



City Council Building
Chattanooga, Tennessee
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2016
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chairman Moses Freeman called the meeting to order with Vice Chair Jerry Mitchell and Council members Chris Anderson, Carol Berz, Russell Gilbert, Yusuf Hakeem, Chip Henderson and Ken Smith all present. Deputy City Attorney Phil Noblett and Council Clerk Nicole Gwyn, CMC, were also present. Councilman Larry Grohn was not present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Henderson informed the Council that 16 youth were going on a missions trip to York, PA to serve the elderly living in nursing homes. He invited those youths who were in the Assembly today to come forward and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Meanwhile, he displayed a photo of Keoshia Ford, who was scheduled to go on a missions trip in July 2013. However, on March 17, 2012, she became the victim of a gang-related shooting and, as a result, will require constant care for the rest of her life. In honor of Keoshia, he challenged the Assembly to get involved with young people in their churches, mentor as Big Brother Big Sisters, or volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club of America. He stated that 100 years from now, the world may be a little better because he made a difference in the life of a child. Lastly, he invited Dr. James Rushing, Temple Baptist pastor, to give the invocation.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Freeman explained the order of business and noted that the Council will vote on items today that have been discussed thoroughly over the past two weeks at their 1:30 p.m. Strategic Planning meetings, 3:00 Agenda Session and Committee meetings, and last week's 6:00 p.m. Council meeting.

HONORABLE RECOGNITION

Councilwoman Berz recognized Tennessee State Representative Joanne Favors, who was present in the Assembly today.

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Gilbert, the minutes of the last meeting (April 26, 2016) were approved as published.

ORDINANCES – FINAL READING:

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Henderson,

ORDINANCE #13047

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 11, ADDING ARTICLE XVII, TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF TIRES AND REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TIRE BUSINESSES AND TIRE HAULERS WITHIN THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA.

ACTION: APPROVED

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Mitchell,

ORDINANCE #13048

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 13007 TO CHANGE SECTION 5 ONLY TO REFLECT THE GENERAL STATE ELECTION DATE AS NOVEMBER 8, 2016.

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

MR-2016-021
Bobby Fairbanks

On motion of Councilwoman Berz and seconded by Councilman Anderson,

ORDINANCE #13049

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A SEWER EASEMENT LOCATED AT 7373 AND 7385 APPLGATE LANE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

MR-2016-022
Ashford Square Retirement Community

On motion of Councilwoman Berz and seconded by Councilman Anderson,

ORDINANCE #13050

**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A SEWER EASEMENT
LOCATED AT 7683 SHALLOWFORD ROAD, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN
CONDITIONS.**

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

MR-2016-047
MAP Engineers
c/o Mike Price and Peter Cory

On motion of Councilman Henderson and seconded by Councilman Anderson,

ORDINANCE #13051

**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A SEWER EASEMENT
LOCATED AT 1813 MORRIS HILL ROAD, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN
CONDITIONS.**

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

MR-2016-029
M&M Industries, Inc.

On motion of Councilman Gilbert and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

ORDINANCE #13052

**AN ORDINANCE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A SEWER EASEMENT
LOCATED AT 6162 ENTERPRISE PARK DRIVE.**

ACTION: PASSED ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS:

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Mitchell,

RESOLUTION #28593

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO AWARD HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO \$100,000.00; HELEN ROSS MCNABB FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO \$150,000.00; AND TOWER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO \$50,000.00, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Mitchell,

RESOLUTION #28594

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING AND APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF VICKY GREGG AS A MEMBER OF THE ELECTRIC POWER BOARD OF CHATTANOOGA FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF UNTIL APRIL 15, 2021, AND THEREAFTER UNTIL HER SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Henderson and seconded by Councilman Hakeem,

RESOLUTION #28595

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE AS PART OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK/INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIBIN/IBIS) TO PURCHASE FROM ULTRA ELECTRONICS A BRASSTRAX ACQUISITION STATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$137,805.00; A SAFEGUARD EXTENDED WARRANTY AND PROTECTION PLAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,250.00; A LEICA COMPARISON MACROSCOPE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000.00; AND A SNAIL BULLET TRAP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00, FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$228,055.00.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Gilbert and seconded by Councilman Smith,

RESOLUTION #28596

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY RELATIVE TO THE COURTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000.00.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

