

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 18, 2011
3:35 P.M.

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

Others present included Johnny Feagans, Dan Johnson, Karen Rennich, Danny Thornton, Jerry Stewart, Steve Leach, Lee Norris, Tony Boyd, John Van Winkle, Dennis Malone, David Johnson, Daisy Madison, Beverly Johnson, Larry Zehnder, Jana Lowery, Fire Marshall, Bill Payne and Dickie Hutsell. Gary Hilbert, Ron Swafford, Mayor Littlefield and Chief Dodd joined the meeting later.

On motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman McGary, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Adm. Leach stated that **Resolution (c)** would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

He proceeded to **Resolution (e)** that authorizes the appointment of D. Stacy Morrison as a special unarmed officer for the Public Works Dept. This gives this person the ability to cite to court.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 25, 2011

Resolutions (a), (b) and (c) all involve TDOT Grants. Adm. Leach stated that the Council had seen these before. The first one is for improvements on Brainerd Road from the Brainerd Levee to Eastgate Loop Road. The second one is for improvements on Manufacturers Road and Hamm Road from U.S. Highway 27 to Moccasin Bend Visitor Center. The third one is on Highway 58 from Webb Road to Murray Hills Drive. Adm. Leach stated that Dennis Malone would go through these; that they were due on November 1st, and they had to prioritize these three with the State.

Mr. Malone stated that these were basically the same as last year, when we received no Grant money; that we are resubmitting again this year; that there is \$12 million dollars statewide, and the possibility of us getting more than one is doubtful; however we are going to submit all three, and he again went over the locations.

Councilwoman Scott asked if he could give the Council a ballpark figure in terms of dollars for each of these three—that she knew it was an 80-20 split. Mr. Malone responded that Brainerd and Manufacturers Rd. would be around \$1.5 million; that Highway 58 would be \$2.7 million total.

Councilman Gilbert asked which one they worked on first? Mr. Malone responded that they had funds for Phase I on Highway 58, which approved to go with the design, and they were moving ahead on this.

Councilman Benson stated that he heard him mention design features. He asked if there were any designs on the shelf? Mr. Malone responded “no”. Councilman Benson asked if there were no designs waiting on funding—that often we were not “shovel-ready”? He asked if we ever lost anything by not being “shovel-ready”? Mr. Malone responded that we had **not** lost anything; that to do anything in advance, we would have to do it 100% upfront. Councilman Benson asked him if that meant “no”, we were not designing in advance? Mr. Malone indicated that they would be willing to do this if the Council put forth funds.

Councilwoman Berz stated that all three were worthy projects. She asked if the Council had to decide, today, which one to pursue? She indicated that this would politicize the issue—that Manufacturers Rd. was a good project and Brainerd Rd. was also good—that we were going ahead with Highway 58 Phase I. She reiterated that all three are worthy and questioned why the Council had to decide which one. She asked if Public Works would not give a recommendation? Adm. Leach agreed that all three have merit and went over each one, describing their merits; that from the Staff’s point of view, it was a toss-up.

Councilwoman Berz stated that she thought it was bad form for the Council to decide which one—that all are good and the Council making the decision would politicize this. Adm. Leach stated that Administration could make the decision, with Councilwoman Berz stating “or just a recommendation”. Adm. Leach stated that their recommendation was the order they appeared on the agenda.

Councilman McGary asked if we voted for (a), if (b) and (c) would disappear? Mr. Payne explained if the Council did not pass the other two, they would not submit them; that as it stands, all three will be submitted; that getting a Resolution passed before this Council is a requirement that has to be included in the package. Councilman McGary asked if all three would be submitted for funding? Mr. Payne explained that they would all be submitted, but we do have to prioritize.

Councilwoman Scott pointed out that Resolution (b) was in her district and asked if any redesign was going on with this? She asked if they could tell us what TDOT’s plans are for this road repair and if the road repair could be divorced from this project? Mr. Payne noted that TDOT had plans for this project; that they were opening bids later this month and should be ready to go in January; that if we don’t get these enhancements, it will not change anything specifically; that some accommodations will be made on the front end. She asked if the two could be separated and was told “yes”.

Councilman Gilbert asked Mr. Malone if we would apply for these again next year. He responded “yes”. He asked if they would go with the lowest priced one first? Mr. Malone responded that it depended on the availability of funds; that they might go with \$1.5 million over a \$2.7 million project.

