

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

October 11, 2022

Call to Order

Council Chairman Darrin Ledford 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 was present that also included Vice Chair Raquetta Dotley and Councilpersons Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Phil Noblett, Deputy City Attorney, and Kyana Grady, Council Administrative Assistant. Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jenny Hill, and Marvene Noel entered the quorum at 3:32 p.m. Councilman Ken Smith was not present.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Tim Kelly, Mayor, and Joda Thongnopnua, Chief of Staff; Finance: Brent Goldberg, Chief Financial Officer; Economic Development: Jermaine Freeman, Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity & Interim; Regional Planning: Karen Rennich, Deputy Director.

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Vice Chair Dotley and seconded by Councilman Hester, the minutes of the last meeting (October 4, 2022) were approved as published.

Mayoral Announcement

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Ledford opened the floor to an announcement from Mayor Kelly. Mayor Kelly introduced a project aimed towards housing homeless citizens by creating a permanent supportive housing facility from a local hotel. He described the plan for the permanent housing structure and the plans for the renovation. He urged the Council to approve the upcoming rezoning request for the property. He ended his presentation by advising that there will be a public meeting regarding this matter on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Family Justice Center, located at 5705 Uptain Road. Mayor Kelly and Mr. Thongnopnua then addressed the following questions from Council:

- Referral Process (Dotley)
- Rezoning Requirements (Henderson)
- R-Tech Connection (Ledford)
- Promotion of the October 26th meeting (Ledford)
- Change of language addressing homelessness (Coonrod)

Chairman Ledford concluded the presentation by requesting Mayor Kelly to re-present the project at the Council meeting later this evening, to which Mayor Kelly agreed. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

[Councilwoman Berz exited the meeting at 3:48 p.m.]

Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Item 5A

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

Ordinances (First Reading)– Agenda Items 6A-6I

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 Item 7B

Councilwoman Coonrod informed the Council that she would seek to defer this item to October 25th. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7C & 7D

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

October 18th Agenda

Chairman Ledford proposed changing headings for upcoming agendas to read “*Pending Council Action*” or “*Proposed Agenda.*” With no objection from the Council, Chairman Ledford advised that he will consult with the City Attorney regarding the changes and keep the Council updated.

Chairman Ledford inquired on the removal of Mr. Charles Paty’s appointment. The removal was then verified from other Councilmembers. Chairman Ledford advised he would speak to Councilwoman Berz further regarding this issue.

Chairman Ledford noted a missing resolution number in item listed as 7f. Attorney Noblett advised that his staff would add the number to the agenda, and that Councilwoman Hill will be taking the lead on the item.

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

Future Considerations

Councilwoman Hill requested a presentation next week during the Parks and Public Works Committee meeting with more information regarding the upcoming item 10a.

Councilwoman Coonrod inquired about the property holding the Forgotten Child Fund, to which Mr. Freeman elaborated on the process for the renewal request in items 1a-1c and the upcoming timeline for the property.

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

Other Business

Chairman Ledford addressed the following topics during the meeting:

- Gratitude for the recently named Chris Ramsey Center;
- Attorney/client meeting directly following today's Agenda Session; and
- Council hiatus being scheduled for December 20th and December 27th due to construction in the Assembly Room.

Upon these announcements, Councilwoman Hill inquired about adding January 3rd to the holiday schedule, as it is very close to the beginning of the year. To which Chairman Ledford advised that he would consult with Administration and make Council aware of the decision.

Councilwoman Coonrod inquired about the process for withdrawing an item which has not yet been placed on the agenda. A discussion ensued with Attorney Noblett and Ms. Rennich regarding the process and how the matter should be handled. Following this conversation, Chairman Ledford suggested adding the topic to a Strategic Planning meeting to be thoroughly explored and explained. He scheduled the topic on the first Strategic Planning agenda in January 2023.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Ledford adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.