if it would automatically be for five years? Mr. Johnson responded that there could be one-year renewals, unless we cancel.

Resolution (i) is for a PUD known as Bent Creek Golf Villas. This was discussed last week.

Resolution (j) authorizes RPA to amend the agreements with PM Environmental and Terracon to complete the necessary assessments and clean-up plans for the requirements of the EPA Brownfield grant in order to increase the amount by no more than $5,100 for a total project cost in the amount of $220,600. This extends to another piece of property.

Resolution (k) authorizes the Director of General Services to accept a low bid for a new roof on the police station located at 702 E. 11th St. in the amount of $50,470, with a contingency of $2,525.00.

Going back to Resolution (j), Councilwoman Scott asked if this particular Brownfield grant is for Hamm Rd.? Mr. Thornton responded that it is for numerous projects, including Fire Hall #9, Hamm Rd. site, and the 38th St. greenway.

Councilman Murphy asked, in regards to Resolution (k)—that there had been some discussion earlier about only one location having police on staff 24/7. He asked if there was an opportunity to get more room by relocating? He asked if there had been any discussion about this? Mr. Johnson responded “not that I am aware of”; that this covers police downtown with bikes, etc. Councilman Murphy asked if we were not contemplating that this be staffed? A representative of the Police Dept. answered that we would have more officers as needed.

Resolution (l) authorizes a contract with Ochs Center as the lead agency to perform the comprehensive gang assessment for $69,940, with a contingency of $5,060 for an amount not to exceed $75,000.00.
Councilwoman Scott asked how this group knew the cost would be $75,000, when this was first brought up? Mr. Johnson asked her what group she was talking about? She responded the Mayor and the two individuals that had been hired. Mr. Johnson responded that $75,000 was the figure we were talking about for the Multi-Cultural appropriation but that he did not think this was the “guiding light”; that this particular contract came in at $69,940 and with the contingency, we will get it to $75,000—that we need the contingency because there could be other needs. Councilwoman Scott still questioned if this was “just a coincidence”—that this figure came up months ago and is still the same today.

Chairman Ladd noted that she had some of the same concerns and had asked for a break-down and Rick had sent her something; that she would forward this to Councilwoman Scott, because she had similar concerns.

Councilman Gilbert mentioned some of the things he had read in the Ochs Center’s past survey—that they had not done gangs and wanted to know what differences there would be in this assessment, asking if they were going on school sites?

Mr. Beeland was at the podium and noted that the Ochs Center was here—Dr. Mathis and Ken Chilton and Dr. Barbara Medley from UTC.

Mr. Chilton responded to Councilman Gilbert that they had done crime reports, but the data was not broken down as far as gang activity; that another piece would be community groups and the schools; that they had an agreement with the school system to conduct surveys of teachers and students.

Councilman Gilbert stated that we had some of this information currently and were saying this would cost $69,000; that he was seeing the spread sheet, and we already had the information concerning crime suppression and information concerning schools—that he had not seen where there would be interviews with kids, and he could see this need. He asked those present to help him understand the cost.

Mr. Chilton mentioned fresh aggregate numbers and bringing in mapping for trends and hot spots; that a qualitative report required more, and they were using all of their staff at Ochs, and there would be one fulltime person; that he, himself, would not be part of this in terms of cost; that they would build a template well above what we have; that another issue is logistics—that they only had a short amount of time.

Councilman Gilbert asked about the end results—would they just be telling us what we already know? He wanted to know what additional things they would be telling us.
Mr. Chilton responded that new data was rolling out; that they would be looking at trends and combining these trends with crime data; that there would be a data base to talk to one another. He stated that he was new to Chattanooga and Ochs but had heard that we had a gang problem, but he did not know this and how deep it was into the fabric of the community and also attitudes in schools.

Councilman Gilbert responded that the average teacher could tell him this.

Mr. Chilton responded that theirs was a scientific way; that they would lay the framework for community dialog and bring the right people to the table; that Chattanooga had a network of non-profits, and they wanted to get their arms around this problem, which would allow them a benchmark; that they would see if there are any gaps in spending resources in what we are doing presently; also they would learn about female involvement in gangs. He added that they would be using a different methodology; that there are things we think we know, and this would give us a good starting point.

Councilman Gilbert still contended that we already know what Mr. Chilton had said, that he meant no disrespect to him; that he wanted to know what he would bring to the table differently—that $75,000 is a lot of money, and he wanted to see something different from the past.

Mr. Chilton responded that he did not control how the data is used.

Councilman Gilbert still said that we already know what Mr. Chilton is saying—that we know we are dealing with a “girl” situation.

Mr. Chilton added that essentially you get community buy-in; that they would have a strong community focus and would merge what has been done with new data in order to move forward; that they would put the data in an easily accessible format.

