

**City Council Building  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
May 28, 2002  
6:00 P.M.**

Chairman Littlefield called the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council to order with Councilmen Benson, Franklin, Hakeem, Lively, Pierce, Robinson, and Taylor present. Councilman Page was out of the city. City Attorney Randall Nelson, Management Analyst Randy Burns, and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/  
INVOCATION**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Brother Waymon Summers, Minister of the Ridgedale Church of Christ, gave the invocation.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Taylor, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published and signed in open meeting.

**WELCOME**

Chairman Littlefield welcomed the Ridgedale Community to the Council meeting, explaining that he had made a commitment to go to Cleveland, Tennessee tonight to talk to a neighborhood group there on how to work with neighborhood organizations, stating that he hoped he could listen to most, if not all, of the testimony from Ridgedale. He stated that he had to leave this meeting by 7:00 P.M. and had made this commitment thinking that the agenda was short tonight. He explained to those present that we do have these meetings taped and that he would have the opportunity to review the meeting.

**SPECIAL POLICE APPOINTS.**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Hakeem,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF RONALD ABSTON, RUBY M. BARNES, JERRY W. BROWN, LEE DAWSON, REGINALD L. FERGUSON, SHIRLEY M. GREEN, JOHN P. JOHNSON, NANCY M. KUHNS AND RON D. SWEENEY AS SPECIAL POLICEMEN (UNARMED) FOR THE CHATTANOOGA AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CARTA), TO DO SPECIAL DUTY AS PRESCRIBED HEREIN, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

was adopted.

Councilman Pierce mentioned a minor change in the body of the Resolution and asked Attorney Nelson to explain. Mr. Nelson pointed out that in the second paragraph of the Resolution that it states that special policeman “shall have, possess and exercise every power granted to regular police officers” and the next sentence states that such powers “are expressly limited”. He stated that “except as hereinafter limited” would be inserted.

Councilman Taylor asked the primary function of these particular officers. Attorney Nelson explained that they would handle disruptions on busses.

Councilman Hakeem stated that Resolutions (b) thru (e) were discussed in Public Works Committee and come with a recommendation for approval.

**AGREEMENT(LITTER COLL.)**

On motion of Councilman Hakeem, seconded by Councilman Benson,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, RELATIVE TO LITTER COLLECTION ALONG THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH THE COURTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF THREE THOUSAND, FORTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$3,042.00) PER MONTH, OR THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$36,500.00) ANNUALLY**

was adopted.

**PURCHASE CHANGE ORDER**

On motion of Councilman Lively, seconded by Councilman Franklin,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER RELATIVE TO THE PURCHASE OF STREET LIGHT POLES (REQUISITION NO. R0049013) WITH STUART C. IRBY COMPANY, WHICH CHANGE ORDER INCREASES THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$1,280.00), FOR A REVISED CONTRACT PRICE OF FOURTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS (\$14,480.00)\**

was adopted.

**CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER**

On motion of Councilman Hakeem, seconded by Councilman Franklin,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 (FINAL) RELATIVE TO THE SHALLOWFORD ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CONTRACT NO. RW-4-00, WITH JONES BROTHERS, INC., WHICH CHANGE ORDER INCREASES THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY THIRTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO AND 10/100 DOLLARS (\$31,672.10), FOR A REVISED CONTRACT PRICE OF ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE AND 84/100 DOLLARS (\$1,840,879.84)**

was adopted.

**SEWER EASEMENT PURS.**

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilman Benson,

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A SEWER EASEMENT FROM THE NORTH HIXSON CHURCH OF GOD, RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. 69B, HIXSON IV COLLECTION SYSTEM, PARCEL NO. 100-072, FOR A TOTAL CONSIDERATION OF SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHT AND 42/100 DOLLARS (\$7,708.42)**

was adopted.

**PUD (REMINGTON COURT)**

Mr. Pace of Planning Operations spoke to the requirements for landscaping around the perimeter when ones goes from R-T/Z to R-1 PUD, which does not require a Landscape Buffer. A Mr. Smith was supposed to be present tonight and Mr. Pace stated that he was not sure he was satisfied with this condition; that he did understand that this would be considered tonight.

Councilman Benson acknowledged that the R-T/Z Zone does require a buffer and questioned why Planning would want to remove this buffer by going to R-1 PUD.

