

City Commission – Etowah, Tennessee

Monday, February 28, 2022

6:30 PM

- 1) Call to Order
 - Mayor Burke Garwood called the meeting to order.
- 2) Roll Call
 - Mayor Garwood and Commissioners Misty Webb, Jim Swayne and John James were present. Also present was City Manager, Russ Blair and Finance Director Alison Bull.
- 3) Prayer
 - Commissioner Swayne gave invocation.
- 4) Pledge of Allegiance
- 5) Approval of Minutes
 - Regular Scheduled Board Meeting January 24, 2022
 - i. Commissioner James made a motion to approve. Commissioner Swayne seconded. All Ayes.
 - Beer Board Meeting January 24, 2022
 - i. Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Commissioner James seconded. All Ayes.
- 6) New Business
 - a. Reappointments/Appointments to Planning Commission
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve Charles Alverson, Jim Abbott and Mike Cheek. Commissioner James seconded. All Ayes.
 - b. Reappointments/Appointments to Historical Commission
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve Paul Barnette. Commissioner Webb seconded. All Ayes.
 - c. Reappointments/Appointments to Etowah Arts Commission
 - Commissioner James made a motion to approve Bob Lambert, Raven White, Tristan Rowland, & Sarah Dalbey. Mayor Garwood seconded. All Ayes.
 - d. Appointments to Etowah Library Board
 - Commissioner James made a motion to approve Diana Bowman. Commissioner Webb seconded. All Ayes.
 - e. Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Mayor Garwood seconded. All Ayes.
 - f. Approval of Purchase of Cameras for Depot Pavilion Area and Park Area (\$4,979.88). PEP Matching Grant up to \$2,500.00.
 - Blair said that this would be to secure areas that have been vandalized in the past.
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve purchase. Commissioner James seconded.
 - Commissioner Swayne asked if the installation would be done inhouse and Blair said they intend to handle installation inhouse.
 - All Ayes.
 - g. Approval of Repairs to 2014 truck (\$5,983.19). PEP has paid claim.
 - Blair said that the estimate came in under what the claim money provided.

- Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve. Commissioner Swayne seconded. All Ayes.
- h. Consideration and First Reading of Ordinance 873 (Updated Safety Plan)
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Mayor Garwood seconded. All Ayes.
 - i. Consideration and approval of Purchase of Uniforms and Emblems for Fire Dept. (\$3,885.50).
 - Commissioner James made a motion to approve purchase. Commissioner Webb seconded. All Ayes.
 - j. Appointment of Bob Lambert to Etowah School Board to Replace Mike Nevins
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Commissioner James seconded. All Ayes.
 - k. Approval of Invoice for Overdrive Marketplace - Library (ARPA Funding)
 - Blair said that this is a 5% match for the City of the \$3,281.23 invoice.
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Commissioner Webb seconded.
 - Commissioner Swayne asked if it was budgeted for and Blair confirmed that they do have the funds budgeted to cover the matching portion.
 - All Ayes.
 - l. Approval of Invoice of Elliott's Boots (\$3,750.00)
 - Blair said that this is for the employee's boot allowance for those that require boots for their duties. He said that there is a reimbursement policy in place in the case that the employee vacates their position.
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Commissioner James seconded. All Ayes.
- 7) Old Business
- a. Consideration and Approval of 2 Additional Federal Paid Holidays – Juneteenth and Veteran's Day
 - Commissioner Swayne made a motion to approve. Commissioner Webb seconded. All Ayes.
 - b. Clarification of Vacation Accrual Calculation for Police and Fire Departments
 - Blair said that upon looking back at the minutes, he noticed that there was action taken to change the calculations for sick time for the police and fire departments (due to the prior calculations being based on 8-hour work days as opposed to the police and fire's work time, respectively) but not for the vacation time. Blair said that they will put it in the form of an amendment to the personnel policy and bring it back before the board for approval.
 - Consensus to table this item.
- 8) City Manager's Report
- Blair gave his report.
 - i. There was an amount in the budget for mulch for the playground. At that time, it was quoted at \$7,650. We had applied for a grant that was a 50% match but we weren't awarded that grant. Since then, the price has increased about \$1,000 but there's a minimum amount of mulch that has to be on the surface. Bryan Dalton, Parks & Recreation Director, said that the amount is six inches. Blair said that they need to decide how to proceed. This \$8,600 est. figure

would include delivery and employees would spread the mulch. Mayor Garwood made a motion to approve the purchase of the mulch. Commissioner James seconded. All Ayes.

- ii. Blair asked for some direction on how to proceed with FTM. Commissioner James said that he'd like to make them an offer – not the whole amount, but some – since they didn't get the job completed during the time that they promised. Mayor Garwood said he understands but it makes it difficult going in for a future grant. Blair said that they need to consider the cost of defending a lawsuit. Blair said that their attorney has indicated that they will listen to an offer. Mayor Garwood asked Blair to come up with a proposal and submit that to the board for approval to enter into negotiation with said amount.
- iii. Blair said that there's someone interested in leasing 801 Tennessee Ave. from the City. Mayor Garwood said that he just doesn't want it to look trashy since it's on the main highway. Blair said that he will get in touch with them and draft a lease agreement for him to present to the board. The board agreed by consensus.
- iv. Blair discussed that the mowing contract with Justin Morgan is in its final year but the contract allows for a one-year extension. He said that Mr. Morgan is willing and wants to proceed with the extension. Commissioner James made a motion to extend it. Commissioner Swayne seconded. All Ayes.

9) Citizens Comments

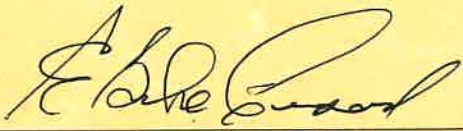
- There were none.

10) Unscheduled Items

- Commissioner Swayne asked if the repairs had been made to the splash pad. Bryan Dalton, Parks & Recreation Director said that they are still looking for the leak but they're hoping to find it and make the repairs before Memorial Day.
- Commissioner Swayne asked if the fees for the swimming pool have already been set. Blair confirmed that they had.
- Mayor Garwood said that if the City can get baseball to take on the concessions, they could make more money. Blair said that the issue is the parents would have to run the concessions stand.
- Mayor Garwood said that Commissioner Elrod moved out of town and then moved back in town. He made the suggestion to put her back on the commission to serve until her term ends in August. Commissioner James said that he's all for it as long as it's not breaking any charter rules. Commissioner Swayne asked if she was currently inside or outside of the city. Blair said that she's now back inside the city. Commissioner Swayne asked if they had approved her resignation yet. Mayor Garwood said that they hadn't but they could do that if that's what the board wanted. No action was made. They asked Blair to look into the charter a bit more before they make a decision.

11) Adjournment

Mayor Garwood made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Swayne seconded. All Ayes.



Burke Garwood, Mayor



Alison Bull, Recording Secretary