

**City Council Building  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
October 17, 2006  
6:00 p.m.**

Chairman Pierce called the meeting of the Chattanooga Council to order with Councilmen Bennett, Benson, Franklin, Gaines, Page, Rico and Robinson present; Councilwoman Rutherford was absent due to illness. City Attorney Randall Nelson, Management Analyst Randy Burns and Council Clerk Carol O'Neal were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Franklin gave invocation.

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

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

**CLOSE AND ABANDON**

**MR-2006-150: Ruth Anne Reed**

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Franklin,  
**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING AN UNOPENED ALLEY  
BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF THE 700 BLOCK OF DARTMOUTH  
STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND AS SHOWN ON  
THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY  
REFERENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

**CLOSE AND ABANDON**

**MR-2006-154: 2525 Broad Street, LLC**

On motion of Councilman Page, seconded by Councilwoman Bennett,  
**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING AN UNNAMED ALLEY  
BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF THE 400 BLOCK OF WEST 26<sup>TH</sup>  
STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN AND AS SHOWN ON  
THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY  
REFERENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

**REZONING**

**2006-181: Deborah Distefano**

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED,  
KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE A TRACT OF  
LAND LOCATED AT 1815 GUNBARREL ROAD, MORE PARTICULARLY  
DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM O-1 OFFICE ZONE TO R-4 SPECIAL ZONE**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

**REZONING**

**2006-188: Eugene H. Schimpf, III**

On motion of Councilwoman Gaines, seconded by Councilman Rico,  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED,  
KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE TRACTS OF  
LAND LOCATED AT 251 AND 281 LYERLY STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY  
DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM M-1 MANUFACTURING ZONE AND M-2  
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONE TO O-1 OFFICE ZONE**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

REZONING

**2006-190: Jedco, LLC**

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Page,  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED,  
KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO REZONE A TRACT OF  
LAND LOCATED AT 1319 COWART STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY  
DESCRIBED HEREIN, FROM M-1 MANUFACTURING ZONE TO C-3  
CENTRAL BUSINESS ZONE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

REZONING

**2006-193: Craig Kronenberg**

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Franklin,  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6958, AS AMENDED,  
KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, SO AS TO AMEND CONDITION  
NO. 2, ITEMS 2 AND 3 AND CONDITION NO. 3, ITEM 4 OF ORDINANCE  
NO. 11853 (CASE NO. 2006-136) ON A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED AT  
1405 COWART STREET, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN**  
passed second and final reading and was signed in open meeting.

CLOSE AND ABANDON

**MR-2006-159: City of Chattanooga c/o Gregory Albritton**

Councilman Rico stated this matter was discussed in today's Public Works Committee meeting and approval is recommended.

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,  
**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING SEWER EASEMENT NO.  
R-11 ON TRACTS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE 7200 BLOCK OF  
JARNIGAN ROAD AND 7413 IGOU GAP ROAD, MORE PARTICULARLY  
DESCRIBED HEREIN AND AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO  
AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE**  
passed first reading.

## CHANGE ORDER

Councilman Benson asked Adm. Leach to refresh his memory regarding this change order. He stated that he knows it must have come upon today's Public Works Committee meeting.

Adm. Leach stated that the change order affects two different areas in North Chattanooga where there is a very old sewer system – one in Lupton City and the other on Manufacturers Road that is all part of some necessary reconstruction. He stated these are the two areas Mayse will be working to take out old tile and replace with new tiles.

Councilman Benson asked if this is an unforeseen matter as it is a big change order.

Adm. Leach stated they are working there now; that it was felt both projects had immediate needs for reconstruction.

Councilman Rico clarified that the matter was discussed in today's Public Works Committee meeting.

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. W-04-006-201, MISCELLANEOUS SANITARY SEWER REQUIREMENTS, WITH MAYSE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., WHICH CHANGE ORDER INCREASES THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT AND 39/100 DOLLARS (\$284,668.39), FOR A REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT AND 39/100 DOLLARS (\$584,668.39)**

was adopted.

## PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

On motion of Councilwoman Gaines, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson,  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PAY CAPS SYSTEMS AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$13,500.00) FOR CLIENT TRACKING SYSTEM SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE**

was adopted.

