

AGENDA (WORK) SESSION

June 2, 2009

3:00 P.M.

Chairman Benson called the Agenda (Work) Session to order with Councilpersons Scott, Rico, Berz, Gilbert, Ladd and Robinson present. Councilman Murphy joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present include Richard Beeland, Dan Johnson, Larry Zehnder, Paul Page, Mark Keil, Gary Hilbert, Dennis Malone, Jerry Stewart, Chief Parker, Lee Norris, Greg Haynes, Beverly Johnson and Daisy Madison.

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order and asked that Mr. Johnson make himself available for next week's agenda; that councilpersons could ask questions now; that some had said it was a waste of time to go over this again at tonight's Council meeting, and he wanted to honor this point.

Mr. Johnson proceeded to go over the agenda, stating that we had already discussed the two Ordinances on final reading, and they had been voted on last week.

Ordinance (a) First Reading adds an Audit Committee and is making its way back. Chairman Benson asked that comments be reserved on this until Councilman Murphy is present.

Ordinance (b) concerns the Interim Budget for three months and was discussed last week.

Ordinance (c) appropriates \$4,500,000 from the General Fund reserves due to a shortfall in project revenues for the current fiscal year and is new. Mr. Johnson explained that this is regulated by State law.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she had e-mailed Ms. Madison concerning this.

Ms. Madison explained that this is the first time we have ever done this; that if our estimated amounts of revenue are less than we thought they would be (because of the economic setback), we are required to do an amendment to the Budget if it is determined that expenditures can't be reduced enough; to use the reserves, they had to get authorization from the Council. She stated that \$4,500,000 was two times as much as she hoped was needed; that items will come in at the end of the fiscal year that we might not necessarily be aware of, and she wanted to make sure we have enough room.

Mr. Johnson added that we were in very good shape with our reserves.

Ms. Madison noted that we had \$40 million in reserves. Chairman Benson added that in 2001 our reserves were only \$26 million and now it was \$40 million.

Councilwoman Scott verified that this would cover us until July 1st and asked if Ms. Madison was saying it would cover us a month beyond that?

Ms. Madison responded that it would cover us through June 30th and activity during June does not come in until July.

Councilwoman Scott noted that we were continuing the Budget for three months and asked Ms. Madison if she anticipated having a need to go back into the reserves into six months of the next year?

Ms. Madison responded “no”—that we always adjust expenditures to equate with the revenue; that we were only using the reserves as a one-time type capital.

Councilwoman Scott asked if we approve the \$4.5 million dollars to cover our cost overrun, were we still looking at a certain amount of money to balance next year?

Ms. Madison responded that next year stands on its own; that we will have to adjust for the fiscal year 09-10.

Chairman Benson mentioned the frantic spending that sometimes happens at the last of the budget year in order for departments to close out their budgets.

Ms. Madison noted that even with some frantic spending, it will be remedied; that we have a Contingency Plan for six months.

Mr. Norris added that Public Works never does “frantic” spending.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she saw something “crawl” across her television that said that the Mayor hopes to have the Budget approved by the end of June.

Ms. Madison responded that she did not think this would happen; that the County Finance people were discussing delaying their Budget because of appeals due to re-assessment, and we don’t have a certified tax rate from the County, and it will be June 30th before they have this, and we can’t pass a Budget without a certified tax rate.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the appraisals had been out quite some time and asked if people were still challenging this? Ms. Madison responded “more so than in the past”.

Mr. Johnson noted that then the County has to send this to Nashville.

At this point, Councilman Murphy had joined the meeting, and Chairman Benson asked him to speak to **Ordinance 6(a)** establishing an Audit Committee and procedures for the City Council Auditor. Councilman Murphy stated that he thought we would vote on this tonight. Chairman Benson asked him to “capsule” what it means. Councilman Murphy responded that we adapted Councilwoman Scott’s amendments to his draft, and this is what we would be voting on; that everyone was here last week, and we had put this off another week to let Attorney McMahan incorporate the changes. Chairman Benson asked if anyone needed a “capsule”. No one responded, and the meeting moved on.

Mr. Johnson continued with **Resolution (a)** which enters into an agreement with Waterhouse Public Relations relative to recycling. He stated that this would be discussed in the Public Works committee.

Resolution (b) authorizes special policemen for the Chattanooga Police Dept. These are not sworn officers and have to be approved this way.

Resolution (c) authorizes an agreement with Franklin Associates Architects, Inc. for the design of the Enterprise South Fire Station and will be discussed in Safety Committee.

Resolution (d) authorizes a contract to GR Industrial to re-roof the Police Annex Building and Service Center and was discussed last week. Mr. Johnson stated that this had been in the Capital Budget for a number of years.

Resolution (e) authorizes an agreement with Norfolk Southern to conduct preliminary engineering services relative to a proposed trail under the South Chickamauga Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Resolution (f) is a temporary use and will be discussed in Public Works committee.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR JUNE 9, 2009

Mr. Johnson stated that we had seen **Ordinance (a) and (b) Final Reading** before.

Ordinance 6(a) relative to the regulation of nightclubs we have seen before and will be discussed again in Legal and Legislative Committee next week. Councilman Murphy stated that he doubted we would be voting on this—that this will be a fact finding session as Public Works is going to paint a “stripe” down 10th St. showing 250 ft. up to 1000 ft.; that some people did not know what 1,000 ft. would look like. He stated that this would be a fact finding session; that this was not ready and was still in draft form.

Ordinance 6(b) relative to Special Gathering Permits will be discussed at next week’s Legal and Legislative Committee, and Councilman Murphy stated that we should be ready to vote on this.

Ordinance 6(c) amends the Zoning Ordinance as to definitions. Chairman Benson noted that this needed to be cleared up. Attorney McMahan stated that they would take out several phrases. Mr. Johnson asked if this would alter the heading and was told “yes”.

Ordinance (d) thru (f) are zoning matters. **Ordinance (g)** is also a zoning matter as are **Ordinances (h) thru (j)**.

Resolution (a) authorizes a Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga for a reading initiative in the amount of \$20,000 for the Unbroken Youth Initiative and “What’s Going On?”

Resolutions (b) through (e) are Public Works items.

Resolution (f) authorizes a Professional Services Contract with Asset Property Disposition, Inc. for the utilization of the City’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. Mr. Johnson explained that we would hire someone to design and manage; that this would be tagged on to the Safety Committee if needs be.

Councilwoman Scott asked if this was a match. Beverly Johnson stated that no match was needed.

Resolutions (g) and (h) are Tennessee Temple University PUD’s. Barry Bennett could be contacted for further explanation.

Resolution (i) authorizes a sponsorship from AT&T in the amount of \$50,000.00 for “Think & Draw and Talk About It” booklets and the “What’s Going On?” Reading Program. Councilwoman Robinson asked what department was slated to receive this? Mr. Johnson stated that it was Education, Arts and Culture. Councilwoman Robinson asked if this should not appear in the heading? Attorney McMahan stated that he would handle this.

Mr. Johnson stated that there were two purchases and that he had e-mailed the backup. The first was for Public Works and was a blanket contract for the purchase of lumber from East Brainerd Lumber Co. at an estimated annual cost of \$11,633.94. The second purchase was for the Fire Dept. and was a blanket contract for the purchase of Fire Fighters Uniforms from Apparel Sewn Right at an estimated annual cost of \$60,948.10.

Chairman Benson mentioned a letter of complaint from East Ridge. Mr. Johnson explained that they were not the lowest bidder; that everything was handled right.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned one Board Appointment to OMA—David C. Brown.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

