

**City Council Building
Chattanooga, Tennessee
March 6, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Ladd called the meeting of the Chattanooga Council to order with Councilmen Benson, Berz, Gilbert, Murphy, Rico, Robinson and Scott present; Councilman McGary joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan, Management Analyst Randy Burns and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilwoman Robinson gave the invocation for the evening.

MINUTE APPROVAL

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

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION: "NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH" PROCLAMATION

Councilwoman Berz stated she began her professional life as a Social Worker and now all these years later with a little bit more "alphabet soup" is still a Social Worker and very proud of it. She stated the Mayor has a special proclamation for her sisters and brothers in social work and asked those present in this regard to stand. She recognized them as the people when we talk about "filling the gap" with problems in our city, when we talk about challenges, these are the wonderful people who help fill that "gap" and ease the problems in our city.

At this point **Valerie Radu**, Head of the Social Work Department at UTC, came forward to receive the proclamation from Mayor Littlefield. Mayor Littlefield read the proclamation which has been spread upon the minutes:

SPECIAL PROCLAMATION: "NATIONAL SOCIAL
WORK MONTH" PROCLAMATION (Continued)

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas,* Social workers have the formal education and experience to guide individuals, families, and communities through complex issues and choices; and
- Whereas,* Social workers connect individuals, families, and communities to available resources; and
- Whereas,* Social workers are dedicated to improving the society in which we live; and
- Whereas,* Social workers are positive and compassionate professionals who care deeply about their clients and their families; and
- Whereas,* Social workers stand for equality among everyone and support universal access to the same basic rights, protections, and opportunities; and
- Whereas,* Social workers create the desire in people to help themselves, whenever and wherever they need it most; and
- Whereas,* Historically, social workers have been heavily involved in many important social movements in the United States and abroad;

Now Therefore,

I, Ron Littlefield, Mayor of the City of Chattanooga do hereby proclaim
the month of March 2012 as

Social Work Month

In Witness Whereof,

I have hereunto set my hand this the 1st day
of March, 2012

Ron Littlefield, Mayor

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: "CERTIFIED
GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH"**

Mayor Littlefield asked Simone White and Admin. Madison to join him at the podium and stated we are fortunate in the city of Chattanooga to have a strong Financial Department; that Daisy Madison is a very fine financial manager and has a staff of people who help her in that regard; that she gives us all a great deal of grief when we cannot do all the things we want to do! He stated Ms. Madison keeps us on the straight and narrow! He read the proclamation at this time, which has been spread upon the minutes:

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** The Chattanooga Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is a professional organization, and The Association of Government Accountants has a network of 15,000 members in 90 chapters in the United States and around the world and approximately 84 active members representing state, federal, municipal, and private sector accountants, auditors, and financial managers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and
- Whereas:** AGA Chattanooga Chapter members have responded to AGA's mission of *Advancing Government Accountability*, as it continues its broad educational efforts with emphasis on high standards of conduct, honor, and character in its Code of Ethics, and are making significant advances both in professional ability and in service to the citizens of Chattanooga, Tennessee by mastering increasingly technical and complex requirements, and
- Whereas:** The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program of AGA provides a means of demonstrating professionalism and competency by requiring CGFM candidates to have appropriate educational and employment history, to abide by AGA's Code of Ethics, and to pass three examinations requiring expertise in Governmental Environment, Governmental Financial Management and Control, Governmental Accounting, Financial Reporting and Budgeting, and requires each CGFM holder to maintain certification by completing at least 80 hours of continuing professional education in government financial management topics or related technical subjects every two years,

Now Therefore,

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: "CERTIFIED
GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL MANAGER MONTH"
(Continued)

I, Ron Littlefield, Mayor of the City of Chattanooga,
do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2012 as

**Certified Governmental Financial
Manager Month**

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the
Seal of the City of Chattanooga to be affixed this the
1st day of March, 2012

Ron Littlefield, Mayor

Admin. Madison stated most of the staff that really deserves this recognition and honor had to go home as they are not people that want a lot of recognition, but they do work hard; that Simone was forced to come as the entire staff representative! She stated Simone serves as the President of the local Chapter for this year; that they are doing a lot of continuing education as this Council has emphasized with respect to staff that programs such as this the staff voluntarily join and stay up-to-date on advancement, technologies and information in their fields to make sure they do the best job they can for the citizens of this community. Simone White, President of the organization, and the entire Finance Department were given a round of applause at this time.