## SPECIAL POLICEMAN

After the Clerk of Council read the Resolution, Councilman Rico stated that this matter was discussed in today's Public Works Committee and the caption should indicate that the special policeman appointment should be "*unarmed*" as opposed to "armed". At this time the initial motion and second was made by Councilmen Robinson and Franklin to approve; however, later in the meeting City Attorney Nelson asked that the matter be revisited.

City Attorney Nelson stated in looking at the Resolution the request is for the special policeman appointment to be an "*armed*" position. He stated the former action should be rescinded. **At this time Councilmen Robinson and Franklin rescinded their previous motion and second to approve as an "*unarmed*" special policeman appointment for Mr. Zendejas.**

Chairman Pierce inquired as to what training is provided as far as an armed special policeman, noting that he is leery about who is armed as the city is liable.

City Attorney Nelson clarified that this appointment is with the Chattanooga Housing Authority and would be investigated with them.

Councilman Pierce stated if we give authority we are liable.

City Attorney Nelson stated the Housing Authority would be responsible.

Councilman Benson stated we are liable for our policemen.

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Franklin,  
**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT H. ZENDEJAS AS SPECIAL POLICEMAN (ARMED) FOR THE CHATTANOOGA HOUSING AUTHORITY PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION, TO DO SPECIAL DUTY AS PRESCRIBED HEREIN, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

was adopted.

## OVERTIME

Overtime for the week ending October 13, 2006 totaled \$74,933.57.

## PERSONNEL

The following personnel matters were reported for the various departments:

### CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **MARVIN NICHOLSON, JR.** – Termination, Senior Firefighter, effective October 9, 2006.
- **WENDY M. BARNETT, MATTHEW B. BIGGS, CHRISTOPHER A. BLAZEK, ADAM T. CANNON, ANTHONY L. CARGLE, JAKE A. CASE, JOHN D. CRAW, JAMIE D. EVERS, TIM D. FREIRE, LLOYD T. GIBSON, TELLY E. GRANT, AARON D. HARMON, KEITH B. LILES, NICHOLAS L. MANN, DAVID E. MATTHEWS, JOEL R. NIX, DANNY S. PATTERSON, EDUIJ J. PUTMAN, KENNETH M. RIDGE** -- Hire Firefighter, Pay Grade F1/Step 1, \$27,869.00 annually, effective October 13, 2006.
- **JACK A. HORNER** – Hire, Firefighter, Pay Grade F1/Step 10, \$40,161.00 annually, effective October 13, 2006.
- **LATOYA M. WILLIAMS** – Transfer, Firefighter, Pay Grade F1/Step 1, \$27,869.00 annually, effective October 13, 2006.

### CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- **CHARLES MCMAHAN** – Voluntary Demotion, Police Service Technician, Pay Grade 3/Step 11, \$26,598.00 annually, effective October 13, 2006.

## PURCHASES

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Benson, the following purchases were approved for use by the Public Works Department:

### CROWN TECHNOLOGIES (Lowest and best bid)

#### R0092964/B0003524

Thermoplastic Paving Materials

\$725/ton (yellow)

\$675/ton (white)

**PURCHASES (Continued)**

**TEMPLE, INC. (Lowest and best bid)**

**R093345/B003560**

Wayfinding Sign Parts

\$17,380.00

**DEMPSTER INDUSTRIES, INC. (Single source)**

**R0093725**

Five (5) Galvanized Alleycat Trailers per TCA 6-56-304.2

\$104,057.06

**HOTEL PERMITS**

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

**STADIUM INN** – 100 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee

**LOOKOUT LAKE B & B** – 3408 Elder Mountain Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee

**PURCHASE**

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the following purchase was approved for use by the Chattanooga Fire Department:

**QUINCO KITCHEN, INC. (Lower and better bid)**

**R0092138/B0003443**

Furnish and Install Kitchen Cabinets and Food Lockers

\$13,290.00

**PURCHASE**

On motion of Councilman Franklin, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson, the following purchase was approved for use by the Chattanooga Police Department:

**TACTICAL & SURVIVAL SPECIALITIES, INC. (Single source)**

**R0093592**

Tactical Equipment per TCA 6-56-304.2

\$12,928.32

**REFUND**

On motion of Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilwoman Bennett, the Administrator of Finance was authorized to issue the following refund of property taxes due to State Board of Equalization assessment change:

**INVISTA S.a.r.L.**

\$18,144.21

**LIQUOR LICENSE**

Adm. Madison presented a request for liquor license in Councilwoman Rutherford's district from Sandra Denise Walker for a location at 3469 Brainerd Road. She stated the matter has gone through all the appropriate checks and would need five signatures from Council members.

