

**CITY OF ETOWAH, TENNESSEE
COMMISSION MEETING**

Record of Minutes of Regular **Meeting Date** October 24, 2011 **Sheet No.** _____

A regular meeting of the Etowah City Commission was held on Monday, October 24, 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, and Commissioner Dennis Morgan. Also present were City Manager Matthew Gravley and Recording Secretary Jamie Davis. Absent were Commissioner Matt Goodin 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 Mayor Burke Garwood and seconded by Commissioner Dennis Morgan to approve the minutes for September 26, 2011. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

A motion was made by Mayor Burke Garwood and seconded by Vice Mayor Charles Slack to approve the minutes for October 10, 2011 Special Called Meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a commission vote.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of John Cockrell as Administrative Hearing Officer by Mayor Burke Garwood. Vice Mayor Charles Slack ask what exactly this was and Mayor Burke Garwood explained that its basically an objective 3rd party to make a judgment call when there's a dispute about a resident's property. John Cockrell would be able to order a cleanup of the property for code violations such as dilapidated houses, broke down cars, overgrown yards, etc.

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

- b. Budget Amendment #1 for Etowah City School

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

c. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 1042 read by Mayor Burke Garwood

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION
OF THE ETOWAH UTILITY BOARD'S ELECTRIC
IN LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS

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

d. Discussion and Approval of Resolution No. 1043 read by Mayor Burke Garwood

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF
THE ETOWAH UTILITY BOARD'S NATURAL GAS IN
LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS

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

e. Approval to repair Police repeater by Cartwright Communication Technology, Inc. for \$2000 or less. Mayor Burke Garwood explained we need better wiring and antenna needs tightened up and the machine in the building has some damage to it. Currently its 5 watts and should be 100 watts. Vice Mayor Charles Slack said there's a problem with connecting to control 1 (911). Chief Eric Armstrong ask if they could get 3 bids for all hand radios/car radios and eliminating technical problems first. Vice Mayor Charles Slack said our repeater was worth \$1000 - \$1200 but only worth \$150 with the way it is now. It moves with the wind and the coax is too small.

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

f. Approval to repair Public Works Street Sweeper for \$1779.00. City Manager Matthew Gravley said we still owe for it and the equipment has a good purpose just have a lemon. Commissioner Dennis Morgan ask what we owe? What do we have to do to get out of it and break even? Mayor Burke Garwood said let's get the payoff amount first and then we'll go from there on a decision.

g. Commissioner Ann Abbott and Billy Ingram, Director of Public Works, discussed Pride Cars and their use. The current policy is 1st one is free and the next time its \$16 per ton. The problem is our conditions of the wagon are dilapidated. The axles are too damaged to be repaired, we have 2 pride cars and 1 is for brush and junk and 1 is at the shop all the time so we only have 1 that can be sent out on the weekend. Friday thru Monday they are available but have to be used by us through the week. We have

an estimate from the land field fees, but that doesn't include any man power, fuel, or truck usage. Sanitation department is self supporting fund, what we make covers maintenance but not enough to cover \$12k-14k for a new pride wagon. Please consider the proposal because I feel it is extremely fair. Billy Ingram said that contractor material would need to be defined as to what goes on the street and what the pride cars are used for. Mayor Burke Garwood said he has questions let's wait and look over until next meeting. Commissioner Ann Abbott said we do not need items on the street such as siding, etc. and the Administrative Hearing Officer can enforce this now. Mayor Burke Garwood said if it's not you doing the repairs it's a contractor.

h. Approval needed for Membership Rate Structure at the Wellness Center.

Mayor Burke Garwood suggested the Drop In rate should be \$5.00 instead of \$2.00. City Manager Matthew Gravley said the cost for private parties is slightly above actual costs. Commissioner Ann Abbott said that Brian Silber has quoted everything very reasonable price for what you get. Mayor Burke Garwood said we are going to need more than 2 employees for the Wellness Center. Vice Mayor Charles Slack said that City employees need to have free membership. Commissioner Dennis Morgan said it needs to be free for City employees only not utility employees. Mayor Burke Garwood said it would be for employee only not family members. Commissioner Ann Abbott ask if under 18 years of age memberships were free? And what would be the age break without an adult that a child would be able to stay unsupervised. City Manager Matthew Gravley said the discussions are still ongoing. Mayor Burke Garwood said it would be about 16 years old because they can drive themselves. Commissioner Ann Abbott said could it be 12 years old? Mayor Burke Garwood said no because we are not going to be a babysitting service.

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

Commissioner Dennis Morgan said we still need a name for the Wellness Center.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Matthew Gravley updated the Commission on several items including an inspection with March Adams & Associates for the Depot with Russell Thress, the County Planner. And he is meeting with us on Tuesday, November 1st to get bid specs.

Also we have received our insurance renewal rate and it is less than 1% increase from our current plan. We are researching additional plans and options at this point. We are looking for a better plan that will save us money and our employees money. We now have a realistic year to compare FSA and HRA plans with and able to see the amount of money spent by employees over the past year.

We will receive a \$500 credit from United HealthCare on December's insurance statement.

The Wellness Center has paving scheduled for end of the month, we have received the floor buffer and using it every day, we have received half of the furniture, flooring color has been chosen and ordered for the front porch, landscaping is complete, we need to fix a gutter on the front of the building, and railing for the handicap ramp and possibly the top landing area needs to be purchased and installed.

The holiday schedule for Christmas will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th. For New Years we will be closed Monday, January 2nd.

The next City Commission meeting will be November 28th at 6:30.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

Vice Mayor Charles Slack said he appreciated Eric Armstrong, Chief of Police, getting the GHSO write up in the paper. And a special thank you to Matthew Gravley for all of his hard work that's coming to an end at the Wellness Center.

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