Chairman Ladd expressed congratulations and noted as the Mayor read and talked about integrity, ethics and professional standards, she could not think of any words better to describe how the Council feels about the Finance Department and the leadership of Mrs. Madison; that they absolutely emulate all of those accolades and deserve the recognition!

Mayor Littlefield stated he is always proud when people ask about our Finance Department as we do not have that AA+ bond rating by a fluke; that we have people who watch over our finances very carefully!

(Councilman McGary joined the meeting at this point.)

INTRODUCTION OF CORINNE HILL

Mayor Littlefield stated the last thing he has to do this evening is something we have all been working toward for some time; that the Council is aware months ago the city assumed full responsibility for the library, which is now the City of Chattanooga Library, yet are still working with the county in many regards. He stated we have total financial responsibility for the library and have gone through a study determining new directions, have worked out arrangements with Collegedale and others about branches and have gone through an extensive period searching for a new director. He stated the person has been selected and is now on the job, in town and has moved right into downtown; that we were fortunate enough to snare her away from Dallas where she was at the top level position in an acting capacity for quite some time. He stated she has relatives in the south and "saw the light" and felt this would be a good move for her; that it is definitely a good move for us. He stated he has spent a lot of time talking with her and Jim Kennedy, Chair of the Library Board, and have legislation in the State Legislature right now to allow us to expand the Board by four more members to go from seven to eleven members and anticipates that should pass within the next week or two, be signed by the Governor and become law; that he will be back before the Council regarding additions to the Board. He introduced the newest citizen in Chattanooga taking on the library role -- Corinne Hill.

Corinne Hill stated she is thrilled to be in Chattanooga as it is a charming city! She stated she has been here for two full weeks and adores it; that she loves the people, is living downtown and walking everywhere! She stated she is enjoying meeting everyone and has met a couple Council members; that she is just happy to be at work. She expressed thanks for the opportunity and is looking forward to moving forward!

Chairman Ladd welcomed Ms. Hill noting that she has had an opportunity to meet her and stated we have one sharp, sharp lady! She stated the Council is anxious to support her in what she does and hear her plans.

CLOSE AND ABANDON

MR-2011-140: City of Chattanooga c/o Bill Payne

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Murphy,
**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF A
SEWER AND SEWER EASEMENT LOCATED IN THE 500 BLOCK OF EAST
11TH STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN**
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

AMEND CITY CODE: SPEED ON THROUGH STREETS

On motion of Councilwoman Scott, seconded by Councilman Murphy,
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, ARTICLE XIV, CHAPTER 24, SECTION 502, SECHEDULE II, SPEED ON THROUGH STREETS
passed first reading.

AMEND CITY CODE: INJURY ON DUTY PROGRAM

On motion of Councilwoman Scott, seconded by Councilwoman Berz,
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 2-445 AND 2-448 OF ORDINANCE 12413 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 2-151 THROUGH 2-153 BY DELETING THESE SECTIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND INSERTING A NEW DIVISOIN 19 ENTITLED 'INJURY ON DUTY PROGRAM'"
passed first reading.

LAWSUIT

On motion of Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Rico,
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY TO JOIN WITH THE WINDWARD POINTE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION IN FILING A LAWSUIT AGAINST DART PROPERTIES, LLC AND ALL INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE REGARDING A CONTINUING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE NUISANCE AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4260 SAILMAKER CIRCLE, TAX MAP NO. 120J-A-005.01 AND ALSO TO COLLECT DELINQUENT CIVIL PENALTIES ADJUDGED BY THE STORMWATER REGULATIONS BOARD
was adopted.

AGREEMENT

Councilwoman Scott inquired as to the estimated cost of the total project.

Admin. Zehnder stated from the reports done at a session at three separate neighborhood meetings in the Hixson area regarding the master plan for the recreation center, a concept of a master plan that covers 20-25 years in duration estimated that the total cost of expanding the entire recreation center and park would amount to about \$8 - \$10 million.

