

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

April 21, 2009

3:30 P.M.

Councilman Rico, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order with Councilmen Benson, Berz, Robinson, Gilbert, Scott, McGary, Ladd and Murphy present. City Attorneys Michael McMahan and Phil Noblett and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Dan Johnson, Sandy Coulter, Linda Rugina, Missy Crutchfield, Greg Haynes, Paul Page, Debie Mikel, Lee Norris, Dennis Malone, Jim Templeton, Chief Williams, Jerry Stewart, David Johnson, Steve Leach, Arnold Hooper, Richard Beeland, Daisy Madison, Beverly Johnson, Barry Bennett, Dickie Hutsell, Mo Minkara, Gary Hilbert, and Chief Parker.

Adm. Leach began with tonight's agenda and asked that **Resolution (p)** be discussed first that authorizes a Professional Services Agreement with the U.S. Tennessee Valley Authority relative to Contract No. E-09-007-101, Exploratory Underwater Investigation of the Hard Edge for the 21st Century Waterfront in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. Adm. Leach explained that this is the hard edge of the 21st Century Waterfront Forensic Study. He emphasized that this was **not** the Passage, and he showed a map and the area where boats can hook up. He noted that this was a Forensic Study done with divers of TVA. He asked Gary Hilbert to go into this further.

Mr. Hilbert stated that it was just as Adm. Leach said; that they noticed some areas where there was grass in the steps and the soil was settling; that they did an investigation around the electrical boxes; that they had divers go in under the hard edge and map the piers out where the concrete edge was and elevation. This goes to the normal pool area of the river. He mentioned another concrete curtain that turns down and stated that they suspected an "eddy" effect that would wash the rip-rap and soil out, causing sediment. He stated that they would get the results of the investigation this week and share this with the Council at a later date.

Adm. Leach emphasized that this issue was not a part of the Passage but similar in nature; that Parks and Recreation had asked them to head up the contract, and they needed divers in the water, and they would bring back the results.

Councilwoman Ladd confirmed that this was work that had already been done, and this is to get them paid.

Mr. Hilbert explained that this never got to the Council agenda; that TVA won't give us their report until we pay this. He noted that they did not normally do work this way.

Resolution (b) authorizes the appointment of Scott Sargraves as special policeman (unarmed) for the City of Chattanooga Land Development Office to do special duty as prescribed, subject to certain conditions. Adm. Leach explained that this would allow one of their inspectors to be able to cite people to court. He noted that they would be unarmed.

The question arose as to what were the certain conditions. Attorney McMahan explained that this meant they had no police power; that they were unarmed; and they do not participate in the Pension Plan. Adm. Leach noted that they do actually have badges.

Resolution (e) authorizes an Interlocal Agreement with Hamilton County relative to the Planametric Photography Mapping Project for the Hamilton County GIS for 50% of the share cost in an amount not to exceed \$95,126.00. Adm. Leach explained that GIS stands for Geographical Information Systems, noting that an example would show buildings, topography and roads. He stated this was how we utilized this map, and it allows us to have Hamilton County maintain the data for us; that it is a basic tool.

Councilwoman Scott asked if we did not have this before? Adm. Leach stated that this was a continuation. Councilwoman Scott wanted to know if it were updated and how often? She was told that it is updated every two years and our part is 50% of this; that in two years the Council would be seeing this come up again.

Councilman Gilbert asked if there was any chance that the County would “renege”?

Adm. Leach responded that we are dependent upon them.

Resolutions (g) and (h) authorize Miscellaneous Sanitary Sewer Manhole Adjustments. Adm. Leach explained that we go in and pave manholes, and they have to be adjusted; that we have two of these tonight.

Councilwoman Berz asked if this was an “as needed” contract? Mr. Malone responded that it is a Miscellaneous Contract; on the first one, all projects will be “let” this year, and we are required to lower the manholes and then raise them back to grade. Councilwoman Berz asked if these were firm prices? Mr. Malone responded that they were based on unit prices. Councilwoman Berz still asked if this was a firm price? She wanted to know if we were running late if TDOT would raise the price? Mr. Malone responded that this was bid, and we do the adjustments.

Resolution (i) authorizes LaMonte P. Vaughn, Sr., on behalf of Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association, to temporarily use the rights-of-way throughout the Orchard Knob Neighborhood to install Community Sign Markers, subject to certain conditions. It was explained that these are grant recipients for multiple locations, and we do let them use our rights-of-way.

Resolutions (j) thru (o) are a series of name changes. Adm. Leach explained that this was one of the privileges that the Council had. The first one changed the right-of-way name of the 200 Block of Godsey Street to the 2800 Block of Northpoint Boulevard. There were two Godseys—old and new. Mr. Malone showed the part that we are dealing with.

Resolution (k) changes the right-of-way name of the 5100 Block of Adams Road to the 5200 Block of Wilbanks Rd. It was noted that this was “vetted” through the community. Councilwoman Ladd asked if there was any resistance? Councilman McGary wanted to know how contact is made with the neighbors about name changes? Adm. Leach responded that it is done through letters.

