

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2009**

**3:20 P.M.**

Councilman Rico, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order, with Councilpersons Bennett, Berz, Benson, Page, Gilbert, Gaines, and Pierce present. City Attorney Phil Noblett and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Steve Leach, Daisy Madison, Dennis Malone, Mark Keil, Danny Thornton, Richard Beeland, Lee Norris, Barry Bennett, Alice Cannella, Debbie Davis, John VanWinkle, David Johnson, Missy Crutchfield, Gary Hilbert, Chief Parker, Mayor Littlefield, Chief Williams, and Karen McMahon. Greg Haynes joined the meeting later.

Adm. Leach noted that there would be a donation reported at tonight's Council Meeting. He then proceeded with **Ordinance First Reading 6(d)** which is a closure and abandonment for ONS Partnership, abandoning a storm and sanitary easement on a tract of land located at 200 Manufacturers Road. This is in North Chattanooga. Mr. Malone added that it was North Shore One, and the storm and sanitary sewer was being relocated in the street. Adm. Leach stated that they were recommending that this be abandoned.

**Ordinance (f)** is a closure and abandonment for Tammy Hass of an alley located in the north line of the 2700 Block of E. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Adm. Leach noted that **Ordinance (g)** was very similar and abandons an alley located in the south line of the 2700 Block of E. 17<sup>th</sup> St. This is on the side of the Ridge. Mr. Malone noted that Ms. Hass owns the property on both sides of the alley and is requesting closure and there is no opposition. Councilman Benson asked about landlocking and it was again pointed out that she owns both sides.

**Resolution (b)** authorizes eminent domain proceedings against Corral of Columbus for a temporary construction easement at 4506 Hixson Pike, relative to the Hamill Road at Hixson Pike Roadway Improvements Phase 2. This is Golden Corral property. Mr. Malone showed slides to orientate the Council, noting that this was the Hamill Road Widening Project; that the City had been dealing with them for eight months and could not acquire this and kept getting the run-around. Councilman Pierce asked how long the condemnation was? Mr. Malone responded 6-8 weeks.

**Resolution (c)** authorizes an Agreement with Volkert & Associates, Inc. for professional services relative to the Contract for Hamill Road Improvements (Highway 153 to Hixson Pike) Phase 2 and 3, in an amount not to exceed \$64,500.00. Adm. Leach noted that we asked Volkert & Associates to break up the Contract into Phase 2 and Phase 3; that we have funds available for Phase 2; however Adm. Leach was not sure about Phase 3; that we want to do all as one Project and break it into two Phases.

Councilwoman Berz stated that she had a question—Why does Volkert get all of the contracts? Mr. Malone agreed that they did get a good number of contracts, but the City does use other people. She asked if this was put out to bid and if anyone else ever had a chance? Adm. Leach responded that they selected according to capability. Councilwoman Berz stated that it would be really helpful when we award a Contract that the Council get some sort of back-up that explains how this happens. She assured that she was not alleging anything was wrong. Adm. Leach stated that they went ahead to get a design. Councilwoman Berz stated that the process was fine, but she just saw Volkert over and over again and wanted to make sure that others have opportunities.

Councilman Page stated that he was keenly interested in this—that the most dangerous part is the deep ditches—that it was logical to do both ends and not the middle—that he knew the middle would be more expensive. Mr. Malone noted that the cost on the middle would be \$2.5 million dollars.

Councilman Pierce asked the cost of Phase 2. Mr. Malone responded \$500,000.

Councilman Page indicated that this was really a problem he feared.

Councilman Benson asked about RFP's versus RFQ's? He stated that this had always puzzled him, and there was still some puzzlement going on. He stated that he, too, would like to see other people included.

Mr. Malone responded that this started in 2005—that an RFQ is a Request for Qualification.

Councilman Benson stated that this was really a dilemma; that if we go with RFP's an RFQ could be an impossibility. He added that this did leave a “haze” that bothered him.

Councilwoman Berz noted that Volkert had been used for a long time—that this was not criticism.

