AGENDA SESSION  
MARCH 26, 2013  
3:00 P.M.  

Chairman Ladd called the meeting of the Agenda Session to order with Councilmen Benson, Murphy, Rico and Scott present. Councilwoman Robinson and Councilman Gilbert 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, Greta Hayes, Larry Zehnder, Joachim Volz, Gary Hilbert, Alice Cannella, Chief Parker, Danny Thornton, Lee Norris, Steve Leach, Bill Payne, Richard Beeland, Mike Patrick, Jim Templeton, Stan Sewell, Susan Dubose, Cheryl Powell, Tony Boyd, and Dickie Hutsell. Dennis Malone, Daisy Madison, Chief Dodd, Mayor Littlefield, and John Van Winkle joined the meeting later.

Mr. Johnson commenced with the Agenda, noting that the Ordinances—Final Reading—were discussed last week. Ordinance 6(a) First Reading was discussed in Public Works Committee last week. Ordinance (b) will be discussed today in Parks and Recreation. Ordinance (c) amends the Budget Ordinance pertaining to sewer service charges.

Resolution (a) authorizes a lease agreement with the Osborne Buildings Corp. for office space in the 5900 Bldg. for the public library. Councilwoman Scott wanted to make sure she understood this—we are leasing a building to have a Library, and we own a second building that has to be renovated in 3-4 years? Mr. Thornton indicated that that was correct—that early termination was built into the lease. She wanted to know why it was taking so long to renovate our building? Mr. Thornton responded—probably funding. She noted that we would never get back the money for leasing and asked if it would be the same location and was told “yes”.

Resolution (b) was discussed last week. Resolutions (c) and (d) will be discussed in Parks and Recreation Committee.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 2, 2013

Resolutions (a) thru (d) will be discussed in Parks and Recreation Committee. Resolution (e) authorizes the Chief of the Fire Dept. to purchase an Annual Support and Maintenance Agreement for the Record Management System from FDM Software in the amount of $51,825.60. Resolutions (f) thru (x) will be discussed in Public Works’ Committee next week. Resolution (y) authorizes renewal of a lease for 10 years with Y-Cap for occupancy of 1600 Central Ave. for continuation of an after school mentoring program for training youth. Councilwoman Scott asked if they did not have to pay anything to lease this building? Mr. Johnson responded $1.00. Councilwoman Scott noted that they had used this building for
several years and questioned why they did not just buy the building?  Mr. Johnson responded that we had offered to sell it to them.  Councilwoman Scott asked if we were not going to have more serious discussions about this?  She thought it would make more sense to charge more rent or to sell the building—that we do this with a lot of buildings and taxpayers are paying the expense—that it is still a liability to us, and she questioned how we got out of this?  Mr. Johnson responded that all of these leases are for non-profits—that they take care of all of the maintenance issues, and we have no financial obligation; that they provide good programs for after-school training; that he agreed that maybe they should just take the building over.  She suggested moving forward that we let them take responsibility for their use, and this not continue to be a free thing.

Councilman Rico stated that it would be great if a lot of places in Tennessee had this same mission—that this goes beyond just boxing; that it is a successful program in Chattanooga, resulting in less gang members; that it is one of the best programs in Chattanooga; that it is a good program and a savings to the city.

Councilman Benson also echoed that it is a great program, with wonderful leadership and prevents kids from going into gangs; that it pays dividends; that it is the old Safety Lane Building and is worthless to us; that he was glad it was being occupied in a way that betters our youth and prevents higher costs down the road.

Councilman Gilbert added that we had seen a sample of this program in boxing; that it brings young members into focus; that it is a good program to get kids off the streets.  Councilwoman Scott suggested us just giving the building to them.

**Resolution (z)** authorizes the release of the reversionary condition for the “Sculpture Garden” to allow the Portera Family Limited Partnership the right to convey property.  Councilwoman Scott stated that she had read the document and had gone to the website for the original document.  She wanted to know what we kept as a reversionary condition—she wanted to know the history.  Danny Thornton responded that it was always to remain as a “Sculpture Garden”—that if the Porteras sold all of their property, this tract could not be conveyed.  Councilwoman Scott stated that it was waterfront property—that buildings hang off the bluffs.  She wanted to know if the City owned the property?  Mayor Littlefield responded that it goes back to the Pat Rose Administration and the building of the Veteran’s Bridge; that the Porteras did marvelous things with the Bluff View; that he was working in Planning at that time, and they proposed a “Sculpture Garden”; that circumstances had been relaxed, and this is the last step in the process—that they had done more that we (city) could do, and the city had been more than repaid; that the city had done very little to make this area as attractive as it is—that this is private space, and visited by tourists, and he would recommend that we relax this last reversionary clause.  Councilwoman Scott asked if the city owned the land.  Mayor Littlefield responded that we did; however this is complicating things for the Portera family.  She confirmed that as it stands now, it would come back to the City if they sold their property.
Resolution (aa) will be discussed in Public Works committee next week. Resolution (bb) brings employee insurance under one provider.

Mr. Johnson went over the four purchases on tonight’s agenda and a copy is filed with minute material of this date. He mentioned one appointment to the Stormwater Board—Anna Massey for a term expiring March of 2014, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Mr. Moegling.

On motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Rico, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

(A full digital audio of this Council Committee meeting of this date is filed in the Clerk of Council’s Office)