AGREEMENT (Continued)

Admin. Zehnder stated in this particular situation what we have in mind is taking down a good three-fourths of the building that would eliminate a lot of maintenance of the facility that presently we have responsibility for now as it is city property. He stated we will be removing that in the resolution before the Council; that after this is done they will be able to move in the recreation center next month, which they planned on doing all along, and operate it immediately for whatever period of that the Council feels is necessary to the point the Council could put more money into it if they like. He stated he has asked for capital monies for next year in the amount of \$1.4 million; that it is Council's directive as to whether he gets that money or not and if he does not they will still be operating a recreation center.

Councilman McGary stated concerning the \$8 million, Admin. Zehnder highlighted \$1.4 in the upcoming fiscal year's budget, and asked what of the remaining \$8 million will come before the Council.

Admin. Zehnder responded "all of it"; that every penny that he spends for any capital project has to be approved twice - once in the capital budget and a second time when the projects come to fruition and have to be voted on.

Councilman McGary asked what of the remaining \$8 million has the Council yet to vote on, in other words, we are voting currently on half million and asked whether Mr. Zehnder is saying the remaining \$8 million has yet to come before us. Admin. Zehnder responded "absolutely".

Councilman Murphy stated so the public can understand, this is the only recreation facility in that portion of the city by way of a recreation center. Admin. Zehnder responded "that is correct".

Councilman Murphy asked geographically what would be the closest recreation center. Admin. Zehnder responded "Washington Hills Recreation Center and the facilities of the North Chattanooga area probably would be of a similar distance.

Councilman Murphy added "several miles away". Admin. Zehnder responded "oh, yes".

Councilwoman Scott stated there are a number of facilities in Hixson and would like to know if we are going to eliminate the lease of the North River Community Center which is also located in Hixson.

AGREEMENT (Continued)

Admin. Zehnder stated the Civic Center is in a business sector and has rooms for neighborhood associations; that he presumes that would be a possibility as that facility is not under his command and is under Education, Arts and Culture. He stated it provides useful space for the community and they have great program going on. He stated that is a decision that needs to be addressed, something the Council would be discussing in the future.

Chairman Ladd stated as representative for this district, this project is mainly for demolition and the remaining structure we would begin to have programming is not conducive to the types of meeting we are currently having at the Civic Center. She stated at least until we add onto the structure with other approval of more money later on, the Civic Center will continue to operate as a place for meetings and things they are conducting there. She stated what we will be left with is a structure with a gymnasium and some classroom space, but not conducive to the meetings occurring currently at the Civic Center; that she would imagine when more building is done and we have a better situation at the new community center, we can probably vacate the Civic Center area.

At this point Councilman Rico called for the question.

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE HIXSON COMMUNITY CENTER DEMOLITION, IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$445,954.00), PLUS A CONTINGENCY FUND OF FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$44,595.00), FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$490,549.00)

was adopted; Councilwoman Scott voted "no".

AGREEMENT

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Gilbert,

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH GLOBAL GREEN LIGHTING TO PROVIDE OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR AN ESTIMATED FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000.00) AND FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIALTY LIGHTING AS NEEDED BY THE CITY FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00)

was deferred one week.

RETAIN LAW FIRM

City Attorney McMahan clarified that the representation being authorized is merely to represent Mr. Benson; that it will be under a reservation of rights as to any future liabilities.

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert,
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY TO
RETAIN THE LAW FIRM OF MILLER AND MARTIN TO REPRESENT
COUNCILMAN BENSON IN THE LAWSUIT CAPTIONED BASSA ISSAM VS.
JACK BENSON**

was adopted; **Councilwoman Scott** voted "no".

OVERTIME

Overtime for the week ending March 1, 2012 totaled \$4,423.22.

PERSONNEL

The following personnel matters were reported for use by the various departments:

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES:

- **ELLUWEAD LOVE** – Retirement, Administrative Support Assistant 2, effective February 29, 2012.
- **NELSENE LOWERY** – Retirement, Code Enforcement Inspector 1, effective February 29, 2012.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- **LEROY GAUNT, JR.** – Suspension (2 days without pay), Equipment Operator 4, City Wide Services, effective February 27-28, 2012.
- **NATHAN LEE, JR.** – Suspension (10 days without pay), Crew Supervisor 3, City Wide Services, effective March 2-15, 2012.

