

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

May 19, 2009

3:20 P.M.

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

Others present included Dan Johnson, Richard Beeland, Chief Parker, Daisy Madison, Dennis Malone, Larry Zehnder, Steve Leach, Gary Hilbert, Jerry Stewart, Paul Page, Lee Norris, Debie Mikel, Eddie Tate. Bill Payne and Chief Dodd.

Adm. Leach stated that Mayor Littlefield would make a Proclamation at tonight's Council meeting observing Public Works Week. He stated that they were planning no special activities but wanted to recognize the men and women of Public Works and thank them for what they do, and they do it 365 days a year. He asked that all take note of the Proclamation.

Adm. Leach, first explained to new members of the Council that **MR** meant *Mandatory Referral*. **Ordinance (b) First Reading** is a Mandatory Referral for Bennie Parker to close and abandon the 1600 Block of Brown Street. **Ordinance (c) First Reading** is a Mandatory Referral for Ben Parker to close and abandon an unopened alley located on the south line of the 1600 Block of East 28th Street. Councilman Benson stated that he thought we had already closed this. Mr. Malone responded "not this particular piece". Adm. Leach added that these closures are subject to certain easements; that the alley is subject to Chattanooga Gas Co. only.

Resolution (c) authorizes an agreement with TCOT for State Project #33070-1228-14 from I-75 Interchange to Apison Pike at Old Lee Highway, so that the general highway program may be carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. Adm. Leach explained that we started this project 10-12 years ago; that this Project now serves Enterprise South—that we were talking about the Interchange 10 years ago—that the Interchange cannot serve just a single purpose—it will also serve McKee Bakery, where access was really minimal, and this needs a lot of improvement east to Lee Highway. This will also facilitate access to our facilities, such as the Softball Field, as well as people with McKee Bakery being able to get off of a complicated intersection. This will help us out and relieve congestion. There will be State access to our right-of-way, and we own out to the Summitt Softball facility.

Mr. Malone added that this is 100% TDOT funded.

Resolution (d) authorizes 8 Local Agency Project Agreements with TDOT for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for projects specified. Mr. Eddie Tate was present to answer questions. He thanked everyone for letting him speak. He explained that there was criteria that the City has to meet; that these are basically new projects that have to go through design; they have to be shovel-ready and go through an environmental evaluation. As far as the design part, it is a clean piece of paper as to getting funds. Everything has to go to TDOT for approval, the only new item added being a TPO approved roadway paving. This was not in their bucket, and we added this item. Mr. Tate noted that there were 8 Project Agreements, mentioning downtown signalization, the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway, and Roadway Resurfacing.

Councilman Murphy asked about the downtown signalization. Mr. Malone explained that they would upgrade and connect all of the downtown signals together—there will be new hardware. He added that the Downtown Signalization and South Chickamauga Creek had already been approved. The eligible projects are 78 miles of eligible roadway; we maintain 1200 miles. It is a requirement of ARA and 78 miles meet their requirements. The downside is that nothing local is eligible for ARA funding. He talked about a selection process and listed the criteria. We go out and inspect the roadways, and they are given a number from 0 to 100, which is traffic volume versus future traffic volume. He noted that Hickory Valley Road would have a larger volume and Volkswagen will be the primary corridor, which will increase the volume of traffic on the road.

Councilman Gilbert asked about Jersey Pike? Mr. Tate responded that they looked at this roadway but were not working on it; that they did some paving on a section of Jersey Pike. Mr. Malone added that the State forces a logical starting and stopping point; that pieces have been paved on Jersey Pike and some was disqualified. Councilman Gilbert questioned Hickory Valley. Mr. Tate explained it would go from Shallowford Rd. to Bonny Oaks. Councilman Benson asked about the Bridge and Railroad? Mr. Tate explained that this had to be a Federal Highway request; that we had sidewalks but did not have an ADA ramp; there are different requirements for signage, and we would have to upgrade. He explained that this is determined by TDOT—that they provide us with a checklist and the crossing at Hickory Valley had some upgrade under TDOT, and we did not have to do any upgrade.

