

AGENDA SESSION

August 31, 2010

3:00 P.M.

Chairman Rico called the meeting of the agenda session to order with Councilpersons Scott, Benson, Ladd, Gilbert and Robinson present. Councilman Murphy joined the meeting later. Councilwoman Berz was out of town. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Gene Hyde, John Van Winkle, Carolyn Johnson, Joachim Volz, Lee Norris, Steve Leach, Richard Beeland, Bill Payne, Dan Johnson, Dennis Malone, Dickie Hutsell, Jim Templeton, Alice Canneli, Larry Zehnder, and Capt. Snyder. Chief Parker, Randy Ray, Randy Burns and Daisy Madison joined the meeting later.

Mr. Johnson proceeded to go over agenda items, noting the Final Reading on the first two ordinances and also the first reading on **Ordinance (a)** had already been discussed in Public Works.

Resolution (a) deals with an agreement with Friends of the Zoo for the lease and management of the Chattanooga Zoo at Warner Park. It was explained that this is the Lease portion and the amendment to the Loan will come next week. Councilman Benson wanted to know what we were doing—that he needed more detail. Attorney McMahan stated that he would get Crystal Freiberg over here to discuss this further.

Resolution (b) relates to Driver Training classes and increases the amount and will be discussed in Public Works. Mr. Johnson stated that this was a good thing.

Resolution © authorizes a Change Order relative to engineering services with Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc. and will be discussed further in Public Works.

Resolution (d) is a temporary usage for Donna McConnico and will be discussed in Public Works.

Resolution (e) relates to a SAFER Grant for the Fire Dept. from FEMA and will be used to hire 27 firefighters. It will pay for two years of salary and the City will cover the third year. Councilwoman Scott asked the percentage of the match and was told there is no match. She asked if this was budgeted out of the Operating Budget? Chief Parker stated that the City would pay nothing the first two years. She asked if we did not get this Grant, would the money for this have been in the Operating Budget? Chief Parker responded that these are new positions—that we would lose some to attrition; had lost two to Volkswagen, and this was six months out. She wanted to know if this Grant is received, would it take a budgeted amount down? Chief Parker stated that this Grant could only be used for this purpose.

Councilman Benson wanted to know if we would be locked in for these 27 positions after the two years are up? Chief Parker stated that we would work through attrition; that after two years, these positions could be terminated. Councilman Benson stated that after two years, we might still have to increase the number by 15 people—that this was still a gamble.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that there was one variable—when Chief Parker chooses to have an Academy. Chief Parker indicated that this is a short window—that if we get this Grant, it will be awarded in the spring.

Mr. Johnson stated that this is two-year funding for 27 people, who would have to be replaced anyway.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she agreed with this but still wanted to know if we had planned for funding for these positions and budgeted for them—then if we got the Grant, would we have money left over? Chief Parker assured that this was just additional staffing and would not free up any money.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Resolution (a) authorizes Parks and Recreation to accept a grant in the amount of \$27,900.00 to support enhanced student achievement through Lottery for Education. This has been in St. Elmo for the last three years and is supported by the State. Councilwoman Scott asked if this could be afforded to any other areas? Mr. Zehnder explained that St. Elmo initiated this on their own, and it helps cover our cost. She asked if other areas could apply for this, too, and Mr. Zehnder responded that he would have to look into this—that it takes a lot of work.

Resolutions (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) are all Public Works' related.

Resolution (h) expresses the City Council's support for the expansion of the National Park boundaries in the vicinity of Missionary Ridge and will be explained in Legal and Legislative Committee.

Mr. Johnson covered the one purchase that would be on tonight's agenda, noting that it was for technology that we don't have.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.