**Resolution (g)** authorizes the Mayor to submit a request for federal funds for facilities to house the Regional Emergency Fire Training Facility at Enterprise South, the Chattanooga Police Department Firearms Training Facility, and the Hickory Valley Road Bridge Replacement Project. Adm. Leach noted that they had pictures; that the Bridge had to be replaced.

Chief Williams stated that the Firearms Training Facility was a joint venture with the County and that they were willing to work with us; that the funds will go to upgrade—that if both the City and County get funding, we will have an amount for a nice facility. Councilwoman Bennett asked if this was regional? Chief Williams stated that we have 20 using it now.

Adm. Leach added that the Emergency Fire Training Facility will be regional.

Adm. Leach next went to **Ordinance 6(e)**, which is for Jay M. Philippose to rezone the 7400 Block of Ziegler Road and the 7100 Block of North Joiner Rd. from R-1 to R-4. This is just off Gunbarrel. Mr. Leach noted that Traffic Engineering had some concerns about this. Mr. Haynes added that it was to go from R-1 to R-4.

Mr. VanWinkle came to the table, stating that he had a slide presentation and that he was concerned about R-4.

Mr. Haynes stated that the Staff was recommending to deny this; that the Planning Commission was recommending approval with conditions. He stated that the use was appropriate; however it would increase the burden on the infrastructure, which was Mr. VanWinkle's opinion; that Goodman Road deadends, and this could help release pressure—that it was at the “tipping” point. He reiterated that the land use was appropriate.

Mr. VanWinkle showed slides of the site and where most of the action is happening. He showed slides of random traffic and the traffic scenario with the day-to-day congestion. He stated the problem was that the street is sub-standard and showed a summary of the highest local accidents in the City happening here. He stated 11 of the top 50 accidents are in this general area; that the number one accident area is East Brainerd Rd. and Gunbarrel. He next showed a collision diagram.

Councilman Benson asked him to go back to his first slide, noting that this was the District that he was trying to serve. The first slide showed the Elementary School, which is creating problems with the stacking of cars; there are no curb cuts. He stated that the residents would rather have offices with conditions than R-1—that this is a DeFoor development, and there is a 6 ft. berm. He stated that he could argue either side of this and did not know how he would vote on this.

Mr. Haynes added that if this is rezoned, it will set a new precedent and a new line—that the dispute is **not** the use.

Councilman Benson agreed that it was a hard decision to make.

Mr. VanWinkle stated that he had more information to share; that a consultant for the developer did a traffic study, and it does warrant a traffic signal with the development; that he thought it was fair to ask the developer to institute a traffic signal if this goes forward. He went on to say that from their point of view, we did widen Igou Gap Rd., and the design is ready for Franks Rd.; that the long term plan is to connect to the Interstate; that we have the right-of-way but lack funding; that this would take pressure off of the corridors if we build a grid network. He added that we need to totally upgrade this street to make it standard so that it could be an alternative route.

Chairman Rico advised Mr. VanWinkle that he was going too long.

Mr. VanWinkle stated that he was almost done; that if this were approved, more traffic would be added, and the Staff is recommending to deny this because the street can't handle the traffic; that if approved, it would be short-term and would require a right-of-way to be dedicated. He questioned if the Council would be willing to support allocation of funding for Igou Gap Rd. to connect Goodine down to Ring Rd. for access to the Interstate. He stated that we needed to continue with the infrastructure.

Chairman Rico stated that Mr. VanWinkle had explained this pretty well.

Councilman Benson stated that he would like for Mr. VanWinkle to give the Council a report at tonight's meeting.

As Mr. Zehnder was not present, Adm. Leach continued with **Resolution (b)** on next week's agenda that authorizes acceptance of a donation from the Benwood Foundation and the Lyndhurst Foundation in the amount of \$18,453.60 to be used for administrative costs of the Chattanooga Public Art Program. This is to pay for a part-time director.

Adm. Leach went on to say that **Resolutions (c) and (d)** are almost identical and authorize Agreements with Scenic City Aquatic Club to rent the Warner Park Swimming Pool.

Councilwoman Berz stated that the Public Art Director was a good thing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.