Mr. Pace explained that a buffer makes lots appear smaller and is expensive to the developer and this is an appropriate area for R-1 Zone; that the Planning Commission and Planning Staff had made this recommendation to go from R-T/Z to R-1, as they felt that this was compatible with the surrounding area.

Councilman Benson stated that he still had concerns; that the Chairman of the East Brainerd Coalition had asked that this be deferred; that he had had heart surgery and had asked for a 30day deferral and now here it was only seven days. Mr. Pace explained that this had not been before the Council previously; that this was coming as a Resolution.

On motion of Councilman Benson, seconded by Councilman Hakeem,

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS PERMIT FOR A PROPOSED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS REMINGTON COURT PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, ON A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE 7400 AND 7500 BLOCK OF REMINGTON COURT, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

was deferred for two weeks.

**AGREEMENT (TWH)**

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilman Benson,  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY FINANCE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TWH ARCHITECTS, INC. TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, AND SUCH DELIVERABLES AS MAY BE REQUIRED, RELATIVE TO THE RENOVATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES BUILDING, LOCATED AT 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND LINDSAY STREET, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$42,000.00)**

was adopted.

Councilman Pierce questioned that if this was coming from Parks and Recreation, should they not be paying for it. Adm. Boney explained that it was not a Parks and Recreation matter; that he just brought it up at the end of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. He explained that this was covered in the interim budget.

**PATTEN TOWER UPDATE**

Since Mr. Curry was in the audience, Councilman Pierce asked if he would be willing to be put on the spot to give an update on the Patten Towers.

Mr. Curry came forward and stated that he would prefer not to be put on the spot at all concerning this matter; that as it stands now YARDCO has exhibited some financial problems in terms of fees and remittances; that Walden Security was to provide 24-hour security; that as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month if there is no settlement between YARDCO and Walden, there may not be any security; that people still walk in off the streets and the elevator has not been repaired; there are problems with the electricity and plumbing; that all of this is serious enough to keep interest peaked. He went on to say that YARDCO was trying to refinance and were unable to infuse the cash level to where the Judge and Inspectors thought things needed to be. He stated that he thought it would come to the point where we will have to step in and make a strong decision about the building real soon.

**OVERTIME**

Overtime for the week ending May 24, 2002 totaled \$17,461.68.

**PERSONNEL**

The following personnel matters were reported for the various departments:

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

- ❖ **LARRY G. FRIZZELL** – Lateral Transfer to Heavy Equipment Operator, effective 5/22/02.
- ❖ **TERRY W. CAGLE** – Promotion to Equipment Operator, PG 6/1, \$19,834.00 annually, effective 5/8/02
- ❖ **WILLARD G. TROTTER** – Promotion to Equipment Operator, PG 6/7, \$25,825.00 annually, effective 5/8/02
- ❖ **CAROL A. KING** – Promotion to Office Assistant Senior, PG 5/5, \$22,307.00 annually, effective 5/17/02
- ❖ **MARSHA FETHEROLF** – Promotion to Office Assistant Senior, PG 5/3, \$20,491.00 annually, effective 5/17/02
- ❖ **CHARLES E. WOOTEN** – Death of Light Equipment Operator, effective 5/17/02
- ❖ **ZACHRY S. ADAMS** – Promotion to Equipment Operator Senior, PG 8/1, \$22,153.00 annually, effective 5/15/02

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

- ❖ **SHARON R. GREEN** – Return from Family Medical Leave of Tax Clerk, effective 6/3/02
- ❖ **KAREN RENEE HESTER** – Resignation of Tax Clerk, effective 5/31/02.

**CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

- ❖ **ANITA T. WARE** – Hire as Police Records Clerk, PG 3/2, \$17,680.00 annually, effective 5/31/02

**PERSONNEL (CONT'D.)**

**CHATTANOOGA HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:**

- ❖ **RAMONA SAPP** – Termination of Classroom Sub, effective 5/17/02.

**REFUNDS**

On motion of Councilman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the Administrator of Finance was authorized to make the following refunds on Stormwater fees and 2001 property taxes:

**CITY OF CHATTANOOGA** – Revisions made on stormwater fees for payments previously made for the years 1999 and 2000 due to land use correction-wooded area in the amount of **\$5,687.18**.

**REGIONAL OBSTETRICAL CONSULT.** – Refund for taxes for 2001 as assets moved to East Ridge out of City of Chattanooga in the amount of **\$2,850.58**.