**PURCHASES**

On motion of Councilman Rico, seconded by Councilman Franklin, the following purchases were approved for use by the Mayor's Office, Information Services Division:

**MOTOROLA, INC. (Single source)**

**R0093581**

Map View and GeoData Manager Software per TCA 6-56-304.2

\$12,000.00



**PURCHASES (Continued)**

**MOTOROLA, INC. (Single source)**

**R0093850**

Professional Services for CSR Software per TCA 6-56-304.2

\$12,000.00

**MOTOROLA, INC. (Single source)**

**R0093692**

CSR Maintenance & Support Renewal per TCA 6-56-304.2

\$18,600.00

**BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Dan Johnson presented the request for approval for the appointment of Mary Eastman to the Northshore Review Committee for a term ending October 19, 2009.

**Councilmen Rico and Franklin made the motion and second to approve the appointment**, however, Councilwoman Bennett expressed a desire to hold the matter one week for an opportunity to view Ms. Eastman's bio and other information. She stated since they are in the middle of revising the C-7 zone she would like to have an opportunity to know more about the person being appointed. She stated this is no reflection on Ms. Eastman, just a desire to know more about the appointee.

**At this point Councilmen Rico and Franklin withdrew their motion and second.**

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she knows Ms. Eastman and thinks she will serve admirably. She stated that she understands Council members want to understand who the appointees are.

The appointment request will be presented at next Tuesday's Council meeting (October 24, 2006).

### PRATER LAWSUIT

City Attorney Nelson reported on the lawsuit between Prater and the city of Chattanooga when Leslie Vaughn Prater was found in a state of nakedness and subsequently passed away. He stated much to our horror it was found later the police department had ceased its training with positional asphyxia which is what caused his demise. He stated it is our understanding we will be liable in this case; that a tentative agreement to settle has been drawn, based upon the contingent of receiving a signed release from the other side, in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 and other attributes. He stated training in positional asphyxia has now been reinstated, which was done for a long period of time in the nineties and was cut off some time at the end of the nineties and (he) does not know why. He stated if there are any questions, he would be happy to field them at this time.

**Councilman Franklin and Rico made the motion and second to authorize the City Attorney to move forward; the motion carried.**

### BRAINERD EASEMENT

City Attorney Nelson reported that the other matter is that of the easement out in Brainerd. He stated an attorney-client privileged meeting was held before this session tonight and terms of the settlement have been proposed. He stated they were outlined to the Council and it is his belief he could not detect any indication on the part of the Council to deal with this question tonight. He stated some want to visit the scene and see what effect the proposal would have and others want to study the issue further. He stated if any on the Council wish to proceed one way or the other with the proposed settlement now would be the time to make a motion, otherwise the matter would be deferred until ready to present it.

**Councilmen Benson and Gaines made the motion to defer the matter for an indefinite period of time; the motion carried.**

### DISTRICT 1 AND 2 MEETING

Councilwoman Robinson stated Districts 1 and 2 will meet with the Mayor on Thursday, October 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Northside Presbyterian Church on Mississippi Avenue. She stated all residents are invited.

## COMMITTEES

Councilman Page stated that an Economic Development Committee meeting was held this afternoon and next week the Wrigley Co. PILOT will be presented on the Council's agenda.

Councilman Benson scheduled a meeting of the **Legal and Legislative Committee for Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 3 p.m.**

## DR. JANE FURLONG CAHILL

**Dr. Jane Furlong Cahill**, a retired social worker and retired adjunct professor from UTC in Human Services, distributed information to the Council and read a letter she had written to Mayor Littlefield. She stated that she wants the libraries to be open seven days a week and quoted from James Flexner who stated, "The memories of mankind, the storehouse that contains all which is known and has been thought". She stated the library is a priceless resource any city that aspires to greatness must treasure and are essential to all citizens for self-education before, during and especially after school. She stated were there to be a global disaster, if our libraries survived, as Flexner put it, "all that knowledge would be preserved and could be relearned."

