

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL

December 15, 2015

In Attendance

Council Chairwoman Carol Berz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present, including Vice Chair Moses Freeman and Councilpersons Chris Anderson, Russell Gilbert, Larry Grohn, Yusuf Hakeem, Chip Henderson, Jerry Mitchell and Ken Smith. Also present was Deputy City Attorney Phil Noblett and Nicole Gwyn, CMC, Clerk

Others in Attendance

CAO: Wade Hinton, City Attorney; ECD: Nick Wilkerson, Deputy Administrator of Community Development

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Smith, the minutes of the last meeting (December 8, 2015) were approved as published.

City Attorney's Report: Ethics Complaint

Attorney Hinton gave a brief overview last week on an ethics complaint by citizen Helen Burns Sharp against Councilman Anderson. Her complaint alleged that Councilman Anderson should have disclosed that engineer Mike Price, served on a host committee for a fundraiser for Councilman Anderson. prior to voting on a matter where Mr. Price acted as a spokesperson.

Attorney Hinton noted to that Sec. 2-754 referenced by Councilman Grohn last week deals with gratuities only and that it did not apply to political contributions. He also noted that he received communication from Ms. Sharp, who assured him that her complaint was not a personal attack against Councilman Anderson.

Attorney Hinton was instructed by the Council to seek an independent, external investigation of the allegations. He informed the Council that Attorney Sam Elliott (Chief Ethics Officer Pro-Temp) of Gearhiser Peters Elliott & Cannon, PLLC, acted as Chief Ethics Officer Pro-Term in the investigation. Attorney Elliott examined if there was a personal interest or financial interest according to the Code of Ethics and found the following:

- That there was no personal interest under the Code of Ethics; and
- That there was no financial interest in the campaign contribution under the Code of Ethics.
- That the allegations raised by Ms. Sharp do not state a violation of the Code of Ethics.

There were no questions or comments from the Council.

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7A

Mr. Wilkinson gave a briefing on this resolution, which would start the process for the creation of an online business licensing tool. Upon no questions, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7B

Donna Williams, ECD Administrator, briefed the Council on this item. Upon no questions, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7D

Councilman Grohn informed the Council that there is a concern about traffic congestion in this area. He stated that the developer has agreed to widen 275 feet of Stanley Avenue and that he will consult the City Attorney about how to attach the agreement to the resolution. He also stated that he might ask to defer until January 5.

Councilman Mitchell asked if the Transportation Department had been notified about the widening, and if right-of-ways would need to be secured. Attorney Noblett responded that Transportation had been notified and that he would check on the right-of-ways.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairwoman Berz adjourned this session at 3:14 p.m.