

City Council Meeting Minutes

The Shelbyville City Council met in regular **Study Session** on **Tuesday, January 3, 2023**, at the Shelbyville Recreation Center, 220 Tulip Tree Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Randy Carroll.

The following were present: Mayor Randy Carroll, Councilmember William Christie, Councilmember Marilyn Ewing, Councilmember Stephanie Isaacs, Councilmember Bobby Turnbow, Councilmember Henry Feldhaus and Councilmember Gary Haile. Also, present were City Manager Scott Collins, City Treasurer Kay Parker, City Recorder Lisa Smith, and City Attorney Ginger Shofner.

TAP VII – Riverwalk Overlook: City Manager Collins gave Council an update advising there were three (3) responses received from the Request for Qualifications and after review Staff had decided to bring in two of the firms for interviews to go more in depth to make sure the one chosen will have a strong background in architecture. This item will be back on the Agenda in February.

Chamber of Commerce Building: City Recorder Smith advised the notice for the Chamber to vacate the building so they will need to be out by June 12, 2023. Additionally, during the extreme cold in December there was a water pipe that burst at the Chamber and there was significant damage done to the carpet, walls and ceiling on the office side of the building. An insurance claim has been filed and Public Works is working on tearing out what has been damaged.

Bedford County Listening Committee: Mayor Carroll read the following from the Staff Summary - A meeting was held with representatives of the Bedford County Listening Project on December 12, 2022. The proposal for "Safe and Affordable Housing Committee" was discussed at length. Preliminary agreements included limiting the Committee to one scheduled meeting per month. Still to be determined is the creation of by-laws for the Committee and the membership structure and representation. It is recommended that City Attorney Ginger Bobo Shoffner be included in the next meeting to discuss/advise on the by-laws and committee creation/establishment in accordance with the City Charter, Municipal Codes and/or T.C.A. In addition, a cursory review of the City of Knoxville's Affordable Rental Development Program is going to require further study and evaluation. Perhaps this should be a mutual undertaking of the committee and City staff. It is recommended that another meeting be held with representatives of the BCLP and City staff, as well at the City Attorney, and report back to the Mayor & City Council with recommendations on committee structure, by-laws and other issues as needed. No further discussion was had on this item.

Fire Department Staffing: Fire Chief Matt Doak advised Council he is requesting to hire 3 additional firefighters. He stated we were not awarded the SAFER Grant which he had applied for. Additionally, he reminded Council he had requested 12 in 2019 and with these 3 he will have received 6 of those. Councilmember Ewing questioned the \$105,000 budget impact. Chief Doak stated that was the estimated amount of salary and benefits for the three (3) for the remaining of FY22-FY23 Budget year. He further noted the Fire Department will apply for the SAFER Grant again this year when the Grant opens.

Flume-Pumps: Public Works Director Buck Vallad reminded Council of the meeting held in December that gave a status of the Flume and Flood Pumps system. Manager Collins stated the request is move forward with approval to start negotiations with Will Owen of Griggs and Maloney to get the study done as soon as possible. Councilmember Turnbow ask if we could earmark the ARP Funds for this project and Collins stated that ultimately that would be the decision of the City Council, but it would be best to have the full study done first. It was noted all parts for this repair would most likely be a year lead time.

Britain Street Drainage Repair: Public Works Director Buck Vallad stated the City has been in contact with the nearby property owner, Nearest Green, to gain a little bit of easement to proceed with this project and as soon

as they hear back from them, they will be the plans can be completed and send the project out for Bid. Vallad reminded the Council when the original pipe failure occurred it was realized that when the property owner begins the renovation of the property with heavy equipment the road would not hold and there would be further problems, so the City is working in conjunction with Nearest Green to get the repairs done correctly to withstand what is needed. City Manager Collins advised the request to Council is to authorize to go to bid as soon as the City receives the recorded Easements.

Akerman: City Manager Collins stated the City had been working with Akerman for lobbying services for several months and he has forwarded an email notifying that Congress has passed a Budget and there may be some funding opportunities. He advised we have already invested \$210,000 since March of 2021, paying currently \$12,500 a month and the Contract/Agreement expired December 31st and he is requesting the Council's thoughts on extending the Contract/Agreement for the next quarter to see if there are any funding opportunities. Councilmember Christie questioned if Akerman comes through with an opportunity we would have to follow through and do the work to apply for the Grant ourselves and who do we have that is prepared to do that. Collins stated we could go through someone like South Center Tennessee Development and some of the funds would be through Direct Appropriation. Councilmember Ewing stated she did not know what they were responsible for and how this works if they did find an opportunity. Councilmember Turnbow stated this started in February 2021 and at that time Council stated they felt it was worth the gamble and to date we have received nothing and spent \$210,000 of tax-payer money. He stated he did not see continuing. The discussion then turned to the need for a vote at next week's business meeting to cancel the Contract/Agreement. It was noted by City Attorney the current Contract/Agreement was complete and if none of the Council wished to go back and have another Contract/Agreement there was no need to put it on the Business Agenda. City Manager Collins stated as a professional courtesy he would notify Akerman that the Contract/Agreement expires on December 31st and we were done.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES – First Reading: None