RESOLUTION #28597

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LAVISH BUILDING AND DESIGN, LLC C/O JARED CHASTAIN, AGENT FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER, KRISTEN BRAGDON, TO USE TEMPORARILY THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON NORMAL AVENUE ADJACENT TO 918 NORMAL AVENUE TO INSTALL A PARKING PAD, AS SHOWN ON THE MAPS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Berz,

RESOLUTION #28598

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMCA LP C/O DAVID ROOS TO USE TEMPORARILY THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ON BROAD STREET ADJACENT TO 736 BROAD STREET TO INSTALL A CANOPY AND USE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF BROAD STREET, WEST 8TH STREET, AND MARKET STREET ADJACENT TO 736 BROAD STREET FOR A BASEMENT THAT EXTENDS INTO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY UNTIL A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT CAN BE IN PLACE, AS SHOWN ON THE MAPS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

ACTION: ADOPTED

On motion of Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Mitchell,

RESOLUTION #28599

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO APPLY FOR AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE LYNDHURST FOUNDATION FOR THE CHATTANOOGA BICYCLE TRANSIT SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROMOTION, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00.

ACTION: ADOPTED

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Purchases

David Carmody, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, briefed the Council on the following purchases:

R114783 / PO532852 - Public Works Estimated \$200,000 Annually
Blanket Contract Renewal for Bypass
Pumping Equipment Rental
Lowest/Best Bidder: Xylem, Inc.
402 Old Mill Road
Cartersville, GA 30120

R132735 - Public Works \$31,173.00
The Purchase of One (1) Fairbanks Morse
Pump Rotating Assembly and One (1) Impeller
Lowest/Best Bidder: Guthrie Sales & Service Co.
7003 Chadwick Drive, Suite 300
Brentwood, TN 37027

R131569 - Public Works Estimated \$60,000 Annually [Overall
Two (2) New Blanket Contract for Grounds Estimated Annual Total for R131569
Maintenance for Parks Remains \$350,000.00]

Lowest/Best Bidders:

1. US Lawns of East Chattanooga 6263 North Lee Highway, Cleveland, TN 37312
2. ERMC II, LP 6148 Lee Highway, Suite 300, Chattanooga, TN 37421

R86350 - General Services Estimated \$85,000 Annually
Blanket Contract Renewal for Chemicals
for City Golf Courses
Lowest/Best Bidder: Harrell's
3127 Landview Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

R132248 - Transportation Department Estimated \$40,000 Annually
New Blanket Contract for Traffic Safety Materials
Lowest/Best Bidder: Transafe, Inc.
1625 Spectrum Drive,
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

R132858 - Youth and Family Development Estimated \$44,975.00 Annually
New Blanket Contract for Fresh Produce
Lowest/Best Bidder: Dixie Produce, Inc.
P.O. Box 429
Chattanooga, TN 37401

PO 532250 - Purchasing
Blanket Contract Renewal for Office
Supplies and Toner
Lowest/Best Bidder: Staples Advantage
PO Box 405386
Atlanta, GA 30384

Estimated \$450,000 Annually

Councilwoman Berz moved to approve, seconded by Councilman Anderson. The motion carried.

ACTION: APPROVED

OTHER BUSINESS:

Special Presentation:

Presentation - Bro. Kevin Muhammad
Introduction by Councilman Ken Smith
(Rules of Procedure read by Attorney Noblett)

Bro. Muhammad was given 20 minutes to make a presentation entitled “The People’s State of the City Address.” [The full speech was also distributed in writing to the Council and is **attached** as part of the official minutes of this meeting.]

After the presentation, Councilman Smith thanked Bro. Muhammad and the community, noting that he felt it was critically important that the Council hear from everybody. Bro. Muhammad also responded to the following questions from Councilman Hakeem:

- If city leaders do not take heed of the concerns and needs outlined today, what do you see resulting?

Bro. Muhammad responded that there is an election coming next March. He stated that the Council needs to stop siding with the rich and powerful of this city. He stated that if the concerns are not heeded, he expected to see new faces in the Council seats who will answer to the people’s agenda.

- What is a start on behalf of government to address the needs and concerns we have?

