

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

September 7, 2021

In Attendance

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in the Council Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present, including Vice-Chairman Ken Smith, and Council members Darrin Ledford, Jenny Hill, Raquetta Dotley, Anthony Byrd, Demetrus Coonrod, and Isiah Hester. Councilwoman Carol Berz was not present. Others present: Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist. Sherrell Ware provided administrative support after the call to order.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Brent Goldberg, Chief of Staff, and Joda Thongnopnua, Chief Policy Officer; Regional Planning Agency: Karen Rennich, Interim Director; Economic Development: Jermaine Freeman, Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity & Interim Administrator, and Dallas Rucker, Director of the Land Development Office (LDO); Signal Centers: Donna McConnico, CEO.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice-Chairman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (August 31, 2021) were approved as published.

Ordinances (First Reading) - Agenda Items 6A & 6B

There were no questions about the currently proposed budgets on tonight's agenda. Chairman Henderson opened a discussion on a budget amendment that he had distributed to the Council to decrease the appropriation to Signal Centers for Baby University by \$100,000, in order to add a full-time stormwater inspector position to the LDO (Land Development Office) division of Public Works. He asked Mr. Rucker to speak on LDO's staffing situation when it comes to enforcement.

Mr. Rucker answered questions about the budget funding and the impact of a new staff position. Councilwoman Hill and Councilman Byrd questioned Mr. Rucker on the proposed stormwater inspector position and whether someone currently employed could perform the inspector duties. Councilman Byrd also questioned Chairman Henderson on the process for his amendment in relation to the currently proposed budgets.

Further discussion ensued on the following:

- Support of Baby U. (Councilpersons Dotley, Coonrod, and Hester)

- Adding more Baby U. zip codes (Councilpersons Coonrod and Dotley)
- Education and Kindergarten readiness (Councilwoman Hill)
- Agency Accountability (Councilwoman Coonrod and Chairman Henderson)
- Adding more zip codes for Baby U. services (Councilpersons Dotley and Coonrod)
- Stormwater needs in District 2 (Councilwoman Hill)
- LDO readiness for a new position (Councilwoman Hill)
- Parental support of children (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Stormwater enforcement needs (Chairman Henderson)
- Agencies' independent funding (Chairman Henderson)

Chairman Henderson invited Mr. Goldberg to speak on agency expectations for receiving city funding, the process for deciding non-profit funding, and working with agencies that provide critical functions of municipal government.

Councilwoman Coonrod asked Mr. Thongnopnua about the difference between the Family Connect program and Baby U. Mr. Thongnopnua yielded to Ms. McConnico to discuss the Family Connect program. Ms. McConnico also responded to Councilwoman Coonrod's questions on how the proposed amendment would affect Baby U. and how the City of Chattanooga funding originally came to Baby U.

Chairman Henderson expressed appreciation for the debate on his proposed amendment. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7A & 7B

There were no questions on these items. Therefore, the issues were closed.

Purchasing

SEI Contract

Councilwoman Coonrod asked to remove the SEI Security on the purchasing list for tonight because the Council had voted against the city-wide blanket contract previously. Mr. Goldberg requested to consider the SEI Security purchase tonight because the contract had been rebid and SEI was the only bidder for the hotel security portion only. Councilwoman Coonrod questioned the city's research on buying a hotel. Mr. Thongnopnua spoke on the city's exploration of supportive housing, including CDBG dollars for the hotel piece. Councilwoman

PERF Contract

Coonrod asked for a separate vote tonight on the PERF contract (for Police Chief search) under consideration tonight. Chairman Henderson noted her request. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

September 14th Agenda

Councilwoman Hill asked Mr. Freeman to speak on next week's Resolution 7B regarding the Impact Workforce Initiative. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Future Considerations (3-Week Look Ahead)

There were questions or comments. Therefore, this issue was closed.

Proposed Legislation

City Court-Division 2 Legislation

Chairman Henderson apologized to Judge Sherry Paty, who was in the Assembly for a discussion on the proposed City Court-Division 2 legislation. Chairman Henderson noted a discrepancy on the date for this legislation to be discussed. Therefore, he asked to meet with Judge Paty offline to find a date when she could return to discuss it with the Council. Judge Paty indicated her agreement with that.

Judges Pay Legislation

Councilwoman Coonrod mentioned her legislation already distributed to the Council regarding the judges pay. She, too, thought a conversation would take place today on City Court. Chairman Henderson will let the Council know when he has coordinated a new date for Judge Paty to return to the Council to discuss these pending legislation.

Department Report

(No departmental reports)

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.