Resolution (l) changes the right-of-way name of the 900 Block of Frazier Circle to the 3900 Block of McDowell Street, which eliminates a conflict.

Councilman Gilbert questioned if when we change the name of the street if it also changes the address. He asked if we had any issues with this?

Debie Mikel responded that we look at this along with Hamilton County and look at the least amount of people affected by the change; that this is also 911 issues. Adm. Leach asked if we had talked to the neighborhood about this? Ms. Mikel responded that we send a letter after it is changes and also a letter beforehand if they need the neighborhood to suggest names. Councilman Gilbert asked if they had had any response on this and was told “no”.

Councilman McGary wanted to know the timeframe and was told usually 30 days; that if a name is to be chosen there is a due date.

Councilman Murphy asked if there was any opposition, whom should they contact? Ms. Mikel responded that the letter that is sent out has a name to call. Councilman Murphy wanted to know how the Council was made aware of street name changes? He stated that people could be “hopping mad” and wanted to know if they had to respond to the county? Ms. Mikel explained that she sent out e-mails to Councilmembers concerning street name changes in their district. Councilman Murphy wanted to know if any people were “hopping mad” concerning this? The answer was “no”.

Resolution (m) changes the right-of-way name of the 400 Block of E. 2nd Street to the 400 Block of Bluff View. This is near the Hunter Museum, and no one fronts on this road. Councilman McGary wanted to know if letters had been sent, with Ms. Mikel responding to the Museum only.

Resolution (n) changes the right-of-way name of the 100 Block of Spring Street to the 100 Block of Burke Lane. Something was sent to the neighbor and only one person owns property on this right-of-way, and he was agreeable.

Resolution (o) changes the right-of-way name of 7311 through 7337 Standifer Gap Road to 7314 through 7319 Courage Way. This goes northeast and Standifer Gap existed this way since the Interstate was built.

Councilwoman Berz wanted to know if when the letters go out to various districts, if the Council is given a heads-up? Ms. Mikel again stated that she sent out e-mails. Councilwoman Berz stated that if letters are sent out and signs put up, that she would really like a heads-up.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 28TH

Ordinance 6(a) is for Provident Life and Accident Ins. Co. and is a Franchise to construct and maintain a pedestrian bridge over the 100 Block of E. 5th Street and any below grade foundations as shown on the map.

Attorney Noblett had drafted this Ordinance. He was present and handed out a copy of the City Charter dealing with Franchises (which is made a part of this minute material). He explained that this was a copy of the Charter section dealing with Franchises and had been in effect since 1899. We can only do these for 40 years. He noted that Provident had gone to quite a bit of expense, and this will go for 40 years from now; that the last one was done in 2006. He explained that we consider underground facilities and easements and make sure that garbage trucks and fire trucks can get through. Adm. Leach added that there was a 17' clearance.

Councilman McGary asked what “grade foundations” meant? Attorney Noblett explained that it meant we may go under the street.

Resolution 7(c) authorizes the Mayor to submit an application to enroll certain City floodplain properties in the Floodplain Easement Program, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by signing up for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program. (EWPP). It was explained that we are buying easements to protect property; that we select properties that are non-buildable and in the floodway; that Hickory Valley was one of these. Adm. Leach called on Mo Minkara.

Mr. Minkara explained that eight (8) sites had been identified, and we were in the application process; that there was a two-week window; that we had applied for eight (8) sites across the City that are in floodways; that they consulted with Larry Zehnder, and he has approved this; that this will improve the channels and water quality. He stated that Hickory Valley was a favorite site and has been funded for permits by TDOT; that they have agreed to restore Hickory Valley Road, and this will help us to improve the area. We have acquired a construction easement and First Tee was started today. This will be leased through Parks and Recreation and all is in the floodplains. The easements are about 100 ft. The creek will be meandered to flow naturally to improve aquatic life.

Councilwoman Berz wanted to know if this would ease the flooding? Mr. Minkara responded that we would widen the channel, but it would have no positive influence on the flooding. Councilwoman Berz wanted to know if we were still looking at ways to ease this?

The next identified site was Lightfoot Mill Rd. Mr. Minkara noted that the railroad goes across this, and it is 9.38 acres. Councilman Gilbert wanted to know if this is currently in the floodplain? Adm. Leach responded “yes”—that these are all areas that flood. Councilman Gilbert stated that this would help our greenway. Mr. Minkara added that money could be used to purchase new property—that it could not be used for restoration. Councilwoman Scott confirmed that no city dollars will be used.

Mr. Minkara continued to show more sites that are in the floodplain. He mentioned the levee. Councilman Gilbert asked if this was near the school and was told “yes”—Brainerd High School.

Councilman Benson noted that these were just applications and asked if we had any hopes?

Councilman Gilbert asked if money is received if it could be used for passive park areas and was told “yes”. It just cannot be used for structures.

The next site discussed was the Chickamauga Creek area, which is all floodway around Shallowford Rd. near the cemetery. Adm. Leach added that it was near the driving ranges and Fed Ex. It is 25 acres on North Chickamauga Creek and is floodway only.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.