

AGENDA SESSION
October 30, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Chairman Ladd called the Agenda Session to order with Councilman Benson, Berz, Gilbert, McGary, Rico, Robinson and Scott present; Councilman Murphy joined the meeting later. Assistant City Attorney Phil Noblett, Management Analyst/Auditor Randy Burns and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

Others present included Daisy Madison, Dan Johnson, Beverly Johnson, Steve Leach, Richard Beeland, Jana Lowery, Kathie ?Fulgham, Chief Dodd, Richard Hutsell, Dan Thornton, Jerry Stewart, Chief Parker, Ron Swafford, Officer Matt Rogers, Officer John Collins, Jim Templeton, Deputy Chief Kennedy, Mike McMahan and Dennis Malone.

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

Dan Johnson stated the **Ordinance on final reading is a budget change for Dogwood Manor.** With reference to **Resolutions, (a) is a change order with Accela, Inc.** relating to software in the amount of a \$6,505.00 increase.

Councilwoman Scott stated last week information was given about this but more was requested and expressed hope to get it today. She stated she understands so far we are asking for \$6,605 more to increase the contract due to an issue of being able to use the software that Land Development and the Treasurer's Office use because it was not ready to go to voice over internet, but still connected to the Nortel regular phone system. She stated it looks like some sort of card code is involved and man hours to be able to do that and asked why the phone system transition has not happened that necessitates this extra fee.

Jana Lowery responded "yes"; that that we all know the phone system was on a delay because we had a contract we were not able to use until recently, but the upgrade for the Accela software and the IVR system, which is the automated voice recognition where it does the answering of the voicemail for the inspectors, is on a digital system.

(COUNCILMAN MURPHY JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT)

Ms. Lowery stated to keep the project/system going a translator card was needed between the analog and digital systems to keep it going. She stated once we do move forward with the digital phone Avaya implementation that would not be necessary.

Councilwoman Scott stated essentially we are having to spend \$6,505.00 to be able to bridge to get to the system that should have been already ready asking if that is true/accurate; that if the city's phone system were digital now they would not need to do this.

Ms. Lowery stated if the city's phone system were digital now we would not need that translator card.

Councilwoman Scott asked if they have any idea when it will be so that transition can be made.

Doug Eckert stated a conversation was held about that this morning and they are releasing some funds today from the contract the Council passed to move forward with the expansion of the voice over IP system to allow them to build the inner core which is the part of the infrastructure needed to have in place before expanding further. He stated they are in the process of meeting with the vendor, MaxSource, to set forth a plan on how they will then go from there to other departments. He stated the answer to Councilwoman Scott's question is that work has already started; they have met with the Electric Power Board to determine how they can best use their network. He stated they are making progress.

Councilwoman Scott asked if the vendor that put us behind prior to this one is going to reimburse us for the extra work we will have to do to get this to happen.

Mr. Johnson stated it was not the vendor that put us behind; that the contract with the initial Avaya process was cancelled by purchasing and it was not in effect at the time they were doing this project; that they had no choice and had to buy an additional piece of equipment to finish the Accela project.

Councilwoman Scott stated that was because the project was behind.

Mr. Johnson responded "no"; that it was because the contract was cancelled and we had no resource to put this in.

Councilwoman Scott asked if the \$300,000 was spent on the phone system starting two years ago because. . . Mr. Johnson responded "yes it was".

Councilwoman Scott asked what percent was completed. Mr. Johnson stated we had two or three departments that were included and our portion of the core was put in and then it was cancelled.

Councilwoman Scott stated it is her thought it was cancelled because there were fulfillment issues, to which Mr. Johnson immediately responded "no, there were no fulfillment issues".

Councilwoman Scott stated our factual information disagrees obviously. Mr. Johnson stated Councilwoman Scott's information may disagree with his, but that is not a true statement as there was not a fulfillment issue period.

Councilwoman Scott stated it was twenty percent complete after \$300,000 to transfer the phone system that started two years ago. Mr. Johnson stated we have been going back and forth on this issue for several times . . .

Councilwoman Scott stated today we are spending \$6,505.00 extra. Mr. Johnson stated Councilwoman Scott is "mixing apple and oranges".