Dr. Cahill commended the city for the contribution made to the library, however much more needs to be done. She stated if education in our schools is to be upgraded to excellent so should our libraries, not just to good but to excellent. She quoted President Kennedy, "Good libraries are as essential to an educated and informed people as the school system itself." She stated the role of the city and county is to supply the necessary tools for all citizens to access knowledge through fair distribution of our tax monies according to the people's will. She stated petitions have been forwarded to the Mayor's office that were signed by representatives of a cross-section of the educational community, including a former chancellor of UTC, a former county administrator, the HCEA, principals, PTA's, members of the public and private sectors, as well as churches, synagogues, mosques, the medical community, the African-American, Hispanic and Native American communities.

## DR. MARY WARING

**Dr. Mary Waring** of 809 South Crest Road stated that C. Y Chapin was the first president and founder of American National Bank (now SunTrust) and was a carpetbagger who amassed his fortune and gave liberally.

### DR. MARY WARING (Continued)

Dr. Waring quoted remarks Mr. Chapin made to the Chattanooga Jaycees in August of 1939: "There are 160,000 people in this county whose progress must be sustained and quickened by books. A community advances with the intelligence of the people. As that intelligence rises, prosperity rises with it. Brighter minds bring wider accomplishments." She stated that remark as timely tonight as it was then.

### CHARLES SHROPSHIRE

**Charles Shropshire** of 30 West 51<sup>st</sup> Street stated he was present to ask for help. He stated on the hill he stays on off Central Avenue he and other residents are about to be run off. He stated most of them have been there since 1955 and nothing but elderly are there. He stated there are people who are "running over them" and they are tired and need help. He stated he went to his Councilman and picked him up and carried him in his car to show him what was going on. He stated he would appreciate help; that the only time they see an officer on that hill is if somebody calls for one. He stated there are two spots there that "these people" go and park; that they park there all night long and smoke and do everything else. He stated they would like to have help and are tired of what is going on!

Councilman Rico stated that he called 311 and they assured him they would come out and check on it. He stated Council members have go through the channels, too.

Mr. Shropshire confirmed that they did come out and moved some of the cars.

Councilman Rico stated that he asked them to take a look at this and they told him they would.

Mr. Shropshire expressed appreciation if they could get some officers to get rid of the people causing the problems on the hill and just get some help! He stated most who live there have lived there most of their lives.

### GARY BALL

**Gary Ball** of the Ridgedale community stated that a number of people are present with him on this issue, all of whom are serious about police matters in their community. (At this time several in the audience stood in support of Mr. Ball.)

### GARY BALL (Continued)

Mr. Ball presented several books and documents proving his citizenship in Chattanooga which entitles him to the same services and benefits other people that live in the city get. He stated that his community's interaction with the police is not something they take lightly; that they have a renewed focus on crime prevention. He stated fear of crime is the primary factor diminishing the quality of life in Chattanooga. He stated a number of those present with him have a lot of issues and a lot of problems and he knows of them all can not be resolved; that they have been meeting with the police for six years religiously and through their interaction committee a number of issues have come to the forefront. He stated Chattanooga does not have adequate police personnel right now; that they are underpaid and they can not be retained because of that. He stated gentlemen like Mr. Shropshire and tons of other elderly feel they are not safe and the reason he can attest to this is that he recently rode with them (police); that the inner city makes calls constantly. He stated the police do not sit at the 7/11 as they take calls constantly; that the Fox Team in Sector Two has been historically short of personnel and are short every shift of at least one district car which is a problem. He stated it is a problem in leadership this Council has to solve; that somebody has to step forward and finally say we either get rid of some programs and put money where we can spend it on police officers or raise taxes.

Chairman Pierce stated that he had been made aware this group would be coming tonight and he asked administration to be present to address the problem. He stated a lot of times people come down and expect the Council to work miracles; that the Council passes a balanced budget submitted by administration to administer the money, however, as far as personnel is concerned, that is something administration has to address.