PERSONNEL (Continued)

- **HARRY JACKSON** – Suspension (5 days without pay), Crew Worker 2, City Wide Services, effective March 2-8, 2012.
- **JENNY SHUGART** – Resignation, Historic Preservation Planner, Land Development, effective March 1, 2012.

CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **MARK NORMAN** – Termination, Firefighter, effective February 16, 2012.
- **KENNETH HARDEN** – Retirement, Fire Captain, effective February 17, 2012.
- **MARKUS COFFMAN, DANNY GILBERT, JAMIE SUMMITT, JEREMY D. WILLIAMS** – Promotion, Firefighter Senior, Range F2A, \$36,004.00 annually, effective February 24, 2012.

HOTEL PERMITS

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Rico, the following hotel permits were approved:

ALPINE LODGE – 4328 Cummings Highway, Chattanooga, TN

AMERICA’S BEST VALUE INN & SUITES – 103 Patten Chapel Road, Chattanooga, TN

COMFORT INN & SUITES BY CHOICE HOTEL – 3117 Parker Lane, Chattanooga, TN

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT – 2210 Bams Drive, Chattanooga, TN

HAMPTON INN – 3641 Cummings Highway, Chattanooga, TN

HAMPTON INN – 2420 Williams Street, Chattanooga, TN

INTOWN SUITES LEE HIGHWAY, LLC – 5730 Lee Highway, Chattanooga, TN

QUALITY INN BY CHOICE HOTEL – 3109 Parker Lane, Chattanooga, TN

HOTEL PERMITS (Continued)

RODEWAY INN – 5505 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN

SKY HARBOR BAVARIAN INN – 2159 Old Wauhatchie Pike, Chattanooga, TN

TORNADO DAMAGE/ASSISTANCE

Councilman Murphy asked Chief Parker how we fared during the recent severe storms and how the Fire Department performed.

Chief Parker stated after consulting with the Mayor they took the cadets into the county that afternoon and evening where they went door-to-door and rendered aid. He stated they did not do as much as they wanted to do and wanted to do more; that they went on their own and helped people out. He stated two people who work for him had significant damage to their homes; that no one died but there were significant injuries and the damage was not as widespread an area as the tornado in April. He stated people are still recovering and many charitable organizations and churches have assisted; that people were cutting trees within thirty minutes of it happening and self-dispatched to assist. He stated there were a few injuries after the fact that are expected when moving debris; that the area was really hard hit and we were fortunate it was not in the city but outside the city on Highway 58; that a lot of people have lost pretty much everything they had. He related the story of one man who was stripped almost naked who had worked third shift and was wandering around as he gone to bed when he got in from work that morning and the next thing he knew he was flying through the air! He stated it will be a long term recovery in rebuilding homes and boats that were damaged.

REFUND

On motion of Councilman McGary, seconded by Councilman Rico, the Administrator of Finance was authorized to issue the follow refund of property tax 2011 due to payment in error:

CHARLES KING	\$7,566.25
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PURCHASES

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Murphy, the following purchases were approved for use by the various departments:

PARKS AND RECREATION:

SKYLINE LAWN AND GARDEN (Lower and better bid) R53250/301643

Purchase of Two (2) Zero Turn Commercial Grade Mowers

\$16,302.00

INFORMATION SERVICES:

EN POINTE TECHNOLOGIES (Lower and better bid)

R55988, R55989

Blanket Contract for Oracle Support Service

\$145,000.00 – Annual estimation

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney McMahan stated he had two matters to bring before the Council noting that the first involves Walter Williams who represented the city with respect to the Paul Page, Sutton and Baggett matter. He stated Atty. Williams was retained under a letter of agreement not to exceed \$10,000 and the matter was a little bit more prolonged than they thought it would be; that he has a final bill for \$2,154.80 which takes it above the \$10,000 and need approval to pay. He stated the second matter involves the retainer we have with Adam Sowatzka of Baker and Donelson out of Atlanta to represent the city with respect to the ongoing lawsuit brought by the Tennessee Clean Water Network, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation seeking enforcement actions against the city, even the Moccasin Bend Sewer Plant and our sewer system.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT (Continued)

City Attorney McMahan stated the reason he is bringing this one forward is because he was authorized a long time ago but when the contract was put in the works there was a termination date and we have come to the termination date and need to renew the contract.

