

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

April 30, 2013

In Attendance

Council Chairman Hakeem, Council Vice Chair, Chip Henderson , Assistant City Attorney Phil Noblett, Council members: Chris Anderson, Carol Berz, Moses Freeman, Russell Gilbert, Larry Grohn, Jerry Mitchell and Ken Smith

Others in Attendance

Mayor's office: Travis McDonough, Andrew Kean, Molly Cooper; Assistant City Attorney, Phil Noblett; Public Works; Lee Norris, Bill Payne, Dennis Malone; Office of Economic and Community Development, James McKissic; Office of Transportation, Blythe Bailey; Office of Youth and Family Development, Lurone Jennings; Personnel; Susan Dubose; Chief Bobby Dodd; CARTA: Lisa Maragnano; Council Clerk's Office: Randy Burns, Cindy Patrick

Final Ordinances – Agenda 5A

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the ordinance. He asked if there were questions or concerns.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolutions – Agenda 7A, (May 7, 2013 Agenda 7A, 7B, 7C)

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. Vice Chair Henderson asked for Lee Norris with Public Works to come forward to detail the listed job appointments. Mr. Norris indicated that these appointments were instituted for various reasons, but mostly due to new hires for those who had been promoted or retired recently. He further noted that these positions allow personnel to issue citations on behalf of their listed departments in the capacity granted that position.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolution – Agenda 7B

Assistant City Attorney Phil Noblett addressed the job settlement. He indicated that this was due to a City employee being injured on the job being hit by a car. She is still employed with the City and her injury has been rated at 11 which entitle her to medical benefits through 8/1/13 as well as the full and final settlement listed.

Susan Dubose, Personnel also added that this settlement followed in line with worker's compensation guidelines since the City is self insured for worker's comp.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolution – Agenda 7C

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. Mr. Norris addressed this request. He indicated that this waiver had, “fallen through the cracks,” with the transition and that this had been done in previous years during the clean-up. He noted that the clean-up takes place over the course of several months and runs until July 1.

Vice Chair Henderson inquired as to the return on the clean-up and Mr. Norris indicated that last year that for every \$1 dollar invested there was a return of \$13. He further noted that a tonnage report of what is recovered will be available at the conclusion of the clean-up.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolution – Agenda 7D

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. Councilman Jerry Mitchell indicated that this was in his district(District 2) and that the community was in favor of this name change.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolution – Agenda 7E

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. Mr. Norris indicated that this item had been discussed at length during the previous week’s (April 23, 2013) meeting. He noted that the original request of (5) five locations had been pared down to (3) three at the request of the Hospital.

Councilman Russell Gilbert indicated that a representative from Chattanooga Parkridge Valley Hospital would be attending the Council meeting this evening to address any questions or concerns.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

Resolutions – Agenda 7F, 7G, 7H (Mayoral Appointments)

Chair Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. He also asked for Mr. Travis McDonough to address the attendance on behalf of the Mayor regarding the appointments. Mr. McDonough noted that all these gentlemen had pledged their support of the Mayor and his vision for Chattanooga. He further noted that Mayor Berke values the process for selection of these positions and provided a brief detail of the history of the City charter and the managerial position of the Mayor’s office.

Mr. McDonough outlined 3 important qualifications for each of these men:

1. *Each is imminently qualified for the position in which they have been appointed.*
2. *Each has the full and complete confidence of the Mayor and the Mayor’s office that they will execute the office to which they are appointed.*
3. *The community is more than ready for each of these men to go to work on the Mayor’s vision for the City as well as the priorities of the citizens of Chattanooga.*

He offered each of the gentlemen an opportunity to speak to the attendance and introduced each as follows:

Mr. Blythe Bailey, Administrator, Transportation

Mr. James McKissic, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

Mr. Lurone Jennings, Administrator, Youth and Family Development

Mr. Blythe Bailey – Administrator, Transportation

Mr. Blythe Bailey addressed the attendance on his qualifications and vision for the job which he has been appointed. Councilman Mitchell noted that he had known him “for years” and felt that he had a great wealth of experience. He further inquired as to what his thoughts were on the first 90 days in this new position. Mr. Bailey stated that he wanted to get to know better the people who would be in the Transportation department and understand the strengths of each area in order to manage them efficiently. He further noted that coming from the field of architecture allowed him the chance to manage many projects effectively as the head of the project and allowed him to zero in on the best skill sets and efficiency for each project.

Vice Chair Henderson asked as to what his long term goals for the new Department of transportation might entail since most in attendance were concerned with maintaining the roads and the current conditions of the roadways in the City. Mr. Bailey answered that as the departments begin to be filled out more he could envision the his department as fostering relations better between other departments which could filter down to the tangibles (better roads, newer roads, maintenance schedules, etc.) as well as the intangibles (better use of budget, better and more efficient use of grant funds, etc.).

Councilman Ken Smith noted that his questions and concerns were the same as Mr. Henderson but he also wanted to know that in light of the transparency pledge by the Mayor perhaps a website could be established that would allow Chattanooga citizens to see where there road concerns were on the priority list for upgrade and/or maintenance. Mr. Bailey indicated he would be very much in favor of just such an idea going forward.

Councilman Gilbert also made of note that tunnels, specifically the Wilcox Tunnel, were of special concern to him and his constituents. He inquired as to whether Mr. Bailey would make tunnel maintenance as well as the securing of tunnel grant funds for new tunnels a priority early on in his tenure. Mr. Bailey indicated that he would need to address all of the current and pending projects set forth in his department but he felt that tunnels definitely needed to be somewhere near the top of the list, specifically the issues with the Wilcox Tunnel Mr. Gilbert had mentioned.