Dan Johnson, Chief of Staff, stated that six new positions were added to the police department this last budget year however they were all in the communications section for 911 functions. He stated this issue will be addressed again with the new police chief, whoever that may be. He stated the new police academy will add a few and they are addressing the issue as best they can with the resources they have.

Chairman Pierce stated this department, basically, has the highest funded department we have in the city; that all on the Council feel they are short of officers in their districts. He stated just for one officer, five more people would have to be hired to work around the clock, seven days a week; that if we look at the entry-level salary of \$30,000 or more, we are talking about \$150,000 to put one man on duty around the clock.

### GARY BALL (Continued)

Chairman Pierce stated the bottom line is whether we are ready to increase taxes; that library representatives are present tonight asking for support and how do we meet those goals. He stated there is only one way to deal with it and that is through property tax as there is no other means of raising money. He stated he is not trying to "pass the buck", but once the budget is passed this Council is not responsible for how many officers personnel has out there. He stated he does not know the solution at this time.

Mr. Ball stated that his first request has to do with the leadership in the Chattanooga Police Department; that we have to get leadership. He stated there is no use saying that we have 480 policemen and have people "gripping the Council out" constantly because of crime and safety issues if no one can step up. He stated a safety committee meeting needs to be held so people can come in and voice their opinion about the process; that they have no voice in the selection of a police chief and asked what are we going to do. He stated it was not that way the last time and we deserve a voice in that. He asked that a committee meeting be scheduled as soon as possible.

Councilman Franklin asked if the chief of police position has been posted.

Mr. Johnson responded "yes"; that it was posted within the last two weeks.

### LOUISE HAMMONDS

**LOUISE HAMMONDS** from the Oak Grove community spoke next. She thanked Councilman Rico for working with the lady in her community even though it was not his district and expressed appreciation to him. She stated it is her guess if they have any leadership in their community; that there are 30 businessmen and she does not know what they would do without their taxes if they moved to Georgia. She stated they are being "stolen blind"; that for ten years she knows for a fact that her part of town has had the highest calls for police and have the highest crime rate. She stated other towns can clean it up but they do not have enough leadership and nobody cares out there. She stated Ron Littlefield ran on neighborhood involvement but they have not seen him out there or heard from him. She stated she went to Dan Johnson with a problem and met him two weeks later and reminded him of their conversation and he asked that she remind him what they talked about. She stated that makes them feel nobody really cares. She stated if we can find so much money in Chattanooga and spend thousands and thousands of dollars to study this and that, we need to take the money off Enterprise South long enough to clean this up and maybe some businesses will want to come here.

### LOUISE HAMMONDS (Continued)

Ms. Hammonds stated we let this administration take police cars away; that they had a policeman that used to come to their community to help them during his off time but what has happened is his car has been taken and she understands cars were given to a number of policemen under Gene Roberts as opposed to giving a raise. She stated they were allowed to drive the cars and then have it taken away in another administration and asked if this is fair of the leadership in Chattanooga – she does not think so! She stated she would love for Council members to visit her community; that they will find out they are needed out there and there is no human contact with this. She stated the community has not seen Councilman Pierce at any of their meetings, either.

Chairman Pierce asked if Ms. Hammonds has ever invited him to one of their meetings.

Ms. Hammonds responded “yes” and he never comes; that Councilman Rico has been to one.

Chairman Pierce stated that he has been to a meeting in that area.

Ms. Hammonds stated that she is talking about Oak Grove and not Glenwood; that she lives in a community with the highest percentage of widow women; that three streets have nine ladies living alone. She stated they cannot get crime cleaned up and the businessmen can not get the prostitutes off their sidewalks long enough so trucks can get in and out. She stated that somebody has to “step up to the plate” and if it is not the Council or Littlefield she does not know who is responsible in this town. She stated she is moving out of the community and Chattanooga will lose more people to Georgia and everywhere else. She stated people are tired of this, we have had it and the businessmen have had it! She stated they have had no satisfaction and she is present tonight to tell the Council they are sick of it! She stated the police have worked faithfully and have done everything possible and it is the city that has not given the help they need and it is time someone stepped up to responsibility!