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Rico, the City Attorney was duly authorized to proceed with both matters.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Chairman Ladd clarified on next Tuesday the budget sessions will be held from 10 a.m. – noon with an hour break and begin again at 1 p.m. with an informational meeting regarding the lighting system for the city; that at 2 p.m. we will have CHA in an informational session regarding public housing. She stated the regular Agenda session will begin at 3 p.m.

Councilman Benson stated his schedule and others reflect they are to be at Memorial at 11:30 a.m. on next Tuesday and wondered if the meeting could begin earlier.

Chairman Ladd stated that would be up to Councilwoman Berz who chairs the Budget Committee; that when she saw the conflict she decided she would not be able to attend the luncheon.

Councilman Benson stated he would attend the luncheon because he did not know we had the budget meeting until tonight.

Councilman Murphy stated there is also a conflict with the YMCA at the same time.

Councilwoman Berz stated they could meet earlier; that we could meet at 9 a.m. She stated for the record this went out to the Council members and we are alternating weeks; that this week was 1–3 p.m., next week 10–noon, and the following 1–3 p.m. until we finish the hearings to accommodate the work schedules of folks who had conflicts. She asked that Council members place the dates on their calendars from here on out and next week we can meet at 9 a.m. as that suits her; that in all fairness to the people coming before the Council we need to give them our full attention, but next week we can do 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS (Continued)

Councilman Rico stated members on the Council with prior commitments have to make them.

Councilwoman Berz expressed that the budget presentations are educational sessions and no one is required to show up at any of them; that if Council members want to learn more about the agencies to make good decisions that is being offered.

Councilwoman Ladd stated three Council members are involved in a 9 a.m. agenda session on Tuesday, but can be there late about 9:30 a.m.; that there will always be conflicts and we have to make individual decisions.

Councilwoman Berz suggested having the **budget presentations from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.** and if someone is late or has to leave early that is their choice.

COMMITTEES

Councilwoman Scott announced a meeting of the **Personnel, Performance and Audit Review Committee for Tuesday, March 20 following the Agenda Session** for a report on the employee health and dental plans.

Councilwoman Robinson scheduled a meeting of the **Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee for Tuesday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. for an educational session** from Elizabeth McCright of the Chattanooga Housing Authority (CHA) regarding public housing, federal funding and Section 8.

Councilman Rico scheduled a meeting of the **Public Works Committee for Tuesday, March 13 immediately following the Agenda Session.**

Councilwoman Berz reminded Council members of the meeting of the **Budget and Finance Committee** for the continuation of educational sessions involving budget presentations **scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, March 20 at 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

AGENDA: MARCH 13, 2012

Chairman Ladd inquired as to whether there were questions regarding next week's agenda; being none, the meeting continued.

ROBERT SCHREANE

Robert Schreane, Chairman of the North Brainerd Community Council, was present along with residents of the Avondale Association to address the revamping of the current Wilcox Tunnel and construction of a proposed new tunnel. At this point he recognized representatives of both communities and asked that they stand. He stated he and others in both Associations have been part of this community for over 30 years and for 30 years they have been before various Mayors and Councils in an effort to get work done on the Wilcox Tunnel. He expressed appreciation of the unanimous vote for the resubmission of the TIGER Grant and the \$17 million matching funds. He thanked Councilmen Gilbert and Murphy for their work noting they are as close as they have ever been since they started the project and as a community have been involved, as well. He stated the city would benefit from this and they have looked for years at the way the traffic flows east to west, noting there is a stall at the Tunnel coming from Chamberlain and is a bottle neck all the way down to Shallowford and Moore Roads. He referenced a newspaper article a few weeks ago wherein it was stated the State had no plans "on the table" for widening Shallowford Road other than what they are in the process of doing right now, which is a concern because they want to know where that is going; that if the Tunnel will be widened to two tubes and revamping the current one, if Shallowford is not widened the same bottle neck will occur. He stated the second issue is if they do not get the TIGER Grant what will the next move be if it is not secured because the problem will still exist; that the problem of I-24 being backed up, emission problems throughout the city when there is a backup, no one has a way of getting to East Brainerd after I-24 backs up and the thought is widening the Tunnel will resolve that problem.