Councilman Larry Grohn inquired as to Mr. Bailey’s vision for the future of transportation and his department as it fit into the Mayor’s plans for Chattanooga. Mr. Bailey noted that his biggest priority would be to make his department more efficient and timely which could address many ongoing concerns and issues currently outlined in the Mayor’s vision.

Councilwoman Carol Berz stated her excitement about Mr. Bailey’s tenure and felt that in the larger picture his vision going forward would be a great asset to advancing Chattanooga. She inquired as to what specifically he was most excited about on this beginning as leader of the Department of Transportation. Mr. Bailey stated his excitement was to get started and moving in a more efficient direction.

Councilman Moses Freeman extended his welcome to Mr. Bailey and noted he would “provide a list of streets in my district,” that would need attention. Mr. Freeman further noted he was confident that all three men were the absolute best choices for the job and would do great things moving forward.

Chairman Hakeem noted that it was of vital importance to the Council that Mr. Bailey succeeded in his, as well as the Mayor’s, vision for the Department of Transportation. He reiterated again that this was “very important to us, “and “we want you to be successful.”

Mr. James McKissic – Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

Mr. James McKissic addressed the attendance with his vision for his new position with the Office of Multicultural Affairs. He wants to refocus on the options available within the City to all minorities to engage in business relationships directly with the City government. Mr. McKissic further noted he wants to specifically target those who will need coaching and/or mentoring in order to engage in business with the City government.

Councilman Smith noted that outcomes will be easy to note but that individual successes will be very important to see as well as those on a larger scale within Mr. McKissic's office. Chairman Hakeem concurred this view and said that often times what looks good on paper must be backed up with real and measurable successes for the individuals as well as the organizations.

Mr. Lurone Jennings – Administrator, Youth and Family Development

Mr. Lurone Jennings addressed the attendance with his thoughts on this new position and conveyed his excitement for this "dream job" coming to fruition. He expressed his ongoing desire to serve those in the City with the same passion and excitement from his previous post with the Bethlehem Center. Vice Chair Henderson expressed his thanks to Mr. Jennings for his longstanding service in many organizations dedicated to the youth of Chattanooga.

Concurring with Vice Chair Henderson, Councilman Smith noted that the City and the Mayor's office were very fortunate to have someone with his skill set moving forward but he hope that the City's gain would not be the Bethlehem Center's loss. Mr. Jennings assured the attendance that one facet of the strategic plan for the Center was the implementation of skilled succession. He indicated he will be maintaining his Board position as well as ongoing presence in the Bethlehem Center but felt that the plan started in October would be successful in his absence and he will strive to stay engaged with them as much as possible.

Vice Chair Henderson asked Mr. Jennings if stepping back from Bethlehem was something he felt could be accomplished with very bumps and Mr. Jennings assured him that it had always been important to have in place a way to "pass the baton" to the next Director. The Center has worked to maintain this level of experience by recruiting and training the best and brightest while maintaining the vision of the Center itself.

Chairman Hakeem expressed his excitement at Mr. Jennings new position and felt that Mr. Jennings had always exhibited a passion to serve God and as well as others, always and felt this would not change and had not changed in the 50 years of their relationship together. Mr. Jennings offered that Chairman Hakeem had been a wonderful mentor and had helped him very much along his path.

RESOLUTION – May 7, 2013 Agenda 7D

Chairman Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution and asked Lisa Maragnano with CARTA to come forward and address any questions or concerns. Ms. Maragnano noted that this was due to a circumference redesign for this area and that the canopies and signs were to direct according to the construction taking place in the area. She noted that the Planning Commission will detail more thoroughly the specifics and this would be discussed in depth at the next Public Works Committee meeting (May 7, 2013).

RESOLUTION – May 7, 2013 Agenda 7F

Chairman Hakeem asked for a reading of the resolution. Mr. Noblett addressed the attendance on this resolution. He noted that there was substantial backlog of tax properties from the previous administration and that someone needed to be appointed in order to take care of this as soon as possible.

The issue was closed with no further questions or concerns.

PURCHASES – Agenda April 30, 2013

Chairman Hakeem asked Mr. Andrew Kean from the Mayor's office to come forward and detail the information on the purchases presented to the Council. Mr. Kean noted that there had been 13 purchases but the list had been pared down to 12 items which were on the list before the Council. Due to the timeliness of the requests, Chairman Hakeem suggested that this would be discussed further in the Council meeting this evening. He further requested

that the Mayor's office provide a more generous timeline for discussion of purchases going forward. Mr. Kean noted that this was only due to the newness of people and this would not be the precedent for going forward.

The issue was tabled for further discussion at the Council meeting (April 30, 2013)

Other Business – Animal Control Board letter

Councilman Jerry Mitchell provided a letter sent to the Animal Control Board stating the intention of transferring of the District 2 appointee to District 7 due to the recent resignation of Lacie Stone, the appointee from District 2.

Mr. Mike Mallen, the current appointee from District 7, will transfer into Ms. Stone's vacated position leaving his position in District 7 open. Councilman Mitchell stated that all parties were agreement on this designation so he recommended moving forward so that Councilman Chris Anderson can appoint a new member from his district (District 7).

There were no further questions or concerns.

Procedural Comments

Councilman Moses Freeman addressed the attendance the desire and urgent need for proper procedures and timelines are established for purchase, grant proposals and other matters of financial and budgetary needs going forward. He noted that timeliness was the most important so that all issues, concerns and questions from all parties can be addressed in an efficient manner.

Mr. McDonough noted his agreement with this request and felt that it was vital to the efficiency of all departments, the City Council and the Mayor's Office together.

Next Meeting

Chair Hakeem noted the next Agenda Session will be held Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.