Bro. Muhammad stated that City fathers and leaders must atone for their sins, humble themselves, swallow their pride and admit they’ve messed up. He explained that the reason young brothers are out on the streets committing derivative crimes. Bro. Muhammad cited Dr. King, who was quoting Victor Hugo: “When a man commits sin in darkness, don’t look at the man who created the sin, look at who created the darkness.” Bro. Muhammad went on to cite Dr. King stating that it is the policymakers of society who created the darkness: the slums and the unemployment. He said that when you see us committing crimes, these are derivative and born out of that darkness. He said that there are too many deals cut in back rooms that ill-affect the people. He said that house cleaning needs to take place if the leaders don’t humble themselves and admit that they’ve done wrong to God first. He said there is a day coming when leaders must pay for what they’ve done to the people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit & I.T. Committee

(Councilman Grohn was not present)

Budget and Finance Committee

Councilwoman Berz

(No report)

Economic and Community Development Committee

Councilman Anderson

- The committee will meet next week to discussion maximum occupancy.

HR Committee (Human Resources)

Councilman Mitchell

(No report)

Planning & Zoning

Councilman Hakeem

- The committee met today to review items that the Council will vote on next week. The Council will have time for additional questions during the hearings next week.
- Later in the meeting, he informed the public about the Council had invited an expert to give a presentation on disparity studies Tuesday (May 10) at 12:30 p.m.

Public Safety Committee

Councilman Henderson

(No report)

Public Works and Transportation Committee

Councilman Smith

- The committee will meet next week immediately following the Agenda Session.

Youth and Family Development Committee

Councilman Gilbert

(No report)

NEXT WEEK'S AGENDA

Councilman Anderson informed Attorney Noblett that he had requested a condition to be attached to agenda item 6(e) next week under Planning, and asked if he had received the language of the condition. Attorney Noblett confirmed he had received it. Councilman Anderson asked to see the language of the condition prior to next week's meeting. Attorney Noblett confirmed that he would receive it.

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL (Non-Agenda Items)

Attorney Noblett read the rules of procedure for persons wishing to address the Council on non-agenda items. After which, Chairman Freeman recognized the following persons:

- **Franklin McCallie (Reed Avenue, District 7)** – He asked the Council to stop the PILOT program. He thinks the city has gone way beyond in giving tax incentives, and doesn't feel the Council has rules to give us the best PILOT program for the city. He said that we're losing millions of dollars due to PILOT agreements. He reminded the Council that he had spoken before about Walnut Commons, where attorneys and developers put forth a plan, but, he says, children are not receiving tax dollars for schools through it. He agrees with and supports everything Bro. Muhammad said today.
- **Monty Bell ("The homeless journalist")** – He informed the Council that a situation is coming to the forefront in his efforts to reinstate his driver's license. He asked the Council to stop the silence and the violence that, he said, falls from the top down to the people. He questioned the formula used to suspend driver's licenses for people who have no license in the first place. He said he doesn't have access to court records that have his personal information on them.
- **Tresa McCallie (Reed Avenue, District 7)** – She and her husband see Chattanooga as a wonderful city for white people. She says it is easy to go through the whole day as a white person and not have to interact with a person of color. She said we are not giving our whole city the opportunity to participate in what this city can be until we look at education. She said there is no reason that every child in this district should not get a quality education. She believes a good, quality education will solve the crime and unemployment problem, but believes it will take change on everybody's part on how we do business.
- **Asia Pryor (Concerned Citizens for Justice & UTC student)** – She voiced concerns about the under-funding of community programs that play a large part in the physical health, restoration and character of young brothers and sisters. She explained how she participated in community-led centers, where she learned about physical well-being, job readiness and test-taking skills; yet, a number of her peers did not have access to programs like these. She asked that if the Council believes in youth, then why not give more in the budget for youth programming. She asked the Council if youth are worth having fully-funded and staffed recreation centers. She asked if any Councilperson would be brave enough to divest in the police department, which, she feels, works against youth.
 - Councilman Henderson responded by challenging people again to become mentors.
- **Resident at 301 N. Chamberlain Ave. (District 9)** – He asked the Council when East Chattanooga would get a grocery store. He voiced concerns about not having a healthy grocery store with fresh foods in his community. He informed the Council that seniors in his community must ride the bus to grocery store to buy fresh food. He asked the Council to give a tax break to investors for bringing a healthy grocery store to his community.

