

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE
COMMISSION MEETING**

Record of Minutes of Regular **Meeting Date** April 27, 2015 **Sheet No. 1 of 5**

A regular meeting of the Etowah City Commission was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, Tennessee. Members present were; Mayor Burke Garwood, Vice-Mayor David James, Commissioner Jim Bull, and Commissioner Jason Cardin, Commissioner Jim Swayne was absent. Also present were City Manager Matthew Gravley, Recording Secretary Eva Valentine, and Finance Director Rebecca Penney.

Mayor Burke Garwood called the meeting to order followed by Commissioner Jim Bull leading the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Bull and seconded by Commissioner Jason Cardin to approve the previous minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday, March 23, 2015, the motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

NEW BUSINESS

(a.) Consideration and First Reading of Ordinance 771

ORDINANCE # 771

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITION FOR
PERMANENT FOUNDATIONS OF RESIDENTIAL
STRUCTURES IN THE
CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE**

Mayor Garwood conducted an overview of Ordinance 771 and Commissioner Jim Bull made a motion to approve Ordinance 771 and Commissioner Jason Cardin seconded the motion and motion carried with a unanimous Commission vote.

(b.) New Ambulance Donation

Fire Captain Blake Wood reported to the Commission the arrival of the donated 1998 Dodge Ambulance/Truck that will be rehabbed as a Mobile Service Unit.

(c.) 125TH Anniversary Celebration

Mayor Garwood reminded everyone of the upcoming 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Etowah Depot.

(d.) Depot Park Renovation

Community Development Director Chris Ingram reported the Historical Society is raising funds to update the Caboose located at the Etowah Depot. It will be sand-blasted and painted with automotive grade paint. The roof will be painted white to reflect the heat more efficiently.

(e.) Landscaping of Walking Trail at Depot

Chris Ingram and Public Works Director Billy Ingram reported that several trees along the downtown walking trail have been marked with yellow caution tape to be removed if anyone would like to see. A stump grinder will be used to clear all the remaining stumps and additional topsoil will be added to improve drainage. The Commission will also receive a complete landscaping plan for the walking trail.

(f.) TN Avenue Beautification Update

Chris Ingram announced the City will be purchasing 29 new 22” hanging baskets for the downtown light poles with water reservoirs and fiberglass liners. Sonya Harper representing the Etowah Garden Club asked for clarification of the role the Garden Club would be playing in the Downtown Beautification Project regarding the existing pots the Garden Club had previously been responsible for. She stated the Club had not been consulted and had solicited funds for the past two years from the City and had not received any support. She also stated she felt the pots in the downtown area had not been watered last year and the Garden Club did not want to invest in the plantings if they were not being watered. Mayor Garwood commented that communication had not been ideal but that Directors Chris Ingram and Brian Silber would be in touch with them to ensure the success of this project.

(g.) Review of Success of Sparkle Week

Director of Public Works, Billy Ingram expressed his appreciation for all the support and participation of the Mayor and several City employees in the project. He reported that 80 bags of garbage had been picked up during this one day of a unified effort by the City. He also reported the Grapple Truck had picked up 20 tons delivered to the landfill cost free to the City. This was approximately three times the normal delivery.

Ms. Sandy Moore with “Keep McMinn Beautiful” announced that Etowah was Number 1 in Volunteers and appreciated all the help and support received for this special event. She stated she is planning another one for this fall.

(h.) Update on Splash Pad

City Manager, Matthew Gravley reported the state had requested additional information and we had responded back to them and we should receive approval by the end of the week and should be able to post a solicitation for bids soon.

(i.) Presentation of Bids for Demo of Structure Located at 1200 Ohio Avenue

Community Development Director, Chris Ingram recommended the lowest bid from “Hamilton Environmental Services” be awarded the demo project.

Commissioner Jim Bull made a motion to award the bid to Hamilton Environmental Services and Commissioner Jason Cardin seconded the motion and motion carried with a unanimous commission vote.

(j.) Introduction of New Arts Commission Director-Pat Armstrong

Community Development Director, Chris Ingram introduced Pat Armstrong as the new Arts Commission Director.

(k.) Friends of Library Yard Sale Announcement

Etowah Carnegie Library Director, Lara Crockett announced the Friends of the Library will be having an event to help celebrate the One Hundred Year Anniversary of our library at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 at the Etowah Senior Center. Dr. Lynn Stepp, an author from Johnson City, TN who has written several books, one of which is "Making Miracles" based in the Smoky Mountains will be speaking. There will also be a group there called "Harmony and Grits" who will be playing their dulcimers.