Chairman Ladd noted that everyone on this Council could go in and learn from the file that we had been sent; that it was 136 pages long and tells what this is about—that she wanted to know what it was about, also, and noted that the depth of this survey is overwhelming and will generate information that we have not had in the past.

Councilwoman Berz stated that probably one of the issues is the fact that much of our information is second-hand or anecdotal, and we need first impression research material that is not totally anecdotal; that we need to come up with a solid documents so that we can go to foundations to say we need to develop a solution; that it is time we get serious downtown because we recognize we have a serious problem; that we have the community’s attention to produce a credible document. She asked how long this would take them?
Mr. Chilton responded that their finish date was August. Councilwoman Berz asked if this was “firm” and was told “yes”. She asked if it could be done sooner and was told “no”. She added that we could have a “long, hot summer” and could not wait for a formal document. Mr. Chilton assured her that they would work with us. Councilwoman Berz asked who was in charge—was it Dr. Medley? Dr. Medley responded that the Ochs Center was in charge.

Councilman Benson stated that he had attended meetings and was also skeptical about the Study; that Rick Smith had a booklet on gangs a few years ago. Councilman Benson stated that he wanted something as soon as possible, because we need to get this updated and the quicker the better; that $75,000 was in the ballpark, and it came in lower; that he was skeptical, but the sooner this was in, the sooner our work can be efficient.

Councilman Murphy stated that one of the things that troubled him was about the mapping—that the Police Dept. has maps where we can get all this information—that he could get it in a half hour, and he did not think we needed more mapping; that we might need relational mapping—that this could be very, very helpful in explaining the risks to children and parents—that they could understand that their risk of being killed was low, unless they were engaged in a gang—that if they were in a gang their risk was greater than if they were in Afghanistan. He stated that it would be interesting to see if this is productive—that this is something we don’t have the Police Dept. doing because they do not have the resources.

He went on to say that there were two other things—that we were talking about creating a report on resources—were these resources we don’t presently have? He asked if holes would be pointed out and was told “yes”. He went on to say that there would be a real economic cost and asked if there was any component in the assessment for this, as for instance, the taxes we would have to pay to combat gang crime? He noted that the high cost will be a part of the solution, and there will be a price tag; that he did not think the people saw it this way; that it could take $5 million dollars a year, and we could spend more; that he did not see anything about the cost involved in this. Mr. Chilton agreed that he had not seen this in the assessment.

Councilman Murphy went on to say that one of the problems is that people don’t stick with a problem long enough to see it through; that if we are going to target 8 years old and younger, we would have to be involved from 4-6 years; that he thought we as a community need to know the cost or our commitment won’t be there—that it could be a high cost. He asked if there were any additional expenses that had not been forseen? He emphasized that we really need to know what it will cost.

Mr. Chilton agreed that this was a good concern; that they leveraged their studies to bring in more federal funding and to work with the University.
Councilman McGary stated that he had familiarized himself with the 136 page document; that he understood it and was supportive; however he noted there were different models to go about performing this process; that in looking at the document, he could see five essential tasks; that at the completion of each task, there were to be two final reports. He inquired about gathering data, noting that this might have been discussed before he arrived at the meeting. He questioned if there would be essentially five reports per task or one final report? Mr. Chilton responded that there would be one large report with sub-sections, asking if Councilman McGary was talking about methodology? Councilman McGary responded “per line item cost”. Mr. Chilton answered “staff hours”. He went on to say that there would really be one report per task and built-in time for himself. He explained that there would be one Comprehensive Study; that Rick would edit this and do the fact finding.

Councilman McGary noted that he would put this together for the whole. He wanted to know in regards to two staffs, what involvement each would have?

Boyd Patterson explained that an Assessment Committee would be overseeing the research part; that they would be getting updates as the data is collected; that they would look at this and present it to a Steering Committee; that this is a work in progress. He noted that he was part of the Assessment Committee and also the Steering Committee.

Councilman McGary asked Mr. Patterson if his role was oversight and that a Research Staff would be doing most of the research? Mr. Patterson responded that that part is already in existence—at the request of the research partner, which is the entity that amasses and refines and has further oversight; that we will have a comprehensive document and assessment to find out kids’ needs, and we are hoping to get Federal money.

