

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE
COMMISSION MEETING**

Record of Minutes of Public Hearing **Meeting Date** October 3, 2013 **Sheet No.**

A public hearing of the Etowah City Commission was held on Thursday, October 3, 2013 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, Tennessee. Mayor Jim Bull, Commissioner Jim Swayne, and Commissioner Burke Garwood, Commissioner Dennis Morgan, and Vice-Mayor Charles Slack were present. Also present were Finance Director Rebecca Penney and Recording Secretary Eva Valentine. Matthew Gravley, City Manager was absent.

Mayor Jim Bull called the public hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jim opened the floor for any public discussion of the renaming of several Etowah streets.

Cameron Balaban resident at 1410 Green Street on the South-end of Indiana, came forward in support of renaming the streets. He noted an incident at his home when there was a fire and the fire department had to call them back to verify where they were. He was concerned that someone could die if emergency response was delayed due to the failure of the commission to act on this as soon as possible. Commissioner Dennis Morgan asked Mr. Balaban which street his home faced and he responded it faces Green Street.

Evan Raye, of 529 North Washington Avenue stated he was opposed to the street name changes and that any GPS or city map could guide someone to his residence. He stated he thought this was the most absurd idea to ever come before the commission.

Vice-Mayor Charles Slack tried to explain this hearing was for the very purpose of obtaining feedback from the citizens.

Vic Pratt, of 536 North Washington Avenue stated he was also opposed to the street name changes and suggested that police officers respond along with the emergency personnel to help guide the responders to the incident. He did state that he had problems in the past with EMS finding his residence.

Margaret Hale, of 715 Third Street stated she also was opposed to the changes.

Boyd Evans of 338 North Washington also stated he was opposed to the changes and noted that he had visitors from other states that did not have any problem finding his home.

There was much discussion within the group as to opposition of the changes with only Mr. Balaban supporting the change at least for his street. Several examples were given when the street names as they are, have delayed emergency response time. The group also agreed Mr. Balaban had a very good reason to change his street name but leave theirs as is.

Mayor Jim Bull also explained they only wanted to hear from the public on this issue and had been an ongoing discussion and was still an open and developing issue. 911 representative, Marvin Kelly stated he was here to help in any way possible. The Post Office was also represented by Paula Torbett, and offered their help as well.

Dave Mason, Building Inspector addressed the audience indicating the street name changes had been recommended by him due to safety issues that had or could arise from confusion on street names by emergency personnel. He used the example of someone calling from 300 North Georgia with an emergency and in their excitement may say only 300 Georgia and at that point the dispatcher repeats the address he or she has heard and the emergency team responds to the wrong address and in the process, loses critical time that could have saved a life.

Commissioner Burke Garwood stated a training program should be initiated to train the EMT drivers in the area in question.

Commissioner Jim Swayne suggested the citizens wanting a name change to present a petition to the commission requesting the change.

Mayor Jim Bull stated the debate had come to a close and this issue would be considered at the next regular commission meeting if requested to be placed on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jim Bull, Mayor

Rebecca Penney, City Recorder

Respectfully submitted by:

Eva Valentine, Recording Secretary