Councilwoman Scott quickly responded “no, the ‘apples and oranges’ are connected” as that system has to go over a phone system! Mr. Johnson stated that is correct on that part!

Councilwoman Scott stated it is not ready to go. Mr. Johnson stated the Avaya system is not in place as there was an issue where purchasing cancelled the contract and it was not a fulfillment issue. He stated they have explained that he does not know how many times, but it is the same answer today as it was six months ago!

Councilwoman Scott stated it was her understanding it was actually a purchase of equipment that never really was put into a contract format and any time a purchase is spent and it is not put in the form of a contract then we find out on the end there are a lot of things that do not get done properly and cannot hold them responsible for it, which is her understanding of it. Mr. Johnson stated that is not a fulfillment issue.

Chairman Ladd stated it appears we are rehashing history here, and going forward we should get off the middle peg. She asked what the questions are going forward that we need to ask; what is left unanswered that would help us make a decision.

Mr. Johnson stated in order to complete the installation of the Accela system, this particular part is necessary for the transitioning of analog into digital or vice versa; that we had a web session this morning with MaxSource to establish the procedure moving forward and once that is in place this piece will not be necessary, but it is not in place now and public works needs to use the Accela system, period, in order to function.

Councilwoman Scott stated she agrees they need this system but the reason they need this system is because the rest of the system that it was supposed to interface with it is not ready and does not think that is the fault of the contractor that now has the contract and she is just sorry that regardless of what the stories are, this particularly thing has to be purchased because some other portion did not work and the faulty group here is not just purchasing.

Councilman Benson asked Mr. Johnson if we have any choice but to do this. Mr. Johnson stated that is the key word, we do not have a good choice other than to go ahead and do this and get the system working.

Councilman Benson stated if we do not do it . . . Mr. Johnson completed the sentence by stating “there would be a lot of work that would not get done at public works”.

Mr. Johnson continued stating **Resolution (b) involves a grant from Allied Arts** for the arts side of graffiti for the pillars at the railroad close to the Wellness Center; that **(c) is a change order with Talley Construction** that was discussed in Public Works Committee last week closing the job on Shallowford at Jenkins Roads. He stated **(d) is to accept a grant** for a program in the parks and recreation centers.

Councilwoman Scott asked to know more about this.

Admin. Zehnder stated the application gives authority to apply for the grant to Allied Arts to support the “Listen Up” Internet Radio Internship Program; that they have studios in the South Chattanooga and Eastdale Recreation Centers and if they are able to get this money it will be for an educational program with some of the participants to teach them skills in radio, CD and performance an aspect with their recording studios. He stated several are present to explain what the grant application will do and what the outcome of the program will be.

Councilwoman Berz stated this is a great idea and the continuation of some work started three years or more ago when we were looking at different ways to allow folks to get education and offer different opportunities; that it is fabulous and glad we are doing that!

Councilwoman Scott stated the city of Chattanooga actually gave Allied Arts \$226,000 last year or a little over that, \$50,000 more than they were given the year before for a 28 percent increase; that when she thinks about these particular projects she sees them as “we pay them and then they bring back a project” and we get the money we paid out only it has been looked at and vetted by Allied Arts, which can be a good thing. She stated what she would like to specifically know about this particular project is given the fact we are trying to facilitate young people to make good choices and obtain skills helpful in the future, how did we decide this job field was the place go to, whether there is a big demand.

Admin. Zehnder stated this is an interest of a lot of youth between twelve to the early twenties, the aspects of recording and engaging the youth of this age groups is of interest to them – performances, doing CD’s and learning the aspects of the recording studio and what happens in this whole industry is an area teenagers like and they have an interest in it. He stated they have an opportunity of learning something and in this case it is his thought it is a great avenue that has their interest.

Councilman McGary thanked Admin. Zehnder and others indicating that he can personally speak as an advocate for the programming question and Mr. Zehnder has advocated there are skills being transmitted to our young people through Reginald Cooper; that more than just the skills are being transmitted as there are relationships that need to be honed in on. He stated he has visited the South Chattanooga Recreation Center numerous times and has seen many young men ages 8-13 who have personally asked for Reginald Cooper, personally spoken to him as a friend and someone they look up to which are invaluable relationships. He stated they are in the studio, learning skills and look up to this man and that is worth \$6,000 or more dollars because prevention is the name of the game.

