

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE
COMMISSION MEETING**

Record of Minutes of Regular **Meeting Date** February 25, 2013 **Sheet No.** _____

A regular meeting of the Etowah City Commission was held on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, Tennessee. Members present were Mayor Jim Bull, Commissioner Charles Slack, Commissioner Burke Garwood, Commissioner Dennis Morgan, and Commissioner Jim Swayne. Also present were City Manager Matthew Gravley, Recording Secretary Jamie Davis, and Finance Director Rebecca Penney.

Mayor Jim Bull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer by Mark Wade.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Swayne and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Morgan to approve the minutes for Special Called Meeting on January 28, 2013. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Charles Slack and seconded by Commissioner Jim Swayne to approve the minutes for the Public Hearing Meeting on January 28, 2013. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

Commissioner Burke Garwood suggested a change be made to page 6 of the minutes on the last line of the Unscheduled Items. He requested it say I paid for mine, my wife and I paid for it! The line was changed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burke Garwood and seconded by Commissioner Jim Swayne to approve the minutes with the change for Meeting on January 28, 2013. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval for bucket truck repairs totaling \$1,983.68 from Cherokee Truck Equipment, LLC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burke Garwood and seconded by Commissioner Jim Swayne to approve the repairs. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

b. Report of expenditure from Sansom Equipment Company, Inc. for \$629.12 and Old Dominion Brush Company for \$1,373.48, totaling \$2,002.60.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Charles Slack and seconded by Commissioner Jim Swayne to approve. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

c. Approval to purchase salt spreader for \$3800.00 out of the money received by the Rural Development loan/grant for the Public Works Department.

Director of Public Works Billy Ingram said this is the same salt spreader we have now, ours is just shot. Commissioner Burke Garwood ask if we can just buy the part and Billy Ingram said no, we have to buy the whole thing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dennis Morgan and seconded by Commissioner Burke Garwood to approve. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

d. Reading of Ordinance No. 738 by Mayor Jim Bull.

ORDINANCE NO. 738

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 724, THE CAPTION OF WHICH IS "AN ORDINANCE MAKING AND FIXING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ETOWAH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2013", BY ADJUSTING REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THE VARIOUS FUNDS TO ASSURE EACH FUND REFLECTS SUFFICIENT MONIES TO CONCLUDE THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burke Garwood and seconded by Vice Mayor Charles Slack to approve. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Burke Garwood ask when we were going to fix the walking track? City Manager Matthew Gravley said we are about ready to do it. We have had an interesting opportunity come up to do the tennis courts for about \$5000. Public Works is going to do the repairs to the holes and the cracks then it needs to dry out and then replace with cement. We have talked with Athens Public Works about coating and resurfacing, we are working on donations right now. Commissioner Burke Garwood said the walking track has more use than the tennis courts, if I had a priority it would be the walking track of because of the amount of use.

Commissioner Burke Garwood ask when we would get started on the pot holes and Billy Ingram said as soon as they start making the asphalt we are first on the list.

Commissioner Burke Garwood ask about the status of the swimming pool. Parks and Recreation Director Brian Silber said we are waiting on a response from Nashville or Washington to declare it an obsolete facility. City Manager Matthew Gravley said it would take about \$300,000 to fix. The decision was made awhile back. The Health Department had never been brought in and it almost doubled the fix cost.

Commissioner Burke Garwood said to Library Director Lorie Waters he has been noticing in the paper the McMinn County Library Board has been talking about the formula for the Maintenance of Effort (MOE). I am interested in them trying to change the formula, we need to watch them and find out what they are doing. Lorie Waters said a committee reviews it every three years and submits to the County Library Board and then to the County to approve. Commissioner Jim Swayne said at the time it was originally divided up it was to be more fair for the smaller libraries; we just need to watch closely.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Matthew Gravley explained that he agrees with the track. However, we are changing the priority to coincide with the Day of Service with TWC and Keep McMinn Beautiful and all the volunteers would be used for the coating on this day is in April. Public Works will be making the repairs first if we want to utilize their help. Other alternatives we have looked at were about \$50,000; it's just a good time to do it.

Dr. Pate has offered to donate his old office building to the city. We would get all the positives and all the negatives that come along with it. Maybe we could make it as Visitor's Center or an area information center. Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask how big it is and Commissioner Burke Garwood said it's probably only 15' wide. And you would be taking it off of the tax rolls. Commissioner Burke Garwood ask if we could rent it out to the Gem Players of the Gem Theatre for storage, office space, etc. He said let's wait for a month and see what ideas we come up with and City Manager Matthew Gravley said that was fine.

City Manager Matthew Gravley also stated that Jamie Davis' last day with the city will be on March 13th.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Interim Utilities Manager Bob Lambert came forward to inform the Commission of a Natural Gas Vehicle Expo. He hopes they will save the date and attend with him if possible. This helps communities to recover for the costs of conversions. We are trying to get 50% of the costs reimbursed for conversions. Gas Gallon Equivalent (GGE) is about \$1.75 per gallon. It makes the engines last longer and is much cleaner. There is no difference in gas/natural gas for torque, etc.

David James ask the Commissioner if there was a reason to have pastors from different churches saying the prayer at every meeting. Mayor Jim Bull said I have been working on it and I want volunteers to do it. David James said I'm sure everyone would appreciate it if all pastors in the city were informed so they can be involved, thanks!

Haroldean Thompson said she couldn't attend several of the meetings awhile back and just wanted clarification on some things. The DPA quoted Police Chief Eric Armstrong saying there has been a lease law since about 1979. Haroldean Thompson ask if both police and animal control respond to dog calls, City Manager Matthew Gravley said generally both respond. Haroldean Thompson so we have always enforced the lease law. City Manager said 226 dogs went to the shelter last year. Why do we need the Pit

Bull ban if we are enforcing the code? Commissioner Jim Swayne said we were looking at the safety aspect of the dogs. Haroldean Thompson said we have a Dog Code; it addresses all they might encounter. Why do we have the ban? This is partial eradication. Commissioner Jim Swayne said if dog owners followed all codes we wouldn't have issues. We cannot capture all of them and we are focused on safety. Haroldean Thompson said we have code that addresses vicious dogs, why do we need a ban? Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask how many calls we received about this? Commissioner Jim Swayne said it seems like it was about 24 calls in a short time, even an officer felt he had to use his taser in one situation. We lost a resident that was mauled to death a couple of years ago by a dog like that. Haroldean Thompson ask again why we have code? Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask if there was a state least law and City Manager Matthew Gravley said yes. Haroldean Thompson said nobody can tell me why we needed the Pit Bull ban. Commissioner Jim Swayne said we have too many running at large.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Commissioner Dennis Morgan wished April Preston good luck and said we will miss you! We appreciate what you have done for the city.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Jim Bull seconded by Commissioner Dennis Morgan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

Jim Bull, Mayor

Rebecca Penney, City Recorder

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamie L. Davis, Recording Secretary