

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE  
COMMISSION MEETING**

**Record of Minutes of** Regular **Meeting Date** September 26, 2011 **Sheet No.** \_\_\_\_\_

---

A regular meeting of the Etowah City Commission was held on Monday, September 26, 2011 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 Charles Slack, Commissioner Ann Abbott, Commissioner Dennis Morgan, and Commissioner Matt Goodin. Also present was Recording Secretary Jamie Davis. Absent were City Manager Matthew Gravley and Finance Director Melissa Henderson.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Vice Mayor Charles Slack and seconded by Commissioner Ann Abbott to approve the minutes for August 22, 2011. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.*

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Presentation of plaque to Camp Living Stones by Mayor Garwood for Volunteer Services in Summer of 2011 to be displayed at the new Wellness Center. Mayor Garwood said the amount of appreciation cannot be described for the counselors and their staff. Not only at the Wellness Center but throughout the city, we owe them a huge thanks.

b. Larry Schiller came forward to discuss the work projects to be accomplished at the GEM Theatre. Included in the packets was a spreadsheet that includes some maintenance items and necessary items for the outer and inner lobby to get it back to the original status. Including painting the outer lobby ceiling that has a blue sky and white clouds. The items include a total of about \$8200. We have a commitment from the Etowah Rotary Club of \$2500 and attempting to have a \$2500 match from the TN State Chapter of the Rotary Club but that's not guaranteed yet. I am asking for a sum of \$5000 to complete the project and do a few maintenance items to include termite control and water intrusion from 7<sup>th</sup> street exit door. We hope to have all done by the day after Thanksgiving.

Larry Schiller also ask for the authority to pull together a task force to include concerned citizens, banks, manufacturers, and businesses from both Etowah and McMinn County to look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the renovation to include the auditorium. Task force would develop a fund raising plan of about \$120,000-\$150,000 and present it to the Commission.

Mayor Burke Garwood stated that Larry Schiller should check for grants available on this type of project. Mayor Burke Garwood stated that we need to wait on the \$5000 because we are waiting on tax money to start flowing through and this expenditure is more than we can withstand at the moment. Larry Schiller stated that they started with about \$5500 and they have about \$500 left. Mayor Burke Garwood stated that if we can we will but need to wait on City Manager Matthew Gravley and Finance Director Melissa Henderson to return and maybe in a month or 2 we can give some as our funds are not defined yet. We will help if we can. Mayor Burke Garwood stated that it was ok to move forward with a task force. Commissioner Dennis Morgan said thanks to Larry Schiller for the work that's going on.

c. The cost for starting the First Responder Program for the Fire Department is approximately \$3,061.00.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Matt Goodin and seconded by Mayor Burke Garwood to approve. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.*

d. Discussion of proposed annexation for the City of Etowah was brought up by Mayor Burke Garwood. The City went up on taxes and done all we need to do but we need land to build substantial homes. Mayor Burke Garwood proposes the start of a plan for annexation in phases. Phase number 1 being from 17<sup>th</sup> Street to County Road 801 includes Parkstown & Greenhill Rd up to Bledsoe Drive and to Mt View School at the exit to the right of sign where 6" green pipe is located. This will give us some definite lines. We take ideas to Planning Commission and they work with Planner, Chad Reese which suggested we do the annex in phases. Everything that touches County Road 801 on West Side as far as property runs. Mayor Burke Garwood is proposing we enter into annexation phase and we have to have a vote and tell Planning Commission whether we want to approve/proceed or not. Police, Fire, Gas, Water, Electric, and Sewer would be services we would provide. Gas, Water, and Electric is probably already being provided to these areas. Sewer is usually the biggest problem.

*A motion was made by Mayor Burke Garwood and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Morgan to approve. The motion passed by 3-2 commission vote. Vice Mayor Charles Slack and Commissioner Matt Goodin voted against it.*

Commissioner Matt Goodin ask what benefit is there besides tax money for The City of Etowah. Mayor Burke Garwood said it includes land mass and community of Parkstown. Commissioner Ann Abbott said there are several subdivisions not included in the city limits but are in our planning region. Commissioner Dennis Morgan said a benefit would be their water rates decreasing to almost half. Commissioner Matt Goodin said we would probably have to consider more Police, Fire, etc. and that would cost the city more because of the equipment needed. Mayor Burke Garwood said that's a balancing act and we probably don't need all 3 trucks running. Commissioner Matt Goodin ask will it bring ISO rating down? Mayor Burke Garwood said no it is figured by zip codes. Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask do we know how many acres this first phase will be? Mayor Burke Garwood said no. Commissioner Matt Goodin said I feel like there's no real reason other than we need more tax money. How do we know how to calculate what's needed for Police, Fire, etc.? Mayor Burke Garwood said MTAS will come and do costs lists along with pros/cons of annexation. Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask how long has it been since an

annexation has been done? Mayor Burke Garwood said Waupaca is the only one he knows. Commissioner Matt Goodin said I don't really see a benefit other than to grow revenues for the City and I feel like that's a weak reason to annex. Vice Mayor Charles Slack ask if we could have a workshop as he don't understand enough about it and would like to learn more about it. Commissioner Dennis Morgan said we don't want to be land grabbers. Commissioner Ann Abbott said it gives you a growth incentive for the economy. Commissioner Matt Goodin says we'll still benefit from the economy based on the current population. Commissioner Ann Abbott says we need to position ourselves for future growth in the next 20-30 years. Vice Mayor Charles Slack says if we do, does it not make business/restaurants want to come to our city? Mayor Burke Garwood ask if we can we start the preliminaries, get the figures? It would take about 1 year to complete the process.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Matthew Gravley was absent so there was no manager's report.

## **UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

John Bohannon came forward to discuss the basketball league. The parents are taking over the league and the city will need to provide an employee while kids are at the gym. The parents will ask Brian Silber, Director of Parks and Recreation, to administer their website. Signups are in October so we need to know. Commissioner Matt Goodin says go ahead and Mayor Burke Garwood agreed.

Mayor Burke Garwood proclaims that October 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 as Friends of the Library week in Etowah, Tennessee, and urges everyone to join the Friends of Etowah Carnegie Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

Movie Magic owner, Chris Lewis, has ask for help from Commissioner regarding the 2 rental boxes located at Bi-Lo and Kangaroo Gas Station. The concern is that R and X rated videos are available to minors. Mayor Burke Garwood stated that he feels they need to just wait it out because Red Box is going more towards online purchasing only. We are not here to restrict businesses and it is what it is.

Billy Ingram, Director of Public Works, mentioned the Pride Cars and changing the pricing of that program. Mayor Burke Garwood said to condense the paperwork and present again after a summary has been made.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Mayor Burke Garwood seconded by Commissioner Matt Goodin to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.*

---

E. Burke Garwood III, Mayor

---

Melissa Henderson, City Recorder

Respectfully submitted by:

---

Jamie L. Davis, Recording Secretary