Councilman Gilbert expressed agreement with Councilman McGary; that last week trades were discussed and a lot of youth say they want to be a rapper and singer because they think there is a lot of money, but the money to be made is in the engineering part of it. He stated engineers make good money when they learn how to do radio, sound for concerts, television and lights; that this is something good to train kids to have another outlook at the entertainment industry making money “this way” rather than as a rapper. He stated this is a good opportunity to learn another type trade.

Admin. Zehnder stated Greta and the staff is trying to do more things, noting the Urban League has a job training program to get youth engaged in different vocational skills to “shadow” individuals in jobs. He stated there are avenues they are looking at providing where they actually get involved in creating their own business and have people come into the Centers to teach some of those skills; that the staff is beginning to figure out who the agencies are that can help provide those skills and is something he wants to encourage.

NEXT WEEK’S AGENDA: NOVEMBER 6, 2012

Mr. Johnson stated the **Ordinance (a) on first reading is a budget amendment** about a Homeless Coalition project.

Mary Simons, Executive Director of the Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition, stated they work hard within the community and with the other agencies that provide services for persons who are experiencing homelessness to try to provide solutions. She stated they are the lead applicant for the Continuum Application of Care, a HUD application that helps their members receive funding through the year for services; that the present application is for shelter services during the cold weather. She stated they have quite a few people who experience homelessness outside here in Chattanooga that averages 120-160 people and without the shelter people die on the streets. She stated they try to run the shelter through the Community Kitchen, not as a Homeless Coalition endeavor, but as a full community endeavor for cold water. She stated last year, using primarily volunteers, they found volunteers do a really good job but they are not necessarily interested in connecting people to existing services or able to provide the security needed for large numbers of people in a small space. She stated the Coalition, Community Kitchen, Metropolitan Ministries, Family Promise and other interested citizens have gathered together for several months to determine how to solve the problem as no one agency can do it alone; that they cannot depend on the Kitchen to use their staff that works all day long and then try to stay up at night and work all night long; that they cannot ask volunteers to take on security issues that really should be left to professionals. She stated they have determined they could, working together as a group, fund a shelter that would open for the months of December, January and February using space at the Community Kitchen so their leverage would be their space, they would provide some of the cleaning and the other things necessary. She stated staffing would be handled through the Coalition and if they are funded for this they would be able to hire a temporary shelter manager, support staff and security so that during the hours of 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. people would be able to come in those cold weather nights; that it would not be fancy as it is mats on a floor which is better than being in a tent outside. She stated they work hard to ensure people are utilizing existing spaces; that they had 160 in the shelter on January 26 and there were a significant number of beds that were left empty and are not sure why, but want to solve that problem to make sure for the people coming in for the cold weather shelter who are seeking assistance we can offer assistance in their existing beds and programs so they are not simply getting shelter for the night but a step into stability. She stated they would be linked to existing programs three hours per week with different agencies providing staff that would not be paid for out of this grant, but would be paid for out of their existing funds to come in for an hour three nights per week to let people know what kind of options are available.

Councilman Benson commended Ms. Simons and the leadership of the Homeless Coalition; that last January he visited there in the evening and it was very sad but satisfying to see volunteer hearts given to this great need. He stated at the time, the Community Kitchen floor was full of people trying to sleep; that pads were brought in and have since been kept; that there were young mothers with children, older people – all in need. He stated the concrete floor was not suitable so pads and stalls were neatly organized and asked if that is being expanded with the funds to have more pads.

Ms. Simons stated to her knowledge “yes”; they will make sure they have an adequate number of pads so people have places to sleep and expand the services by having paid staff.

Councilwoman Benson stated the “Grateful Gobbler” event contributes to this also. Ms. Simons responded “yes”; that the Coalition will be putting in some of their existing funds. Councilman Benson stated Ms. Simons should have a sense of satisfaction for what they are doing.