Councilman Gilbert noted that with the traffic on Bonny Oaks and Hickory Valley Rd., one would have to deal with trains, which will limit the traffic flow. Mr. Tate responded that TDOT's stance was that this was recently upgraded. Bill Payne added that this was under the Hamilton County Railroad Authority—they won't be crossing Hickory Valley. Councilman Gilbert still asked about Jersey Pike? Mr. Payne agreed that Jersey Pike would be impacted. Councilman Benson mentioned a bad curve with wrecks.

Mr. Tate continued, stating that we would continue with the signage with the State (TDOT) and had an estimated cost based on what we submitted early on; that there were a lot of requests after our list of requests was made; that they were working on updated requests.

Mr. Malone noted that MPO awarded \$7 million dollars, and we got \$3.1 million of this; that everyone was vying for the same dollars, and we were on an equal footing with East Ridge and Red Bank; however we did end up with 45% of the funding.

Councilman Gilbert asked about an area of Shallowford Rd.? Mr. Norris responded that that would be a long time in the future. Mr. Malone added that there were no plans nor design.

Councilwoman Scott stated that this was very intriguing and goes back to our infrastructure piece; that she liked the fact of a selection process and thought they were saying major arterial roads and not neighborhood roads, which should open up money for an opportunity to fund more neighborhood roads; that this would be a way to get to the objective to improve our infrastructure.

Councilman Murphy asked if there was a list of the roads?

Mr. Malone explained that we would contract for the work to be done with \$1.6 million dollars for paving; that there are other stipulations in looking at \$3 million dollars to do all the contracts; that we were continuing to whittle down the list.

Councilman Murphy wanted to know where the list was?

Councilman Benson indicated that the Council needed this list tonight to show where money is being put on Hickory Valley and other places.

Councilman McGary asked if the complete list was utilized?

Mr. Malone explained that these are just pavement re-surfacing; that we can't do widening with this money; that we might get some bike lanes in the utilization.

Adm. Leach stated that his Staff would be available this evening.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 26, 2009

Ordinance First Reading (d) is a closure and abandonment for Mark Jackson of an unopened alley located in the north line of the 900 Block of Crutchfield Street. Councilman Murphy wanted to know the status of the alley and was told it is unopened.

Resolutions (a) and (b) corrects the number sequence of streets, and we have seen these street changes before. Resolution (a) is a re-adjustment of addresses on Hamill Rd. in Hixson. The second Resolution is in the Lee Highway area and is a correction.

Resolution (e) authorizes a contract with Volkswagen to provide on-site fire protection with all related costs being fully paid by Volkswagen. Chief Parker was present to cover this, and Chairman Rico handed the gavel over to Councilwoman Ladd, who is Chairman of the Safety Committee. She called on Chief Parker.

Chief Parker explained that we had been in discussions with Volkswagen about an outside Fire Dept. We may do it in inside plant and staff it with city employees; however this needs Council approval. There have been discussions about cost analysis and the Mayor was given permission to enter into an Agreement to pursue options. This is really in the early stages, but they wanted to get permission from the Council.

Councilwoman Scott asked when it says “all costs” does this mean “all costs”?

Chief Parker responded that all of this has been factored in.

Ms. Madison explained in saying “all costs” it means all indirect costs for employees.

Councilwoman Scott asked who the employees would report to? Chief Parker responded that they would be City of Chattanooga employees; that at some point there would have to be a transition and some of the language is written into the contract; that they would have to come back for Council approval before this is finalized.

Councilman Murphy stated that this struck him as strange and wanted to know if there would be any liability that we would face? Chief Parker responded that any liability would be the responsibility of the contractor. Attorney McMahan added that there would be some exclusions such as a provision for services for the Plant and employees. He went on to say that this was part of the original Volkswagen Project, and the question arose as to who would man it—they or us?

Ms. Madison agreed that they had these discussions and were making sure the contract language clearly addressed this; that we might need to buy additional insurance.