- **Christy Wilkinson (S. Highland Park, District 9)** – She informed the Council of a brewing situation where the social reality about poverty in Chattanooga is being overlooked and suppressed. She discussed the average median income of whites versus blacks and Hispanics. She discussed how the average median income is decreasing and poverty is increasing in Chattanooga. She discussed children in her neighborhood who attend underperforming schools and have a 4-percent chance of a better life. She said her friends are harassed in her neighborhood because of their race.
- **Deonta (Jackson) Family** – He thinks it is a terrible idea for the City to spend \$1 Million for cameras. He also believes cameras will violate the 4th amendment of the United States. He is already concerned with police brutality in urban communities. With an increase in cameras, he believes innocent victims will become targets in their neighborhoods. He thinks the problem with violence is limited resources and not enough social activities for youth. Due to a lack of jobs, he said, youth seek other ways to survive. He said social activities would give youth more things to do to occupy their time and asks the city to invest in the youth of our inner city. He said that police are not the answer. He said that youth speak every day on about the problem and it is time for the City to listen.
- **Katherine Cordelle (Encourage Excellence/Choice Camp/We The People University)** She started Encourage Excellence four years ago to address issues with the education process. Her research led her to believe that mass incarceration is the reason why the school-to-prison pipeline exists. She asks the Mayor to stop mass incarceration and the War on Drugs now. Encourage Excellence offers a multi-sensory reading program. Choice camp delivers three choice meals a day and offers a life coach for 30 days, then links children with mentors. We The People will this month identify those who made the laws forcing judges to mass incarcerate. She stated that children are paying the price of mass incarceration. She recommends no more jails, no more incarceration and reverse it by putting money into feeding the children.
- **Amir Ashmabay (Chattanooga)** – He stated that his slave name is Antonio T. Smith. He stated that we are not black, not white, but all one race. He said that he has an inner dream and moves forward in 1000 points of light. He said that all ancestors—black and white—live through us. He said he’s been working with various council members. He said that shootings are not just us. He says it’s not kids shooting; he questions how kids are getting guns. He knows about the guns hitting the streets. He stated that the police have been trying to keep him from boxing again. He reiterated that we’re a whole race.
- **Cynthia Stanley-Cash (President, North Brainerd Neighborhood Association)** - She is a native Chattanooga and a tax-paying citizen. She was here last week when Bro. Muhammad asked for this presentation. She wanted to point out one thing: since then, to her knowledge, she doesn’t think there has been a gang shooting in the city. To her knowledge, she hasn’t read about any gang shootings. They do know they’re being heard tonight through Bro. Muhammad. Thanks for allowing this presentation. She noted that there were several neighborhood association members, presidents here today. She will continue the discussion in their neighborhood association meeting, sharing the knowledge and enrolling people to vote because, she stated, this is a perfect storm—perfect year—to motivate others to get out and vote locally and nationally.

- **Pastor Charlotte Williams** (Sr. Pastor, Eastdale Village Community United Methodist Church on Tunnel Blvd.) – She thanked Councilman Hakeem and Rep. Favors for attending the Village meeting on this past Saturday. She’s been in ministry for 3 years, so she looks to seasoned ministers for guidance. In her talks with ministers, who often refer to Dr. King, she informs them of the following quote by Dr. King: “A minister cannot preach the glories of heaven while ignoring social conditions in his own community that cause men an earthly hell.” She informed the Council and expanded upon the following: The role of the church in leadership; The role of the church as moral protectors; The black slave mind and slave master mentality; Black leaders, including ministers, who are selected and controlled by white leadership; Leaders not taking a stand out of fear of losing their churches; The masses being suspicious of “manufactured” leaders; Leaders accepting crumbs from Pharaoh’s table; Blacks subjected to being led by others; What happens when black people call for organization; Society and this city not expecting black people to take care of their own business; Rejecting white backlash; going to the grave before becoming a slave. She concluded that the more injustice we have in our communities, the more potential for violence we’ll have in our communities.
 - After an extension of her 3-minutes time limit, Pastor Williams informed the Council about her son being brutalized and harassed by white and black police officers. She informed the Council that putting a black person on the police force will not end police brutality or change the system.

- **Ash-Lee Henderson (Concerned Citizens for Justice)** – She stated that she and other citizens had invited Mayor Berke tonight, but he had something else more important to do than hear the People’s State of the City Address. She is grateful for Councilman Smith and Councilman Hakeem requesting the presentation. She asked how many people in the Assembly would be able to attend the May 10 disparity study discussion due to work obligations. Even if one takes off from work to attend, she said, Council rules won’t allow them to comment or give feedback. She further commented that if an item is on the 6:00 agenda, then citizens cannot comment or give feedback either. She recommended that in order to have real conversations that build accountability, there must be transparent, democratic processes. She asked everyone who is a part of the people’s movement to stand in the Assembly to show what civic engagement looks like. She acknowledged people who were not present today whose work she sees every day in the streets, which is just as important attending meetings.