Chairman Pierce expressed appreciation to Ms. Hammonds for coming in and giving her opinion. He stated we all have a job and the police have a job to do; that we are doing our jobs as far as giving what the city has to offer; that he did not think her neighborhood is any worse than his and expressed sympathy with her. He stated he has taken it upon himself to do his own policing and he knows the police can not answer all calls, there is no way. He stated crime is up all over our city and county and not just in one neighborhood as it is all over. He stated these are things we have to be content with until we can do better.

### LOUISE HAMMONDS (Continued)

Councilman Benson asked Ms. Hammonds not to get frustrated and not to leave us; that Councilman Pierce noted that the same thing is happening in his neighborhood and in his (Benson's), as well. He stated that he knows Councilwoman Rutherford has problems in her district, also.

Ms. Hammond stated when we talk about one place having six hundred plus calls in one month, the police are doing all they can do.

Councilman Benson again asked Ms. Hammonds not to be frustrated and noted that Dan Johnson is here tonight and will certainly look into it; that her coming down to address the Council is not in vain.

Ms. Hammond retorted that she is not frustrated, she is mad!

### BEN PARKER

**Ben Parker** stated that he owns a sheet metal fabrication shop on 28<sup>th</sup> Street and related a story of his sitting at Bojangles and a man came in seeking help after having been beaten and robbed in the parking lot of the Bi-Lo Supermarket. He stated on the same day he looked out the window at his place of business and witnessed a drug sale of crack cocaine to prostitutes. He stated he had to cancel his second shift and run two or three trucks as his aluminum was being stolen. He stated the thieves are running rampant and have taken over our community and there has got to be an answer. He stated Chattanooga is too big a town to let thieves come in and take the place over and scare the elderly.

Councilman Benson asked Mr. Parker if it has gotten worse within the last year. Mr. Parker responded "within the last year".

Councilman Benson asked what has happened to cause the escalation.

Mr. Parks stated prostitution, drugs and theft, which all go hand-in-hand; that if you have one you have the other. He stated drugs are being sold by people on bicycles; that during the summer there was a merry-go-round around South Hickory and Wautauga to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Councilwoman Bennett asked if Mr. Parker is seeing the same people come around.

The response from the audience was that they are not the same prostitutes.



### BEN PARKER (Continued)

Mr. Parker stated that the problem is deeper than prostitutes being cuffed and arrested as they are on the streets the next day. He stated it goes deeper than that as they can not keep anyone in jail.

Councilwoman Bennett stated that she would like to hear from officers in safety committee who work in the area to see why they feel what is happening.

Chairman Pierce stated where the system breaks down is in our courts; that they are arrested and they get out.

### CYNTHIA STANLEY CASH

**Cynthia Stanley Cash** stated she was present representing the North Brainerd Neighborhood Association. She stated they met last night and the same thing is happening in her community. She indicated that she wanted the Council to know that they want to help and would like to follow-up tonight's meeting with a safety committee meeting so the Council would not be held long tonight. She stated the things that trouble her is that in her community are drug deals and police are parked at the service station and see "stuff" going on and can not really do a lot. She reiterated that they want to help and would like to meet in committee and continue this discussion. She stated things are bad and horrible and there are senior neighbors who live alone. She related the incident of a resident on Mark Twain that was robbed in the driveway. She stated she were not present to fuss at the Council but to help find a solution.

Councilman Benson stated that we can not hire enough policemen; that we need to get to the root of the cause. He stated prevention, better parenting and training at an early age is needed; that he does not think the tax payer can afford to raise children and then expect taxes to correct them. He stated at some point peer pressure should be placed on better parenting.

Ms. Hammonds stated that the only thing about that is that you can not control the home. In speaking to Chairman Pierce, she stated that she is not laying the blame on the police department; that she came from a police meeting the other night, went to bed and heard a noise in her neighbor's back yard – that someone was trying to break in her neighbor's shed and it took the police four minutes to get to her house. She stated she is not blaming them as they are giving them all they've got and they just do not have any more to give.

Chairman Pierce noted that Ms. Hammonds gets more than the average person as it takes an hour for a response from the police department for him.

**MARY LUCILLE SHARPE**

**Mary Lucille Sharpe** stated that she has had rental property since she was seventeen, however she is not seventeen anymore. She stated in all those years she never had something taken out of her car; however this past summer she had armed robberies; that her tenants were sitting on the porch and some people came up and robbed them at gunpoint. She stated that she now has chicken wire around the windows and her tenants are afraid to leave the house without some type of protection. She stated this is a little different angle but these are the problems she is encountering; that in forty-nine years she had not had these problems.