Councilman Gilbert stated when a person thinks of homelessness, people think in terms of a man on the street; that there is more than that as there are children and mothers that are homeless that need help. He also commended Ms. Simons on the Coalition’s efforts as there is a great need because there is an increase throughout the United States of children and mothers being homeless and we need to provide opportunities for them; that the Coalition is doing a great job and he appreciates it.

Councilman McGary agreed with what all his colleagues have said and other partners, noting he has worked for the Coalition, is sympathetic and appreciates the mission. He stated his question focuses on the dollar amount, \$75,000 for December 1- February 28 asking if the entire amount would be expended. Ms Simons responded “yes”.

Councilman McGary stated in the documentation that is online if the figures are broken down \$75,000 divided by three months is \$25,000 per month and looked at the salaries for staff and security as \$33,000 which is a hefty figure. He asked for a breakdown real time as to where the money is going.

Ms. Simons stated they noticed through all their conversations that there were quite a few 911 calls last year, almost every night sometimes several times; that part of that will be resolved by having support staff and a shelter manager who are paid staff, but part of it would be resolved by having a security guard during the whole time from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. She expressed hope that off duty police officers would be able to serve those shifts with a contracted rate higher than support staff contracted rate would be, but they feel it is important to put that investment into security to make sure people feel safe coming to the shelter. She stated \$25 an hour is the estimated amount to cover the 12 hours per night every night for the three months; that the shelter manager’s salary would be very reasonable, very low in a lot of standards at \$24,000 prorated into the three months which would be roughly \$2,000 a month for the three months which would calculate to 24,000 if it were an annual salary; that the support staff would be \$8 an hour.

Ms. Simons stated they feel confident they can secure the staffing at those rates. She stated they are looking at a laundry service budget of \$12,000; that last year the Community Kitchen staff were spending almost all of their time during the day trying to do laundry which used up the washers and dryers so the clients could not use them during the day and there was a lot of wear and tear on the machines; that they are not sure who the laundry service would be but expect they would pick up the dirty laundry and bring back clean so everyone can have a clean place.

Councilman McGary asked if the Coalition will receive any administrative dollars. Ms. Simons responded “no”; that they are putting money in.

Councilwoman Scott stated when the application was submitted the Coalition did the review that normally is done during the budgeting process and a good job was done; that she looked at the percentages of people and where they come from and noticed a portion of them are residents of the city of Chattanooga; that actually the people that come to the Community Kitchen many of them come from outside from either the county or other cities in Hamilton County. She stated they are almost a regional service to people who are homeless during the cold months and asked if they are making a request of other cities as they are from Chattanooga and when she (Simons) references laundry service is that in reference to a cleaner picking up clothes at the homeless center then bringing them back.

Ms. Simons stated the laundry service would involve the bedding so people are not using bedding that was used the night before. She stated they have not approached any of the other cities; that when they have done their count the majority of people that utilize the shelter are people who are residing in Chattanooga somewhere and as they plan this further along for the next year and following years as they know this is something that has to happen, they will have to have a permanent structure or do something to ensure people do not die on the streets. She stated they will plan and engage more of the region as they look to the future.

Councilwoman Robinson stated she likes the idea that a lot of this has been woven together for a tighter network for a comprehensive and cooperative approach for dealing with this; that what they are doing goes so much beyond receiving these people with kindness and providing a clean and secure place for them to spend the night with a nourishing meal, but the sessions would inform them with conversation about the resources that are available for those who are interested in trying to find their way out of homelessness and are looking for a better life for themselves and their children. She stated it is her understanding there would be conversations with the guests that come in to explain some of the resources.

Ms. Simons responded “absolutely” as it is a plan to build on a safe and secure place and how to determine what is needed to empower people to move into housing; that they have been successful as a community when we work together to find resources to help people achieve goals and this is a way to connect with people.

Councilwoman Robinson stated when people are hurt and there is a natural disaster and they show up at a hospital the process of triaging occurs and they can sort people out to get help where it is most needed, she asked if there is any way they can identify who the regulars are who

have the freedom to come and go as opposed to those who are really desperately in need of help and those who have small children who are in harm's way.