Councilman Hakeem discussed how it was beneficial for the Council to hear from the community today. He commended Ms. Stanley-Cash for going back to her neighborhood to discuss community needs and to organize for change, and recommended that others do the same. He recommended that people get to know the police in our communities. He challenged the Assembly to ask themselves: What am I going to do after today? What role am I going to play in making change? Am I going to ask government to do everything? How are we going to change our mindsets when things don’t go our way?

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Anderson, Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting of the Chattanooga City Council until Tuesday, May 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ATTACHMENT:

“The People’s State of the City Address”

The People's State of the City Address

May 3, 2016

6:00 PM

City Council Meeting

Chattanooga, Tennessee

In the name of God, The Beneficent, The Merciful. I greet you with the greetings of Peace be unto you.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the City Council for allowing us this opportunity to give The People's State of the City Address.

We stand before you today as the voice of the voiceless, the voice of those whose voices have fallen on deaf ears and whose deeds are not recognized in City Hall and the Chambers of Justice.

We the people love our city despite her many flaws.

Mr. Chairman, members of the City Council, Look around. This is the true power of the community. If you're here as a living testimony that another Chattanooga exists, one that is different from the one our Mayor has portrayed is reality, please stand. Thank you. You may be seated.

Today, we the people roll up our sleeves and say: Today, we work.

We the people stand today in the spirit of Isaiah, "to rebuild the wasted communities, to restore the former devastations, renew the ruined neighborhoods and desolations of many generations."

In 2014, a New York Times article on American's growing poor and low-income populations featured Chattanooga as a highlight of disturbing new trends. The article found that 27 percent of the city's residents live below the poverty line, nearly double the national average. Out of that number, "women head two-thirds of the city's poor households and 42 percent of its children are poor and according to another source, 60 percent of African-American children are poor, and nearly double the rate statewide."

Chattanooga ranks 12th in the nation for economic inequality out of the top 100 markets for the ratio of lower-income households to high-income households. For every one household earning \$200,000 or more, there are 20 earning less than \$50,000.

The Brookings Institution has reported that between 2000 and 2010 Chattanooga saw a 75.2% increase in people in poverty in the urban core, and a 52% increase in poverty in the suburbs.

In the years of 2007-2009, Chattanooga had the second highest rise in poverty in the United States; an 8% increase.

Chattanooga currently maintains the 7th quickest-rising rents in the nation.

In 2012, the Thomas Fordham Institute noted that two of Chattanooga's zip codes were among the highest for gentrification and racial displacement in the United States.

Recently, WalletHub (an online information-gathering site) noted that Chattanooga had the seventh-lowest pay in the U.S. for someone WITH a bachelor's degree.

Only 23% of all working age Chattanooga residents live near a transit stop. The average for the top 100 metro areas is 69%.

Chattanooga, home of the Ironman competition, the U.S.A. Cycling championships, having one of the largest downtown climbing complexes in the country, was named one of the least healthy cities in America.

Volkswagen has been given nearly \$800 million in public subsidies and has the lowest paying wages of any auto workers in America.

Time will not permit us to deal with all the issues, initiatives and proposals we would like to present. So today, we share the stories of those most impacted by the derivatives crimes born out of the greater crimes of the rich and powerful. Those who still live in the Dark Ages while our city prospers from its Renaissance.

The Mayor said, "Over the last 3 years, our unemployment rate has dropped 2 point 5 percent."

You can't tell that to the people who live in Alton Park whose unemployment rate is 35% and receive wages of 18 thousand a year. Or, the people who live on the Westside where 100% rent and 30% are unemployed. Or, the people who live in Eastlake with an unemployment rate of 28% and earn 20 thousand dollars a year.

Today we the people say, to the City Council; you can no longer rubber stamp the Mayor's budget. If we are truly budgeting for outcomes, then it's pretty obvious that we have not gotten the right outcomes. The current budget does not address the growing needs, the 100 percent dissatisfaction and frustrations in our communities. The answer is not to continue to increase the budget of the police.

The budget is a moral document that represents the priorities of our city.