Chairman Pierce inquired as to her properties that were robbed.

Ms. Sharpe stated armed robberies occurred at 1907 South Beech, 1003 South Hickory and 2603 Glenwood Parkway in the Oak Grove, Highland Park and Glenwood communities.

Councilman Franklin expressed appreciation for the neighborhoods represented tonight and stated that it is not just a problem in one neighborhood as it is spreading around. He stated he could go on and on about different experiences people are having, however we have to come up with creative ways of dealing with a lot of things. He stated he would not have a problem having a safety committee meeting within the next two weeks; that the meeting should be structured to isolate the types of crime happening and see how it can be resolved based on the individuals working in our police department. At this time he scheduled **a Safety Committee meeting for Tuesday, October 24 at 3:30 p.m.**

**CECILIE ROMAN**

**Cecilie Roman** stated that she lives in East Lake. She stated that some business owners have spoken tonight and she wanted to add or reiterate that the police department is not at fault. She stated if it takes higher taxes or a penny increase on fuel or something we have to put our "thinking hats" on as they (police) can not do it and it is not their fault. She stated we have to have an incentive to bring others from other cities, housing or something, to help them out to make their jobs easier. She stated that she walks her neighborhood and has taken pictures and noted she has been accosted and offered money for services however she does not think she looks like a "hooker"!

### CECILIE ROMAN (Continued)

Ms. Roman stated she is studying to be an interpreter and it is insulting she can not walk her dog; that she has had seven flat tires, has been chased with a knife and has taken a picture of a man in a BMW who chased her for four miles and almost ran her off Highway 24; that those who cater to the prostitutes come in with dealer tags and cannot take a tag number down. She stated that this is a whole new crew and she personally knows all of them. She stated that she works vertically everyday; that everyone knows she has binoculars and portable cameras and has one in her car. She stated that she chases them and she is tired of it! She asked how can we not increase taxes if we are hurting this bad and allocate it to the police department.

Chairman Pierce informed Ms. Roman that the city could not do that; that there would have to be state legislation to enable us to impose a tax of that nature. He stated all we can rely on are property taxes as our source of income.

Ms. Roman stated that she was in Nashville in the Brentwood area talking to someone in a hotel and she mentioned that she lives in Chattanooga. She stated what they say about us made her feel as if she came from a cesspool. She invited the Council to go to South Hickory between 28<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; that it is like a "free for all" out there daily.

Chairman Pierce stated that he knows what is there; that it is a service station that is a truck stop; then there is the hotel, the Hampton Inn, and that is the only place prostitutes gather. He stated there is another hotel two blocks away in his neighborhood.

Ms. Roman stated they do not use the hotel any more as they use the alley; that the Bi-Lo on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and South Hickory has put up signs.

### LEE TRIPP

**Lee Tripp** stated that he is from Cedar Hill and they get tremendous police help. He stated they have an actual drug agenda at their meetings and they (police) go undercover and raid houses. He stated he is not saying how many there are as the agency is well understaffed. He stated Cedar Hill has 35 drug houses as of a year ago and they have gotten it down to six. He stated they have personally notified everyone from the city to the U. S. Attorney's office; that they just do not have enough agents to go around and raid houses. He made reference to being surrounded by drug dealers and the police know about them but can not catch them; that there are not enough dogs to "sniff them out" and it is like a Catch 22-type thing.

**LEE TRIPP (Continued)**

Mr. Tripp referenced the pawn shops on Rossville Boulevard and stated that he knows Councilwoman Rutherford was trying to get that pushed through. He stated they need help badly to help the police do their job with more vehicles and more money.

Chairman Pierce asked Chief Freeman Cooper if he wanted to make comments.

Chief Cooper stated there is no way to do that tonight; that it would be better discussed in Safety Committee as it will not be resolved here tonight.

Ms. Hammonds extended an invitation to any Councilman who has time. She stated at 7 a.m. every morning go to the Evans Lumber Company on Dodds Avenue; that the owner has coffee and donuts and the Councilmen could "see the show". She stated they could see many drug dealers and get anything they wanted.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Pierce adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga Council until Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

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