**COMMITTEES**

Councilman Hakeem reported that the next **Public Works Committee** would be on **June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M.** He also mentioned that on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** there would be a **District 9 Update Meeting to be held at the Bessie Smith Hall at 6:00 P.M.** He welcomed all to come to see what has been done, noting that they were getting ready for the implementation stage.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture Committee met today as a part of the Public Works Committee, and they saw an exciting sketch of the proposed improvements to the Market Street Bridge as the City moves forward working with TDOT. The Market Street Bridge will be more pedestrian-friendly and much safer and there will be a meeting soon with the North Shore area to discuss the ultimate design that they would like to request of TDOT. She stated that they would be working on this and anyone that was interested in having input could get in touch with them.

Councilman Benson reported that there would be a **Legal and Legislative Committee** scheduled for next **Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M.** to discuss Ordinances and other standards for development of property relating to clear-cutting around the perimeter of property.

Chairman Littlefield briefly went over next week's agenda.

### **SISTER BEY**

Sister Bey addressed the Council with the admonition that she did not play games. She made reference to trash in Highland Park that the City was supposed to pick up and take care of, noting that they could not pick up the trash, but they could take two Cadillacs out of her yard when there was nothing wrong with them. She stated that they did not ask for the keys. She stated that she had reported this to HUD, but she was not satisfied and wanted her Cadillac DeVille back. She noted that Chairman Littlefield had said that he was going to Cleveland to speak concerning neighborhoods; that he needed to clean up the yards of his own house before going somewhere else.

### **RIDGEDALE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Mr. Gary Ball** of the Ridgedale Community Neighborhood Association was the first speaker and stated that since Chairman Littlefield was on a timetable he would let others speak first; that what he had to say could be shared with Chairman Littlefield if he had to leave. He stated that he had challenged these people to come tonight; that they had severe problems; that he understood the value of being positive—that he had been “positive” to death; that these people were here to let the entire Council know what it is like to live in Ridgedale.

**Mr. Stan Baker** was the next speaker. He stated that he had had a small business in Ridgedale for 34 years and had attended a meeting last week with a group of the Ridgedale people. He stated that this meeting was a result of an update of the Ridgedale Plan; that they had revisited the original plan of 1998 and wanted to carry forward the plans recommended for businesses and residences in the area. He stated that he represented a small group of people who live in the area. He stated he wanted to challenge the economy of Ridgedale; that everyone had heard of the crime happening throughout the city, and they had really paid in Ridgedale; that he had been here a long time. He stated that he wanted to address this in a positive nature as to what can be done to their advantage without too much additional expense; that one positive thing was that they could have a policeman designated for this particular area to drive into the area. He stated that he felt this was one of the strongest things they could have.

He went on to say that Ridgedale has two councilmen—Councilman Hakeem and Councilman Littlefield, which posed some advantages and some disadvantages; that Ridgedale went from the top of the ridge to Willow Street. He went on to say that he had a couple of things to discuss as far as the ability to improve the area for businesses and residential property. He asked about low interest funding to improve property without increasing their taxes; that funds were available in other parts of the city, and they would like to know how to get the same funds.



**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D)**

Secondly, Mr. Baker stated, they would like some help in moving their recreation center by the process of swapping property and talking to Dixie Yarn (Friersons); that business men would like to help to relieve some of the stress and pressure by providing a place for students to go. He mentioned that on the extreme upper corner, property could be exchanged for like property. Mr. Baker stated that his business was at 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Dodds and was an Arts and Frame Shop.

The next speaker was **Waymon Summers, the preacher at Ridgedale Church of Christ**. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come before the Council. He stated that the Ridgedale Church of Christ had been in this community for 87 years; that he had been here for 15 years and had seen all of the other larger religious groups move out; that Ridgedale Church of Christ had made a decision that they were going to stay because they felt the influence was needed in the community; that they had invested \$100,000 in their facility and grounds and were here to stay. He explained that they were a diverse congregation in the community and tried to reach out to all people, and Ridgedale needed a good recreational area place where people could come together and where parents could bring their young people. He stated that this had been achieved in other places.

Brother Summers went on to say that the Ridgedale congregation provided their building as a meeting place for the Ridgedale Neighborhood Association to meet and three times a year it was used for elections. He stated that he would like to see a little less drug-infested community and prostitution-infested; that the Church tried to teach folks. He ended by saying that the Council had done a great job with the rest of the City; that he and his wife had taken a walk on the Walnut Street Bridge yesterday; that Ridgedale was a great community, and they wanted it to stay that way.

