

# AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

## Chattanooga City Council

### June 13, 2023

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#### Call to Order

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Council Chair Raquetta Dotley 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 Council Vice Chair Jenny Hill, and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist, were also present.

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#### Other Participants in Attendance

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Mayor's Office: Jermaine Freeman, Chief of Staff; and Chris Anderson, Senior Advisor for Legislative Initiatives; and City Planning: Eric Asboe, Deputy Administrator.

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#### Approval of Minutes

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**On the motion of Councilwoman Berz** and seconded by Councilman Hester, the minutes of the last meeting (June 6, 2023) were approved as published.

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#### Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Items 5A & 5B

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

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#### Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Items 5C & 5D

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C. Case No. 2023-0037                      D. Case No. 2023-0049

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

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#### Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6A & 6B

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Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

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#### Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6C – 6K

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C. Case No. 2022-0262                      D. Case No. 2022-0263                      E. Case No. 2023-0063  
F. Case No. 2023-0068                      G. Case No. 2023-0069                      H. Case No. 2023-0062  
I. Case No. 2023-0066                      J. Case No. 2023-0067                      K. Case No. 2023-0065

Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

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#### Resolutions – Agenda Item 7A

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

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## **Resolutions – Agenda Items 7E – 7H**

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Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

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## **Resolutions – Agenda Item 7N**

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

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## **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

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Councilman Ledford requested an overview of the proposed resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement establishing a partnership with a city in Ukraine. Mr. Freeman responded. A discussion ensued.

- Councilman Ledford asked a series of questions and advised he would follow up in writing so that he could receive the answers in writing.
  - What if Ukraine loses [its current war with Russia]?
  - Why is the city of Chattanooga sending money overseas when there are issues here that still need funded?
  - Is it legal to sign a contract with a town or city that's in a country engulfed in war?
  - Has the City of Chattanooga consulted with Hamilton County or other local delegations?
  - Who is funding / paying for this?
  - What are the unintended consequences or potential consequences of entering into this agreement?
  - Have we consulted with any experts in foreign policy?
    - Mr. Freeman responded.
- Vice Chair Hill questioned the examples of the proposed contractor exchanges being presented. She then expressed concern over opening the city to cyber-attacks from Russia.
  - Mr. Freeman responded.
- Councilman Henderson emphasized the need for Council to see the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
  - Mr. Freeman and Mr. Noblett responded.

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## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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Councilwoman Berz inquired about the status of the recently appointed Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO), advising there were a lot of components that needed to be in place by July 1, 2023. Mr. Anderson responded.

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## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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### **Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Mr. Asboe briefed the Council on the plan [available [here](#)]. Councilman Henderson inquired about the Raccoon Mountain water and waste services not listed in the plan. Mr. Asboe responded. Upon no further questions, the issue was closed.

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## **Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Chair Dotley adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.