The 2016 Chattanooga Annual Budget appropriates nearly \$108 million for safer streets. This is nearly 50% of the \$221 million budget. We cannot police our way out of this. In the eyes of the poor and disenfranchised, the police in our communities are to us as the occupying armies of America are to the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

The Mayor said, "Last year we arrested 306 gang members as part of VRI. Now, we have more information than ever before about the main

perpetrators on our streets. Because many of these are truly young men -
- 16, 17, 18 – “

We tell the story of a young man who has witnessed several call-ins, who once committed violent crimes, spent over 20 year in prison, and now lives a productive life, a family man. He said, “They can find money for bicycles, and bike lanes all through the city. But can’t find money to fund programs to restore the lives of these young men.”

With passion and conviction he said, “I have witnessed the same spirit of the police that exists in the streets inside the VRI call-ins. If they got the power to sit them down, scare them, why don’t they use this as an opportunity to help solve their personal problems and addictions that cause them to do what they do? Every time I leave it depresses me. It is so dehumanizing. And the way they talk to the brothers is sickening. They don’t love them. These young men would rather go to jail or die before turning government informant.”

The VRI has failed. 11 of the 12 officers quit the unit. The head of the Public Safety Committee left town. The out of town contractor paid to implement his High Point Initiative has taken our money and his plan has failed. The 32 Worst of the Worst failed. The call-ins are failing!

The Mayor said, “In one week, they arrested 28 gang members and confiscated 18 guns. Yet we also saw those arrested make bond the same night, only to get on Facebook the next day with more provocative statements. These last two weeks epitomize the danger that occurs when a small group of people value retribution more than they worry about jail or even their own safety. And the cycle of violence and the code of silence continues.”

We tell the story of a young man who said to us, "Billy Long was the Sherriff of Hamilton County. He is back on the streets. The number one law enforcer was distributing cocaine. I know people who are doing several life sentences for less than what Billy Long was doing. They want us to snitch but they won't break the blue code of silence and do nothing with the bad cops among their own."

We tell the story of an active gang member who said, "Yeah! They want us to stop gang banging but we watch them down there gang banging. What color is the Republicans? Red. What color is the Democrats? Blue. They Blood! They Crip!"

We the People say, The Mayor's plan to spend another \$1 million dollars in the next two years to put cameras in the yards of residents, businesses and churches is like throwing a life jacket into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean during a hurricane. It will not slow the destructive forces intensifying in our communities. It too will fail.

Smarter Students and Stronger Families is appropriated \$24 million, only 11% of the budget. Safer Neighborhoods is appropriated \$43 million, only 20% of the budget.

We tell the story of an elderly lady who lives in one of the poverty pockets in our city, an area of our city where residents once could not sit on their front porch due to the toxics from factories in the dirtiest city in America. Who now cannot sit on her porch due to crime and violence.

Her husband has passed. Her children have moved out. All that remains of the good days are the pictures hanging on the walls in her humble home. Most of the lots around her are vacant, boarded up, rented out or trap houses. Out of fear for her safety, her loved ones at every

opportunity try to convince her to move out. She has no place to go. This is home. She loves her home.

We the people believe that our City must focus more on Safer Neighborhoods. Family is the basic unit of civilization. When you have strong families you have strong communities. When you have smart students who are empowered they make smart choices.

We tell the story of a young man who was hanging out in the streets with his friends. He said to us, "We have high school diplomas. Some of us have 2 year degrees. Some of us have Bachelor Degrees. But we all have another thing in common. None of us have jobs."

These are young people who played by the rules. They did what their parents taught them. They went to school. That got a good education. They still can't get a job.

Today, we the people, no longer give the City Council our permission to give public subsidies that do not benefit the people directly impacted. Today, we the people, no longer give the City Council our permission to grant PILOTS. Currently, 60 companies receive tax breaks through PILOTS. \$15 million went uncollected in 2015 and more than \$350 million has been forgiven in current PILOTS. \$350 million.

We the people say to this council, you must now collect our tax dollars. We the citizens have to pay. They should too. We can fund the programs to address the root cause of the violence in our city with this money. We invest in our children. Smarter Students, Strong Families, Safer Neighborhoods will produce Safer Streets.

The Mayor's answer is two new initiatives; the Citizens Safety Coalition and spending an additional one million dollars on cameras.

Today, We the People offer our two bold initiatives.

First, The People's Youth Initiative. We make Chattanooga the Best Youth Town in America.