Chairman Littlefield thanked Brother Summers for Ridgedale Church of Christ commitment to the neighborhood.

**Mr. Henry Jones** was the next speaker. He stated that he had owned a business at 100 Dodds Ave. for 25 years; that Ridgedale had a serious problem with drugs and prostitutes and also law enforcement. He stated that he knew what he was talking about firsthand because his wife had had a butcher knife put to her throat and told she was going to be killed. He stated that he had handed out bulletins to come to the Ridgedale Association meeting and that others needed to get involved also. He mentioned that a police captain had made the statement that Gary Ball had asked him to perform illegal acts. He stated that the relationship between the Ridgedale Association and the Police Department needed to improve and that this would be appreciated greatly. He stated that he agreed with what Stan Baker and the preacher said about the community and that he would be an active part of the community while he had his business here; that he did not live in Ridgedale.

**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D.)**

**Ms. Hazel Wilson** spoke next. She first mentioned that every time she came to the corner near City Hall that she thought about her car breaking down and the police came and towed their car away against their wishes; that they had AAA insurance, but the police said they could not wait on this; that they had to pay \$75.00 cash or their car would be towed away. She stated that they did not have the \$75.00 so they towed their car away, and she was still mad about it; that she felt the City had stolen their money; that they cancelled AAA since they could not use it in the city, and they never took trips outside the city. She stated that she felt like getting on the radio and telling people not to come to Chattanooga because Chattanooga won't treat you fairly.

Ms. Wilson went on to say that her adjoining property owner was the elderly lady that was beaten to death; that this lady never called the police for anything; that she was beaten with her own cane; that her eyes looked like a raccoon. Ms. Wilson stated that she called 911, and the detective that came out said that the lady would not have died from the injuries from the cane. She stated that her foot was in perpetual motion like a fluttering leaf. She stated that she told the police who the lady's doctor was and to take her to Memorial Hospital; that she then phoned the president of the neighborhood association, who was a frequent visitor in this lady's home. She went on to tell about noticing that this lady had all her checks signed, and she knew this was not good, and she asked Mr. Ball and his wife to check on this and they did; that they did a lot for her; that they came to this lady's house when her heat was off and when she had no groceries; that the lady called on them frequently, and they would come; that they were good neighbors. She stated that Mr. Ball was a good president. She went on to say that she was concerned because the detective that came to see her told her that this lady would not have died from the injury received from the beating; that if she had not gone to the hospital, she would not have died. She stated that she had called the detective, and she was the one responsible for her going to the hospital and that bothered her.

Chairman Littlefield stated that he was going to have to hurry Ms. Wilson along—that she was talking about Ms. Stegall. Ms. Wilson asked if there was some way that they could have a conclusion on this.

**Mr. Jack Callaghan, a representative of R.L. Stowe Mills,** was the next speaker. He explained that they purchased the assets of the Dixie Plant three years ago and made a decision to invest \$5 ½ million dollars and reached an agreement with the city to donate vacant lots for moderate housing. Mr. Callaghan stated that he had seen some of the long range plans for Ridgedale and had been involved in a couple of planning sessions. He stated that they needed to get the support of the City and the City Council. He expressed his disappointment that Chairman Littlefield and Councilman Hakeem did not stay for the entire neighborhood meeting. He mentioned that 47% of the housing was rental and 190 were vacant. He stated that these issues needed to be addressed shortly, and they could be successful if the City and the City Council put their weight and focus here.

**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D.)**

Mr. Callaghan mentioned that he was visiting Dixie Yarns in the years from 1987 and 1990 and would stay at the Read House and people were afraid to go one block past the Read House; that the City had revitalized the downtown area, and he thought that they could do the same thing for the Ridgedale area and Ridgedale community if they would support it and get behind it. He ended by saying that there was not enough police presence in the area.

By way of explanation, Chairman Littlefield stated that both he and Councilman Hakeem regretted that they could not be there for the entire meeting last Thursday; that each district has a number of neighborhood associations; that he believed in neighborhood associations and for a number of reasons the neighborhood associations have the same meeting night; that on Thursdays, councilmembers are pushed and pulled several places at once; that they tried to stagger their meetings and last Thursday night they could not be there for the entire meeting. He mentioned that he and Councilman Hakeem had had a long meeting with Planning this morning; that they both lived within walking distance of Ridgedale's meeting place, and it was not for a lack of interest in the neighborhood that they could not stay for the entire meeting.