Councilman McGary asked if this was in the 2010 and 2011 Budget?

Chief Parker explained that it would not happen before the 2010 Budget; that there are some provisions for at least one person as a liaison and Volkswagen would reimburse us; that we are working toward this goal and working out details; that we needed a year before the Plant opens in 2011.

Councilwoman Robinson wanted to know where these workers will be in so far as working space and equipment? Chief Parker stated that this was covered in the original contract, and there is a limit on equipment; that computers and workspace will be handled by Volkswagen, and we will provide the staffing. Councilwoman Robinson asked if there was a fire in the area near the Volkswagen Plant, and it was off-site, if this equipment would be available to take off the Volkswagen site? Chief Parker responded that it would be available for calls around there. If there was a need for prolonged apparatus, say 8-10 hours, we would stage the equipment in the area; that inside equipment would remain on-site.

Councilwoman Scott asked if this had ever been done for any other entity? She wanted to know if this option would be made available for others? Councilman Rico jokingly said “yes—if they build a billion dollar plant”!

Councilman Benson noted that we had a reason to put a unit up there before Volkswagen. Attorney McMahan agreed that there is one. Chief Parker stated that it was outside the plant, and we are willing to provide in-plant; that we had never done this before but were looking at this.

Councilwoman Scott wanted to know if this had ever been done in any other city? Chief Parker responded that he could not answer this; that he could research it.

STREET ADDRESSING—DEBIE MIKEL

Adm. Leach stated that Ms. Mikel would give a short presentation on addressing.

Ms. Mikel stated that she was a Technical Manager for Public Works; that she worked with the Engineering Dept. and headed up the Mapping Dept.; that she also supported technical projects. She stated that her other job was working with addressing and that she was the liaison with Hamilton County. She welcomed new members of the Council, stating that she wanted to give them a briefing and some history. She mentioned Resolutions that were passed in 1997 that adopted street numbering and created uniform addressing; that in 2005, they did a formal Memo of Understanding with Hamilton County, which takes a lot of staff; that the Hamilton County staff does letters and research and that the City and County work together as a team. She stated that the County serves as a Service Provider to the City; that they take base maps to make sure

everything is uniform, and there are no duplicate streets; that the County is the front-line communication with owners. The City also has communication with the Assessors Office and 911, and we work with utility companies. She mentioned the difficulty if 911 tries to get somewhere and can't find the address.

She next went through the process. She stated that everything was reviewed with her as the City Liaison; that the County does letters to select new street names and sends out letters; that if the addressing is correct, they notify the neighbors, and we approve it through the City Engineer. The City gets the Council approval and a Resolution is prepared and citizens are advised. Utility companies are also notified. At this point, she showed a copy of the brochure that goes out. We have to post addresses and give recommendations that citizens contact their banks, and they get a year to make the changes; that citizens contact their post office. She showed a copy of the letter that goes out to every resident. She stated that where the access is, that is where the street number should be.

Councilman Murphy stated that a lot of his constituents have driveways off back roads and alleys, and their mailbox is on a different road. He asked about the priority.

Ms. Mikel responded that we have named alleys, and we do address people off of alleys.

Mr. Payne mentioned vehicle access and an actual way to access from the front; that property may have a back alley but there could be a 40' to 50' bluff and vehicles would have access from a different street; that it might be pedestrian only.

Ms. Mikel stated that they named the portion of the road that would affect the least amount of residents. She added that we don't name streets for deceased people and if they are living, we can just use one of their names.

Councilman Benson mentioned the 1998 Ordinance concerning addressing the North Crest side. Lee Norris explained that the Historical Dept. looks at those properties on the Historical Register, and this takes precedent—that the oldest takes precedent; that we have to look at these on a case-by-case basis and add common sense.

At this point, Ms. Mikel showed a map that goes out with the letter to the utility companies; that they look at the whole block range and need a four-digit address; that 911 needs to have a consistent block range.