She also announced the "Friends of the Library" will be having a yard sale on Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th at 816 Tennessee Avenue.

(l.) Schedule Special Called Meeting for City Manager Evaluation and Contract

There was a consensus by the Commission to schedule a Special Called Meeting for the City Managers Annual evaluation and contract for Thursday, May 7th, 2015.

(m.) Consideration and Passage of Resolution 1137

RESOLUTION NO. 1137

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE, RESPECTFULLY INVITING AND URGING THE
HONORABLE BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF TENNESSEE TO
ATTEND AND SPEAK AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CARNEGIE LIBRARY ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2015.**

Mayor Burke read Resolution 1137, and Commissioner Jason Cardin made a motion to approve the Resolution and Vice-Mayor David James seconded the motion and motion carried with a unanimous Commission vote.

OLD BUSINESS

a) None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager, Matthew Gravley reported the Surplus Auction was a success and resulted in a net profit of approximately \$22,000.00 for the City.

Mr. Gravley requested the Commissioners consider placing the funds from the Surplus Auction into the Capital Projects Fund.

He also reported he had attended the TCMA conference last week and that he had submitted the City of Etowah for the "Excellence of Municipal Government Award", and that he had been submitted as a candidate for "City Manager of the Year Award".

HEARING OF PERSONS HAVING BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Matthew Crisp, of Etowah presented a petition to the City requesting restructuring and repairs be made to the Athens Pike and Pennsylvania Avenue. Mayor Garwood acknowledged receipt of petition.

Bill Freeman, of 600 Athens Pike came before the Commission following upon their request of funds for the Fourth of July Committee. City Manager Gravley acknowledged receipt of the request and was in process.

Mr. Freeman also requested guidance on the new "Guns in the Parks" Resolution. Mayor Garwood suggested Mr. Freeman tape over the "firearms" section of the sign.

Mr. Ron Hess, of 1114 Washington Avenue voiced a grievance concerning an experience that an unknown woman had entered the home of David and Brittany Spurgeon located at 1100 Washington Avenue uninvited. He stated our police officer was given the license plate and he had communicated to them there was nothing they could do. He also stated the unknown woman had been seen again in the neighborhood. He is asking if there had been any follow-up on the incident.

Police Chief Eric Armstrong responded to the inquiry. He stated the Spurgeon's did not want to do a report and there were four officers looking for the vehicle and did follow-up. They now know who owns the vehicle associated with the license number they had been given and advised them to call again if they are seen again.

Mayor Garwood assured Mr. Hess that the City would be more user-friendly in the future and encouraged Mr. Hess to communicate to Ms. Spurgeon to call 911 with any future problems.

Ms. Ann Abbott, residing at 814 9th Street came before the Commission to express her concern for the newly painted Texaco Station on Tennessee Avenue. She stated it was not acceptable for our city.

She also noted the City only had one representative, Vice-Mayor James who attended the Groundbreaking for our Etowah Senior Center expansion. She also made mention of more fund-raisers coming up in the future for this project.

Ms. Tina Ciechanowski, residing at 422 Indiana Avenue came before the Commission to express her appreciation of how well the City is looking. She suggested getting the stumps grounded at the Trucking Company on Ohio while we have the stump grinder rented.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Vice-Mayor David James expressed his dissatisfaction with the response the Spurgeon's received from our police department. Mr. Gravley explained the Spurgeons' chose not to do a report and there was no crime committed per what was reported by the Spurgeons'. Ms. Spurgeon only saw the door close and did not communicate to the officer the lady was actually in the house.

Vice-Mayor David James also questioned the police detaining and running the license for his nephew while he was placing tires into a storage facility. He questioned if our police officers were babysitting businesses in our city. Mayor Garwood explained the need for patrols and a poor choice of words may have led to this misunderstanding and Mr. Gravley stated they did regular business checks.

Mayor Garwood also requested the dumpster at the East Tennessee Trucking Company on Ohio be relocated due to the sidewalk and curbing being destroyed when the company is being serviced by an outside contractor. He also requested an estimate to be obtained to repair the sidewalks and curbs.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Burke Garwood to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Mayor David James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

Burke Garwood, Mayor

Rebecca Penney, City Recorder

Respectfully submitted by:

Eva Valentine, Recording Secretary