Resolution (d) authorizes application for a Grant from TDEC for an “Educational Trail for Friar Branch Stream Restoration Project”, in the amount of \$72,917, along with matching funds from Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program in the amount of \$4,876 and the City’s matching funds of \$13,353. Mr. Payne showed an outline of Friar Branch and the 1st Tee Facility. He explained that this would be an educational trail for people to walk on; that this was conceptual and subject to review. He explained that we don’t have this opportunity very often of 80% for the project and a 5% match from TSMP and a 15% match from the City in the way of Water Quality Fees. Councilman McGary asked when talking about such projects, overall how did it affect how much we could be fined? Mr. Payne explained that this was part of the MS-4 Permit, and this does not affect future fines; that this is included in annual reporting.

Resolution (e) authorizes to accept funds from Wise Construction, LLC in the amount of \$5,108 and to execute a Partnership Agreement for the 201 Cherokee Boulevard Streetscaping Project. Mr. Malone explained that Wise was contracting the streetscaping, including two “ped lights”; that this amount will purchase two of these lights.

Resolutions (g) through (k) are street name changes and Adm. Leach asked Bill Payne to go through these quickly. Mr. Payne noted that there are several—that we bring these forward once a year. The first one changes the name of the 4000 Block of Dodson Ave. to the 2300 Block of Harrison Pike. He stated that five or six would be affected by this name change. Councilman Gilbert asked if it would affect Old Harrison Pike and was told “no”. **Resolution (h)** is in Lookout Valley. This street is cut in two by Interstate I-24; 16 residents will be on the renamed street (Centerview Lane). Mr. Payne noted that one person had contacted them—a Mr. Gilley. **Resolution (i)** changes the name of Spring Street to E. 2nd Street. This is in the Bluffview District. Mr. Payne noted that we have multiple Spring Streets in the city. Councilwoman Robinson asked if there was any feedback from the owners, and the answer was “no”. Councilman McGary noted that owners appeared before the Council on this issue at an earlier date; that he understood this was a housekeeping issue but wanted to know where the confusion is coming from. Mr. Payne explained that the street sign says Spring Street, and there are 10 or 12 people involved; that there is confusion, and they felt it best to extend this to E. 2nd St.

Resolution (j) changing 2nd St. to Aquarium Way between Power Alley and Riverside Drive came up from the Bluffview issue, and the question was asked why this could not be 2nd Street. It was noted that only one business is affected. Councilwoman Berz asked if this is a straight street and all of it is 2nd Street, why take a segment and call it something else? Mr. Payne responded that the one answering calls can’t get there by staying on 2nd Street.

Councilwoman Robinson noted that going back to Riverside Drive Ramp, there is a problem turning left. Mr. Malone stated that it was prohibited. Mr. Payne stated that he thought you could turn left now. Chief Dodd agreed, stating that it was dangerous, but you could do it. Councilman McGary asked that people be contacted about this change.

Resolution (k) changes the street name from W. Marlboro Ave. to S. Tuxedo Ave. It was noted that this does not affect residents.

At this point, Adm. Leach went back to **Resolution (c)** on tonight's agenda that authorizes an Interlocal Agreement with the City of East Ridge and the City of Red Bank for the City of Chattanooga to provide traffic signal equipment maintenance services and traffic signal timing management services. He stated that John Van Winkle wanted to make a short presentation.

Mr. Van Winkle stated that he thought this was a good opportunity to let the Council know where we stand with ITS—that we are making good progress; that the federal dollars have been spent very well for a signal system, stating that he would go over different phases. The first phase is CDB Signalization, costing \$1.5 million dollars with no city dollars involved. The second phase is the original ITS Design, which allows us communication with all at \$2.5 million dollars. He explained that we got this money during the first construction phase, mentioned an arterial upgrade of \$7.4 million, noting that all of this is a laborious process. He stated that by the end of the year, we should be under construction. He then presented a map giving a summary of what is going on, noting an update in the 1980's, which is now out of date. He stated that we were working on timing, using EPB fiber optics and extending them. He showed what was not coordinated at all and an opportunity to adjust timing, noting that TDOT is very interested in this. It is an opportunity to use the latest advancements and is catching on across the country.

Councilman McGary thanked Mr. Van Winkle for this update. He stated that his question concerned an understanding of looking into the signalization upgrade to make sure that people have timers. He wanted to know if this was part of this? Mr. Van Winkle responded that this was totally separated; that we had a few on an "as requested" basis; that it cost money, and we can have only so many a year; that there was one at 4th Street at Walnut at one time; that we will do something as funding becomes available. Chairman Rico asked that Mr. Van Winkle finish his presentation, as we had people waiting for another meeting. He assured him that he was almost through.

Mr. Van Winkle proceeded with his presentation, showing what was done in the downtown area—a mesh network Fiber System. He stated that we were working with the IS Department on this for a central control system. He talked about the communication scheme and Traffic Signal Cabinet, noting that there were a few tweaks to do yet. He went on to System Testing, which is a new type of product and Signal Timing, ending with what is upcoming for 118 Intersections. He asked for questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.