Ms. Simons again responded "absolutely"; that they use their service point information system to see what kinds of services people have been receiving and can talk about how to build from there. She stated the ultimate goal is everyone will get the information.

Councilman Rico suggested that Ms. Simons check with the YMCA regarding the laundry concern as they do a lot of laundry and have equipment there. Ms. Simons stated that is a great idea and will look into that.

Mr. Johnson stated **Ordinance (b) is an abandonment** which will be covered in next week's Public Works Committee. With reference to **Resolutions, (a) is for police officer commissions for CARTA; (b) is an agreement with Franklin Associates Architects** through the EAC Department for roof repair at the Memorial Auditorium; (c) – (d) are **public works items** for next week and (d) was **placed on the agenda by two Council members regarding special exceptions permits** and will be discussed in Legal and Legislative Committee.

PURCHASES

PUBLIC WORKS:

- **Stein Construction Company**, Blanket Contract for Purchase of Stormwater Control Structure Maintenance Services, estimated at \$20,000.00 annually.

Councilwoman Scott stated she would like to see a copy of the blanket contract for the control maintenance structure services before the Council votes at 6 p.m.

Bill Payne stated this is not the traditional construction contract; that through Best Management Practices (BMP) they put out a list of the type of service needed and these were bids on those specifications done in the traditional manner of purchasing those. He stated there is no contract document, per se; that it is going to be handled through the purchasing process as a blanket contract, but we have no contract documents; that if anything is needed they will have to talk to the attorneys about it. He stated essentially it is bid for services rendered as opposed to a traditional construction.

- **Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.**, Blanket Contract for Bulk Liquid Chlorine for approximately \$700,000.00 annually.

Councilwoman Scott asked someone to give a perspective on how the \$700,000 chlorine bill for the sewage system compares with what we spent in the past.

Alice Canella stated it is actually a savings; that chlorine is about \$100 per ton cheaper this time which is a good thing for us; that over an annual year time period we will probably save \$200,000.

Councilwoman Scott stated sometime ago the Council approved a contract to look at and evaluate going with something to disinfect the process that would be safer for the people that were actually working at the plant. She asked where we are comparison-wise with having another answer, whether this would be the last year we would have this sort of system.

Ms. Canella stated they are just about ready to select a consultant to do the design of the new disinfection process and expects design and construction may be no more than two years, hopefully less, and after that they will not be purchasing this chlorine anymore.

Councilwoman Scott asked what will be used after that. Ms Cannels stated hopefully, bleach, a 12.5 percent bleach product.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Dawson Associates, Blanket Contract for Crowcon Gas Monitor Pars and Accessories for approximately \$25,000.00 annually.
- MES, INC., Purchase of Fire Hose for \$32,218.75

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Trek Bicycles Store, Purchase of ten (10) Police Patrol Bikes and Accessories for \$13,000.00.
- WesTech Engineering, Inc., Purchase of Fine Screen Repair Pats for \$13,446.00

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF MECHANICAL EXAMINERS:

- Appointment of Dr. George Graham for a four year term expiring September 16, 2016.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD:

- Re-appointment of Rhiannon Maynard (District 1), Aileen M. Carroll (District 3), Melvin Downs (District 4), Peter Yakimowich (District 6), Carl K. Hansen (District 7), and Wanda Oliver (Bushtown Neighborhood Representative) for three year terms expiring December 15, 2015.
- Appointment of Gene D. Settles (District 5), Larry W. High (Alton Park Neighborhood Representative) and Dale Grisso (East Chattanooga Neighborhood Representative) for three year terms expiring December 15, 2015.

PRAYER FOR SAMMONS FAMILY

Councilman Murphy stated it would be appropriate to remember “Tony” Sammons who lost his wife and say a prayer for him and a prayer for her soul and his family for their comfort.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ROOM

Chairman Ladd announced following the Legal and Legislative Committee the Assembly Room would be secured and everyone will be asked to leave immediately following the meeting so the door could be locked; that the room will not reopen until the 6 p.m. Council meeting. She stated the distribution or leaving of political materials is prohibited.

The meeting was adjourned.