We tell the story of a sixteen year old girl walking downtown with her mother. We stopped and asked, "If you had one thing to say to the Mayor, the City Council and the City Leaders that could help you, what would it be?" With no hesitation, she looked me straight in my eyes and said, "Spend time with me. Believe in me. Invest in me. "

Here is how we invest in her. We take the \$1 million proposed for the cameras, and we create 500 summer jobs. We start our youth on a graduated pay scale depending on age. We employ those youth in the poverty pockets that are most impacted first by the economic inequalities. We train our youth on how to open a bank account, open a savings account, invest in a down payment on a car, a house, college education, creating their own businesses. We have the money. The question is do we have the will.

We call on Volkswagen who has benefited from over \$800 million in public subsidies to match the \$1 million, Amazon who received \$30 million tax breaks to match the \$1 million, Coca Cola \$5.9 million tax incentives, Alstom Power, BlueCross BlueShield, Chattem, Walnut Commons, McKee Foods, and others to collectively match the \$1 million.

The private investors, who will invest \$650 million dollars in downtown to pay their tithes, give 10% of their earnings to help The People's Youth Initiative.

We call on former Mayor Kinsey, Senator Corker, and River City Company to each invest \$1 million to make our city the Best City for Young People in America.

We create thousands of jobs. The impact will affect tens of thousands of families. This is a bold progressive step in the right direction. The benefits too many to name in the few minutes we have left.

We must have new leadership to operate the People's Youth Initiative. We can no longer recycle the same people and get the same results.

We must bring all of our Youth and Family Development out of the cave man days. The Lexia Program is not working. We cannot force our children to learn in the Rec Centers what the school system is failing to do. Sports and Recreation is necessary to channel the energy of our youth through good, clean competition.

We say with this with deep love, respect and humility to those who lead our YFD, we cannot allow this same spirit of intimidation and fear to creep into the Centers. Fear restricts the will. Fear kills the spirit of creativity. We must free up and use the years of experience in the Centers from the qualified staff who have earned the trust and loyalty of our young people. They are First Responders. The youth love and respect them. We must support them financially to implement new innovative methods. We must fund outreach programs. The Rec centers worked for many of us. They can no longer be underfunded. We have to empower the good people in these YFDs to do what they do best.

Secondly, The People's Formerly Incarcerated Rehabilitation Initiative. We can't keep telling our brothers to put the drugs and guns down when

we do not have anything for them to pick up. Many of our brothers want jobs but because they have a felony they can't get a job.

We tell the story of a young man who spent 13 years in jail. A young man that is brave enough to share a very personal side of himself. When he was five years old, he was molested by another man. His father never praised him for any of his accomplishments. The schools he attended passed him knowing he could not read or write. He clowned his whole way through school to distract everyone from his deficiencies.

He is a convicted felon. He wants to work. He has paid his dues. No one will give him a chance. He wants to pay his child support. They keep locking him up for non-payment at least six months out of the year. A story all too familiar. He sees no way out. He doesn't desire to resort to the savagery of the concrete jungles

The Mayor said, "We have...opened doors for those gang members seeking a better life, and 184 have found employment. "What the Mayor did not say is most of these are temporary jobs, with no benefits, most lasting for 3 months.

We the people are not satisfied with 184 temporary jobs. They need real, full time, permanent jobs with full benefits. If we are truly serious about uprooting the cause, we will call these same companies and others, to put people like this young man to work. No matter how large or small your business is, help us to employ our people who have felonies.

We begin collecting the millions of uncollected funds through the PILOTS and fund Community Based Initiatives and restore the broken lives of our people.

We form a People's Formerly Incarcerated Rehabilitation Board, made up of those who were formerly incarcerated, former dealers, former leaders of street organizations whose lives have been reformed and transformed. We form Conflict Resolution Teams to mediate their beefs.

We partner the Board with retired educators, retired policeman and social workers, business and spiritual leaders to help make our communities a decent place to live and heal our city. We teach them how read and write, get their GEDs, counseling to repair and restore their broken lives, proper community policing, trades and skills consisting of plumbing, electrical work, heating and air, carpentry, painting, sheet rock hanging, barber and cosmetology school, car detailing, landscaping, brick laying, roofing.

We the people ask this City Council to partner with the masses not the classes. Help the people create Smarter Students, Stronger Families, Safer Neighborhoods.

Today we the people begin that process that is written of in the scriptures, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the City Council.