Councilwoman Robinson wanted to know how long it takes GIS to update? Ms. Mikel responded within a week. Mr. Payne added that any parcel changes go to the Assessor's Office, and they update quarterly.

Councilwoman Scott asked if this included any wills registered with the property? Ms. Mikel responded that parcels get new addresses, which would go on any legal document. To answer Councilwoman Scott's question, Mr. Norris responded "no". Ms. Mikel added that this would be up to the person. Adm. Leach stated that there would be a legal description. Councilman Murphy stated that he thought Councilwoman Scott's concern was that a Will would say what and where the address is in a Deed; that this would be governed by the intent of the testator.

Ms. Mikel mentioned that they put signs saying "Private Drive".

Chairman Rico thanked Ms. Mikel for her presentation.

Adm. Leach added that we see a lot of changes and a lot of issues; that they did not do this carelessly, and the changes were merited; that it was never easy.

TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER CO.—KIM DALTON

Ms. Dalton of the Water Company was present. She thanked the Council for allowing them to come and allowing them to update and meet with the members to provide open communication. She expressed her appreciation to Chairman Rico and turned the meeting over to **John Watson**, President of Tennessee American Water Co.

Mr. Watson stated that he was President of the Tennessee American Water Co., and he also thanked Chairman Rico. He stated that his team and himself were pleased to be here and would like to come back on a regular basis. He introduced Mark Senati, Monty Bishop, Susan Holmes, Rachel Bartley, and Kim Dalton, whom everyone knew. Mr. Watson stated that he would give the Council some basic facts about their company and extended the invitation for Councilmembers to tour their facility and see how the water service comes from the River and goes to our taps. He stated that he would be glad to host a tour.

He stated that Tennessee American Water has a legacy of serving Chattanooga for 140 years, and they were proud of their heritage; that they were the oldest business in the city and the largest facility in the County. He stated that he would touch on the quality of water; that they were in full compliance with the State; had never had a water violation; and received recognition as a participant in EPA Partnership for Safe Water Director's Award for 10 straight years; that only 22 in the entire country had received this award for ten years. He went on to say that they did daily testing to monitor for changes and water quality was their number one job.

Mr. Watson showed a map where their service areas were “shaded” in. This includes six counties and nine municipalities, with eleven smaller water providers around us. He stated that they were called to provide assistance weekly.

He stated that it takes 39 million gallons of water to serve our customers; 56 million gallons on a hot day; and 64 million gallons was the highest in 1978. He mentioned 143 billion gallons to customers since 1999, and the impact that losing industry can have and also very hot summers have an impact. As well as losing industry, customers are using less water than in the past.

Mr. Watson went over the actual monthly rate as compared to investment, stating that they invested on an annual basis. The total rate increases for 13 years has been \$5.03 a month and this is the lowest utility bill that customers pay each month. He stated that their rates were competitive and tap water is less than \$.01 as compared to \$1.50 of bottle water.

He stated that they all understood the impact of working with the City, as well as road construction. He mentioned fire hydrant replacement and water main relocation. They also bill and collect sewer fees for the City. He talked about watershed monitoring of Tennessee River water quality and working in growth and business development in the community and the \$1 million dollars spent to remove and replace water mains.

Mr. Watson stated that they value investing in our community and do support this community; that they worked with Junior Achievement and were a sponsor for the Tennessee Aquarium Educational Outreach Program; that they had also been involved with United Way for 70 years and provided customer open houses. He stated that he had served as a Board Member for the Chamber of Commerce and that Kim Dalton was here each week and participated in Council district meetings; that Kim had been to Councilman Benson’s meeting some weeks back.

He thanked the Council for their time, stating that he was looking forward to taking them on a tour and asked that they feel free to call him or to e-mail him.

Councilman McGary asked about taxes. Mr. Watson stated that they paid Hamilton County property taxes of \$1.7 million dollars; \$990,000 in City taxes; that they were the 5th largest taxpayer in Hamilton County and paid \$267,000 in excise taxes to the State and also paid Federal Income taxes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.