**Ms. Gladys Wallace** spoke next. She stated that she lived at 2113 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.; that her deceased husband was retired from the Air Force and was a prisoner of war; that he chose to live in Ridgedale because he had a brother who had lived here; that she had worked for the Read House for 21 years; that her husband had thought that she would be taken care of in a good neighborhood like Ridgedale. She stated that 2115 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. is a pot house and prostitution house; that she can't sell her house, and she can't go off and leave it. She mentioned boys with BB guns who shoot windows out of houses. She mentioned that she had had surgery and her son was the one that jumped off the Veterans Bridge. She stated that she could not have her grandchild visit her because of the bad language that he would be exposed to; that she could not have people visit her because of the bad environment; that she just had to stay in her house and sew and read.

She asked the Council to make it a little more pleasant for her to live; that she was 77 years old and would like to be happy for a while. She stated that she did not know what she would have done without Gary Ball; that everything in her yard had been stolen because of the bad neighborhood. She stated that her relatives said that she needed to get out of the area, but she had lived here for 26 years, and she could not move. She urged the Council to make the community more pleasant for her.

**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D.)**

**Ms. Sylvia Cook** spoke next. She stated that she lived at 2107 Duncan Ave.; that within that area there are drug dealers selling drugs in the middle of the street; that they have taken over their street; that the people who live on this street are older, and the people are scared to come outside. She stated that Gary Ball had been wonderful; that a lady had to go to Eckerds to get her medicine, and she was scared to walk to the street to get in a car; that she said when she came outside that that they called her all kinds of names; that these drug dealers had taken over Duncan Ave. She stated that they needed more policemen; that her daughter dates a policeman, and when he parks his car there, they quiet down; that people are afraid to sit on their porches for fear they will get shot. She stated that Gary Ball would help people with personal stuff, and she tried to help too; that most of the people are 65 years or older, and she would bring them to the meetings in her car. She stated that they were scared to plant flowers outside and to sit on their porches.

Councilman Benson stated that he had listened to the problems, and they were real and traumatic; that he was trying to find a solution; that we needed more Gary Balls; that it seemed when this lady's daughter's boyfriend was visiting and there was police visibility that the police's presence reduced the crime. He stated that they needed neighborhood leadership.

Ms. Cook stated that this was all she could think of; that she was on her way to work.

Councilman Benson stated that we needed to look for a solution.

**AT THIS POINT CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD HAD TO LEAVE, AND HE TURNED THE MEETING OVER TO VICE CHAIRMAN FRANKLIN.**

Councilwoman Robinson asked Ms. Cook if her neighborhood had Neighborhood Watch. Ms. Cook stated that she had talked to the Police; that they had no Neighborhood Watch and had told her to contact Gary Ball if they needed something. She reiterated that people were scared to death; that they threatened to burn your house down if you went to the neighborhood meetings. Councilwoman Robinson stated that a building block was finding out about Neighborhood Watch; that she had seen this in her district, and the neighborhood formed Neighborhood Watch, and the City furnished the signs. Ms. Cook stated that they were talking about Neighborhood Watch at the last meeting; that she felt sorry for people who were scared to come outside, and she would do anything she could; that she was a Security Guard at Blue Cross, and she was willing to do anything; that she remembered her mother and father, and the homeowners getting together—that there was strength in numbers; that she was willing to do anything; that she wanted the Council to do something for her neighborhood, and she loved it.

RIDGEDALE (CONT'D.)

**Ms. Patricia Rogers** spoke next. She stated that she lived on Duncan Ave. and had talked with the neighborhood up and down the street several times; that people are frightened to get involved; that Ridgedale is not bad, it is just bad people disturbing it today. She stated that they had revisited the Neighborhood Plan; that people call Ridgedale home; that she had tried to contact the homeowners and business owners about the Plan; that they told her at the county that they tried to update the list of homeowners every three months but not all homeowners were on the list; that the Assessor's Office said that it would take months to get a complete list.

Vice Chairman Franklin stated that the Council tried to be considerate of all who spoke and asked that Ms. Rogers sum up her remarks.

