

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

March 15, 2022

Call to Order

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum of seven was present, including Vice Chairman Ken Smith and Councilpersons Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz Raquetta Dotley and Marvene Noel. Others present were Phil Noblett, Deputy City Attorney, and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist. Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod was not present.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Joda Thongnopnua, Chief of Staff; Economic Development: Jermaine Freeman, Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity & Interim Administrator

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (March 8, 2022) were approved as published.

Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Item 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E & 5F

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A

This item had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B

Chairman Henderson asked Mr. Thongnopnua for further explanation on this item. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7C, 7D & 7E

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7F

Councilman Ledford recognized Celeste Murphy, the Mayor's appointee for Chief of Police, who was present in the Assembly. Per the Councilman's request, Chairman Henderson opened the floor for Ms. Murphy to address the Council. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7G & 7H

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

March 22nd Agenda

Councilwoman Hill informed the Council that she would be moving forward with item “a”, after meeting with the community and receiving their input. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Future Considerations (3 Week Agenda)

Councilman Ledford asked Mr. Thongnopnua to get with him offline for further information pertaining to the Batters Place item (B3). Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Department Report ~ Economic Development

Mr. Freeman gave a presentation that included information on the following:

- Workforce Development Can't work alone
- This Grant is for Low-Income Individual with Families
- Statistics
- We now have a chance to change this
- TANF ~ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- We have a plan that works
- What makes this plan different
- We were working together
- Our plan helps build One Chattanooga
- Timeline

A discussion ensued wherein the following questions and concerns were addressed:

- Access to funds (Councilman Ledford)
- Criteria/Eligibility (Councilman Ledford)
- Multiple Agencies (Councilman Ledford)
- Sharing Information (Councilman Ledford)
- Family Justice Center (Councilwoman Berz)
- Mayor's Council for Women (Councilwoman Berz)
- Benefits (Councilwoman Berz)
- Agency Allocations (Councilwoman Berz)
- Payments (Councilwoman Berz)
- Target (Councilwoman Berz)
- Tracks Forward (Councilwoman Dotley)
- Community Schools (Councilwoman Dotley)
- Backbone Organization (Councilwoman Hill)
- Collaboration (Councilwoman Hill)
- Communication/Meetings (Councilwoman Hill)

Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