Councilman McGary asked if the committee asked if they considered other options and was told “yes”; that they could have utilized other options. Mr. Patterson added that some communities did this without a research partner. Councilman McGary added “or could it be a combination of the two?” Mr. Patterson explained that Ochs would be paid and would be accountable for the results; that if the Council denied them this, there would be a Plan “B”, but it would not be as professional and useful in getting more money; that there could not be much discussion without the research part; that this is the best way to go.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she was increasingly comfortable in the way we are going about this—that it is not anecdotal and goes way beyond this; that UTC is involved and also Dr. Medley, along with the Ochs Center and Mr. Patterson—that this is all good; that she understood about acquiring information from the Police and schools but felt part of the Report should be from parents and the kids themselves. She went on to say that she had heard that some parents are scared of gangs and wanted to know how we will deal with this? She asked how you get somebody that is a member of a gang to tell you about their bad deeds and to be honest?
Mr. Chilton explained that all of their surveys were self-reported; that some have dropped out of gangs and are not shy about talking.

Dr. Medley added that they were hoping to bring the children’s voices into this process; first through the school survey and then in the comprehensive survey; that they would be able to respond to questions confidentially as to their being approached to participate in gangs; that they would bring their voice into the picture; that there would be a focus group with teachers and staff; that they knew children would talk to adults that they trusted; that we received very rich data from focus groups; that we could learn a great deal about young people and the activities they are engaged in—that it will be a holistic approach to combat the problem; that young peoples’ voices are important.

Chairwoman Ladd stated that she had worked with Dr. Rick Mathis, and he is brilliant; that she thought they would come up with a product that will amaze us.

Attorney McMahan stated that Resolution (m) will be brought up two weeks from now.

Mr. Johnson explained that Resolutions (n) and (o) are in support of State legislation; that Matt Lea had given the Council a briefing on this; that they needed to get the Council’s support.

Councilman Gilbert stated that he had a question for Boyd Patterson but would get with him later.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2012**

Mr. Johnson noted that there were two Ordinances on first reading; that the “Injury on Duty Program” will be discussed in a later meeting.

Resolution (a) will also be discussed in the Personnel Committee meeting.

Resolution (b) authorizes a MOU with the City of Red Bank for their participation in the Tennessee Valley Regional Communication System.

Resolution © has to do with Block Grant funds and was discussed at an earlier meeting.

Resolution (d) authorizes payment of 2012 membership dues for the U.S. Conference of Mayors in an amount not to exceed $12,242.00.

Resolutions (e) thru (h) will be discussed in Public Works’ committee next week.
Resolution (i) authorizes Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with the Chattanooga Land Co., LLC for an easement and placement of donated art pieces from the Benwood Foundation.

Resolution (j) authorizes the Fire Department to enter into a Technical Training and Facilities use Agreement with Industrial Emergency Services (IES) for trench rescue training for compensation of $21,600.00. This is to be discussed more fully in Legal and Legislative and Safety Committee meeting.

Resolutions (k) thru (n) are Public Works’ items.

Resolution (o) is a Special Exceptions Permit for use of a late night entertainment center located at 2819 Cummings Highway.

Mr. Johnson went over the purchases, which are made a part of this minute material.

Councilwoman Berz questioned him about the blanket contract for citywide paper goods for General Services that says “approximately $299,834.00 annually”. She asked if we dealt with “approximately?” She asked if we could not get a firm cost? Mr. Johnson explained that this is an all by items bid. Councilwoman Berz felt that it should read “no more than”. She stated that this language was a little loose; that “approximately” is “sorta—kinda”. She felt that they should be given a limit of “up to”.

Chairman Ladd added that paper products are volatile; that there could be as many as four increases per year, and it was almost impossible to lock-in a firm price because the volatility is so great and changes every quarter.

Councilwoman Berz still felt that the paper industry could give us a top end such as “not to exceed”.

Mr. Thornton explained to get this language, we would have to re-bid; that by saying “approximately”, we may have a lower or higher use. Councilwoman Berz stated that plus or minus it could be $350,000; that she was just curious—that it looks loose here.

Councilman Gilbert stated that Chairman Ladd was correct—that the City is like a “mom and pop” business in this instance—that we don’t purchase enough of it, and the cost will fluctuate.

Councilman Murphy went back to the purchase of a tactical robot for the Police Dept. for $11,445.00. He stated that he thought Capt. Roddy had the winning bid, noting what a robot can do. Capt. Roddy agreed that they could do all we need them to do and meets our needs, with Councilman Murphy adding “and they save us money, too”.

Chairman Ladd asked if we were through with “the tissue issue”!!

Councilwoman Berz still felt that it should be tighter with this much money involved—that she thought this was poor form. Mr. Johnson assured her that this was the normal procedure.

Councilman Gilbert asked if CMI Equipment Sales was a local company? Mr. Templeton stated that they were out of Nashville, Tennessee. This was for the purchase of four mowers and mounting services for $176,800. Councilwoman Scott asked if this was $40,000 each? Mr. Templeton explained that these were extended long arm mowers with a mowing head. She asked if they could be used on an incline and was told “yes”.

**On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.**

This meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.