RESOLUTIONS:

A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Shelbyville, Tennessee, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Division of Recreation Educational Services of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grants. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Alsup advised Council this is a Grant through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that comes available every other year on the even years, however this year it did not come up until late. He noted the Tennis Court addition was a part of the Park's Master Plan and he had presented this to the Park Board and they voted to recommend it to the Council. This is a 50/50 reimbursable Grant so we would pay the full amount up front and be reimbursed 50%. The project would include updating the existing tennis courts, build two new lighted tennis courts and two new lighted pickleball courts. The cost estimate he recommended is around \$1,250,000 to \$1,500,000. The City's share would be \$625,000 to \$750,000 and the pre-application is due February 15th, and no funds are required in this year's Budget. Councilmember Ewing the current accessibility for the restroom areas in the park concerning Baseball and would the restrooms on this end of the Park be accessible for this addition. Director Alsup stated yes, the restrooms in this Building were ADA accessible. Councilmember Ewing questioned the last few Budgets had some expensive upgrades to lighting in the Parks and would there be any expenses like that requested in the upcoming Budget cycle. Alsup advised he was anticipating requesting to relight the big Babe Ruth field as it is the last field not on LED and the estimate for that is around \$250,000.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Surplus – 1996 Fire Truck – City Recorder Smith advised this item was being removed as the Fire Department wanted the opportunity to explore options to repurpose the truck before they surplus it. If necessary to surplus it will be brought back before Council at a later date.

PURCHASING / BIDS

Bids:

Authorization to let RFP – Internet/Phone/TV (City Wide) – Purchasing Director Lori Saddler advised this had been discussed last year and will be very in depth and involve all Departments. Due to current TCA the request for Council is to authorize Request for Proposal. Councilmember Feldhaus asked would it be the intent for one company to provide all services and Saddler advised she had spoken to two companies who could provide that service. However this is a large project and will effect all Departments so she would like to have a review committee with representatives from all Departments to know that the specific need of each Department is met. Councilmember Ewing asked if Teresa Baker would be involved, and Director Saddler stated she would be very involved.

Authorization to let RFP – Demo and removal of surplus metal buildings (Park) - Director Saddler stated these are the building that were declared surplus at last month's meeting, and they cannot be sold on GovDeals.com as is normal practice. She is requesting to let an Request for Proposals for demo and removal of the buildings and to see if there is any opportunity for revenue from the buildings. Councilmember Turnbow ask if the property where the building currently set was useable. Director Alsup stated the Federal Environment Protection Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation were involved in testing this site. There is a letter that stated the site is good. Additionally, Griggs and Maloney requested to be on site when any construction starts to do some soil testing. Councilmember Turnbow stated the Chamber of Commerce building was not an acceptable place to store surplus and we needed to move the vehicles setting there to someplace else. Saddler advised she would be listing those vehicles this month.

Bids:

Bids – Fireworks Display – Option to Renew – This is the first Option to Renew on this item. Originally there was to be an increase, however when the agreement was received there was no increase. The same amount of \$15,000 for the July 4th Fireworks Display at the Parks will be divided equally with the County.

APPOINTMENTS:

Homeless Task Force Appointments – Police Chief Jan Phillips stated Officer Letisia Diaz already had contact with the Homeless Community. She maintained a list of the names and locations of ones she was aware of and he recommended appointing her to serve as the law enforcement representative for the Joint Homeless Task Force being purposed by County Commissioner Drew Hooker. Others recommended were Misty Pellar, City Building & Codes Director Brian Stevens, and the Mayor's appointment of two Councilmembers.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Hall will be Closed on Monday, January 16th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Monday's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, January 17th with Tuesday's regular route.

Mayor Carroll advised the Airport Authority Board would be meeting on Thursday at noon here in this room to discuss the MTSU project and proposed Leases and he invited all interested parties to attend.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJORN: With nothing further to discuss Mayor Randy Carroll adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 PM.

Approved:


Mayor, Randy Carroll

Attest:


City Recorder Lisa Smith

Approved as to Form:


City Attorney Ginger Bobo Shofner