Mr. Rogers went on to say that the Neighborhood Association is the key, and they needed to get people involved with them; that they had worked with Neighborhood Services as a way to show people that this is a vital necessity. She stated that they needed to see that the changes in home ownership get reported and people need to introduce themselves to each other; that they needed to know each other. She went on to say that standards have been allowed to be violated; that they needed some help from the government to protect their standards; that duplexes had been built on lots that were too small and manufactured houses would not fit on the lots because of certified height and pitch. She mentioned green spaces where large dogs were encaged. She stated that she felt like this needed to be a R-1 Zone and treated like other neighborhoods and questioned why they were all duplexes; that if there is another Plan for Ridgedale, that they need to know what it is now; that they just need basic honesty and need to protect the political rights of the neighborhood; that they needed to work with the homeowners.

Vice Chairman Franklin assured everyone that the Council would do their best to resolve some of these issues and that Chairman Littlefield and Councilman Hakeem were sensitive to these issues, and they had been duly noted.

Ms. Rogers added that they needed a meeting place to get the community going; that she understood the economy was important but that education should take precedence.

Vice Chairman Franklin stated that we were trying to sum this up; that the Council was sensitive to all of the issues; that this could be coordinated through Mr. Curry and Neighborhood Services, and this could be addressed through another forum.

Mr. Gary Ball presented a map, showing the areas where money had been spent and where it had not, stating that this was the crux of the problem; that crime was directly tied to idleness of young people who were allowed to wander; that he wanted to make all aware that we were going to have to spend some money; that there had to be some equity and parity.

**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D)**

Vice Chairman Franklin assured Mr. Ball that the Council appreciates his efforts and tireless hours. He stated that no one should have to live in fear and should be able to walk in their yards; that the Council plans to do something seriously about this and to address the issues; that this could be channeled to the Police Department and Neighborhood Services and to the Council, as well.

Ms. Rogers interjected that housing needs to be maintained at an affordable level.

Councilman Hakeem thanked the group very much, stating that he believed we all could sense the frustration experienced by the citizens this evening; that some were concerned about Council people not being at meetings; that the Council had looked at things through their eyes, and the people present needed to look at the fact that Ridgedale is not the only neighborhood district with the same kind of problems and concerns. He mentioned that they often had a number of neighborhood meetings in one night; that there are other activities going on that the Council has to attend that are necessary to everyone's interest; that they make an effort to coordinate all of these efforts taking place with Neighborhood Services and District 9 meetings. He stated as he had listened, it was as if none of this had been said before; that the Council knows the problems and was making efforts to overcome them, but it would not be done today. He stated that the Ridgedale Neighborhood Association had been compared with the Highland Park Community Association and what they have and what Ridgedale does not have; that Highland Park had been vigilant in keeping drug houses out; that there is more the Council should do and more that they were going to do; that there seemed to be an attitude that "if we don't get what we want today, the City is not doing anything". He stated that Mr. Ball knew that the city had attempted to purchase an area in the neighborhood for a park; that the impression had been left that the City looked at everything else in District 9 but Ridgedale; that they looked at everything in total. He stated that the whole association should not be all on Gary Ball; that the people needed to work with us and the Regional Planning Agency and District 9 and the neighborhood; that we will be successful in the efforts that we are putting forth.

Councilman Hakeem went on to say that sometimes we are so close, we can't see the good happening; that we need to look at where we were in 1998 and where we are today; that we are better than we were; that we need to continue to try to work together and let us not give the impression that nothing is being done. He continued to say that we are trying to fill vacancies in the Police Dept. and questioned if we do not want burglary and homicides to be dealt with prior to prostitution and things of that nature; that we need to give some thought to working together instead of being "at" each other.

**RIDGEDALE (CONT'D)**

Councilman Benson applauded what Councilman Hakeem had said. He stated that Councilman Hakeem and Chairman Littlefield are very concerned about this; that this did not occur in one day and won't change in one day; that we have to walk out of it one day at a time. He stated that he thought the solutions lay in strong neighborhoods and leadership training; that we needed increased police presence and a Neighborhood Watch needed to be organized. He stated that we had heard about a Youth Recreation area in the neighborhood. He noted that the finest Boys Club in the nation is in that area; that Big Brothers and Big Sisters is at Dodds and Willow; that we needed to work on parenting and our youth; that this was a community effort. He applauded Mr. Ball for giving 1000% to rehabilitating this community to its once proud state.

Vice Chairman Franklin expressed appreciation for the comments made by interested people, stating that Administration was present and was taking notes, and this problem would not stop here and that we would work with the people item by item.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairman Franklin adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 6:00 P.M.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**(A LIST OF NAMES OF PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IS  
FILED WITH MINUTE MATERIAL OF THIS DATE)**