At this point Chairman Ladd advised Mr. Schreane that his three minute time limit had expired. Councilmen McGary and Gilbert made the motion and second to allow another two minutes for Mr. Schreane's comments; the motion carried.

Mr. Schreane continued by stating the Mayor's spokesperson made the statement it would be best if money was saved or put aside every year to resolve the \$17 million needed in matching funds, noting that he (Schreane) distributed letters earlier asking that a bond be considered to fund the cost of the \$17 million to keep the project "on the road" and not let it escape as has been done in the past; that they have been told there was money "on the table" or "it will start next year" which never materialized. He stated they are asking if they cannot get the Grant what is the net proposal; that if they do get the Grant consider a bond to release the \$17 million that will be needed for matching funds.

ROBERT SCHREANE (Continued)

Councilman Gilbert expressed appreciation to Mr. Schreane and the community for their presence; that when he entered his second year as Councilman and this issue was before the Council it was stated the community was not together and it is obvious tonight the community is together and wants this to happen, as well as the businesses in the area. He stated Councilman Murphy communicated to several businesses and this needs to happen in an effort to get more people to join in with the community to help make that happen. He stated downtown is wonderful but this needs to be another corridor from downtown because highways get backed up and this is another way to travel back and forth; that it will improve industrial access and improve the corridor. He stated for many years there was a promise "this and that will be done" and money set aside but nothing happens; that it is his hope this will not be the same and we will push forward to make this happen for the community and surrounding businesses.

Councilman Murphy expressed thanks to Councilman Gilbert for his dedication to this and his single minded focus on this since he has served with him; that they have been working on this for a long time. He stated he does not want to jinx this as it is his hope we will get the TIGER Grant and if we do not it is his thought the city would have to bond the whole project which would probably be twenty-year money; that we will "cross that bridge" when we come to it. He again stated he did not want to jinx this as it will happen a lot faster and with a lot less pain to local taxpayers if we get the TIGER Grant; that it should not be a terrible number of months before we hear something.

Councilman Gilbert stated the last time was in November and we are probably looking at possibly October.

Councilman Murphy stated we could potentially hear as early as summertime, but by fall at the latest was his understanding. He stated a lot of those present know him as he is through the Tunnel every day, too, so something needs to be done and this Council is working on it. He stated the Council deserves a large thank you as they unanimously committed to the \$17 million which is not by any stretch of the imagination a small project; that it is a very big project for this city. He stated we are all "marching in the same direction" and expressed agreement with Mr. Schreane we are further along than we have ever been. He expressed thanks for their presence.

EDSELL PAYNE

Edsell Payne of 6636 Hickory Manor Circle stated his comments may be trivial to some; that he wanted to thank persons who called him and the support received regarding last week's write-up in the local newspaper concerning people standing for the pledge to the flag and to the nation of the United States. He stated it is his understanding that one or more religious denominations do not condone the practice of standing or pledging allegiance to our flag or our country; that he understands that and feel members of that religious group should be permitted the freedom that is afforded to them; however, it is his belief there is a price to pay for everything in this country as we have the greatest country in the world! He stated the price of living in this great country is supporting our nation by paying our taxes, serving in the military and serving in our local, state and national governments. He expressed his belief if a person is unwilling to stand and pledge for the allegiance and support to our country, that person should not be permitted to be employed or serve on any governmental body, which includes positions when employees receive payment and positions where service is donated.

PASTOR JOHN DRAPER

Pastor John Draper of 2129 Tunnel Boulevard stated the request was made over five years ago for sidewalks; that he was in District 5 and it has been changed to District 9. He stated people are walking in the street and five people have been killed; that cars run into his house and there are no sidewalks to walk on. He stated he would like for speed humps to be installed as people travel 75-100 miles per hour from Sumter Avenue to the curve and it is very dangerous; that it is hope his area will not be forgotten when the area went from District 5 to District 9, noting that he does not see his representative in the community and at the same time expressed forgiveness that if the District Councilman does come into the community he does not see him as he does not know him! He stated he is happy to be present this evening to express his desire for sidewalks as it is crucial as some are walking in the ditches, mailboxes are being torn down and his driveway has been broken up; that they need support for slowing down drivers!

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ladd adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga Council until Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK OF COUNCIL

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