

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE
COMMISSION MEETING**

Record of Minutes of Regular **Meeting Date** September 23, 2013 **Sheet No.** _____

A regular meeting of the Etowah City Commission was held on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, Tennessee. All members of the commission were present. Also present were City Manager Matthew Gravley, Recording Secretary Eva Valentine, and Finance Director Rebecca Penney.

Mayor Jim Bull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed with the Prayer by Dewey Feezell and Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Dennis Morgan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Charles Slack and seconded by Commissioner Jim Swayne to approve the previous minutes of the regular commission meeting held on Monday, August 26th, 2013. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Swayne and seconded by Commissioner Burke Garwood to approve the previous minutes of the Public Hearing held on Thursday, September 12th, 2013. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote with Commissioner Dennis Morgan noting the address for the proposed liquor store needs to be verified.

NEW BUSINESS

City Manager, Matthew Gravley read the Certificate of Compliance for the liquor store with the State of Tennessee for consideration of the Etowah City Commission.

Commissioner Burke Garwood made a motion to accept the Certificate pending the commission receiving the renovation plans for the building. Vice-mayor Charles Slack seconded the motion and motion carried with the exception of Commissioner Jim Swayne abstaining.

Mayor Jim Bull conducted the first reading of Ordinance 743, an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 738 for budget year 2013-2014.

Commissioner Burke Garwood made a motion to accept Ordinance 743 as read and Commissioner Jim Swayne seconded the motion and motion carried with a unanimous commission vote.

Mayor Jim Bull conducted the first reading of Ordinance 744, an ordinance to amend Title 17, Sections 101; 108; and 114, (Refuse and Trash Disposal).

Commissioner Dennis Morgan made a motion to accept the ordinance as read and Vice-Mayor Charles Slack seconded the motion and motion carried by a unanimous commission vote.

City Manager, Matthew Gravley presented an amendment to the amount that had previously been approved for the new Nexgen Server for the software system used by the city. Local Government, the software company providing the service had revised their proposal stating it would not be able to handle the enhancements that will be included in future upgrades for our system. The additional cost will be \$1,600.00 in addition to the original quote. There would be no need for a budget amendment for this extra cost.

Vice-Mayor Charles Slack made a motion to approve the additional cost for the server and Commissioner Dennis Morgan seconded the motion and motion carried by a unanimous commission vote.

Lorie Waters, Librarian for the city and Marcy Barnett, Co-Secretary of the “Friends of the Library Board” presented a report of how the library has been doing since 2009. From the statistics presented by Ms. Waters the usage of the Etowah City Library has consistently been on the increase in every aspect. Over 90,000 items have been checked out of the library. Library now has a “patron counter” which indicates the library has averaged ninety patrons per day over the past year. Library is still operating on the same budget and is doing very well.

Ms. Barnett hi-lighted the fact that Etowah has enjoyed the benefits of this library for almost one hundred years and the “Carnegie” association has been a very distinguished asset for the community as a whole. She also stated the “Friends of the Library Board” are exploring some other avenues of improving access to the library and continuing improvements to the service.

Commissioner Jim Swayne complimented both Lorie and Ms. Bennett on their efforts to continually improve the services of the library. Lorie also stated the library will be closed for 2 days due to improvements to the computer system.

City Manager, Matthew Gravley presented a request for funding for pothole patching which should complete this project. The amount requested was \$2,576.00.

Vice-Mayor Charles Slack made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Jim Swayne seconded the motion. During the discussion Commissioner Burke Garwood questioned the “cut” and Public Works, Director Billy Ingram responded that some of the area would have to be cut due to a crack in the asphalt. Commissioner Dennis Morgan inquired as to if this would include the problem at the First Christian Church. Director Billy Ingram stated this would be ground down for approximately \$500.00. Motion was carried by a unanimous commission vote.

Mayor Jim Bull presented the proposed nominations for the Etowah Historical Committee. Proposed candidates were: Charlotte Preston, Linda Gray, Jim Caldwell - Chairman, Paul Barnett, Sandy Brewer, Chris James – Secretary/Treasurer, Durant Tullock, Russ Blair – Mayor’s Designee, and Jim Abbott.

Commissioner Burke Garwood made a motion to approve the nominations and Commissioner Dennis Morgan seconded the motion and motion carried by a unanimous commission vote.

Mayor Jim Bull asked Durant Tullock to come forward and explain the Historical Design Committee. Mr. Tullock explained this is an eight member voting committee with one non-voting member for one to five years of service. This committee is in compliance with the State Historical Preservation Group. This committee membership is identical to that of the Historical Committee.

Commissioner Jim Swayne made a motion to accept the committee members and terms. Vice-Mayor Charles Slack seconded the motion and motion carried by a unanimous commission vote.

Mayor Jim Bull made a motion to accept the following list of nominations for the Fourth of July Committee, noting there was an additional four members added due to the committee needing more help. They are; Durant Tullock, Ruby Richardson, LaMone Rose, Marilyn Miller, April Preston, Catherine Pate, Brian Silber, Jennifer Hershey, and Rhonda Whaley. Commissioner Jim Swayne seconded the motion and motion carried with a unanimous commission vote.

Commissioner Dennis Morgan expressed his concern of the city needing a process that would require all contractors working within the city for Etowah citizens to provide proof of insurance prior to beginning a job. The example he used was damage to sidewalks or broken windows as a result of a tree trimmer. Building Inspector Dave Mason confirmed the city does not presently have an ordinance requiring such contractors to obtain a business license which would require proof of insurance. Mayor Jim Bull stated we will need to consider passing an ordinance to install such requirements. After much discussion, City Manager Matthew Gravley agreed to get with MTAS to get more information on this type of process.

Parks and Recreation Director, Brian Silber addressed the commission about the possibility of the city applying for a playground grant that has been made available to the city due to our designation of being "A Playful City". The grant will cover the actual play structure. The example play structure Mr. Silber presented has a cost estimate of \$31,058.00; the city's responsibility would be \$18,598.00 plus shipping and installation, while the grant portion the city would receive would be \$12,460.00. He is now recommending the city remove several components from the existing play area and relocating those to the Hopper Baseball Complex. The new structure would fit into the existing play area and the only expense would be for landscaping the area. Mr. Silber recommended the yellow play set. Mayor Bull stated he would rather see the money spent on the streets of Etowah. Commissioner Jim Swayne stated our kids need a safe place to play. Commissioner Burke Garwood agreed it was a good idea and City Manager Matthew Gravley commented that if we apply for the grant we must go forward with the purchase.

Commissioner Burke Garwood made a motion to purchase the yellow playground set, after some discussion Commissioner Jim Swayne seconded the motion and the motion carried with four yay votes and Mayor Jim Bull voting nay.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Inspector Dave Mason recommended to table the renaming of the streets until a public hearing can be scheduled. It was decided to have the hearing on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 5:30 pm. Letters will be sent to all affected citizens notifying them of the proposal and the hearing.

It was decided to schedule a Special Called Meeting for the Annexation of the Etowah Substation for October 3rd, 2013 at 6:00 P.M.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Commissioner Dennis Morgan expressed his concerns about the 411 Yard Sale coming up the weekend of October 5th and if yard sale permits were being issued. City Manager Matthew Gravley stated some were and some were not. Commissioner Morgan stated the participants need to be checked to make sure they are in compliance.

Commissioner Burke Garwood asked for an update on the process of obtaining the obsolesce status of the city pool. Parks and Recreation Director Brian Silber stated the request had reached Washington, D.C...

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jim Bull, Mayor

Rebecca Penney, City Recorder

Respectfully submitted by:

Eva Valentine, Recording Secretary