

# AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

## CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL

July 7, 2020

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### In Attendance

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Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the electronic-conducted (virtual) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present, including Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Carol Berz, Anthony Byrd, Demetrus Coonrod, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell and Erskine Oglesby, Jr., all present via electronic means. Other panelists present via electronic means: Phil Noblett, City Attorney; Lydia Christoph, Administrative Support; and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist.

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### Others in Attendance (via electronic means)

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Mayor's Office: Maura Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer; Public Works: James Bergdoll, Park Director - Maintenance; Economic & Community Development: Richard Beeland, Deputy Administrator

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### Approval of Minutes

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**On motion of Councilman Gilbert** and seconded by Vice-Chairman Smith, the minutes of the last meeting (June 30, 2020) were approved as published.

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### Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A

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- Chairman Henderson expressed concerns about this resolution that declares racism as a public health crisis and that it was not given the prominence it needs. He recommended tabling in order to further discuss and make a greater impact.
- Vice-Chairman Smith voiced concerns in light of calls from his constituents. He recommended an education piece regarding this item.
- Councilman Ledford recommended further conversation on this item. He recommended hearing from health professional in reference to this item.
- Councilwoman Coonrod spoke on the conversations that have taken place for years. She spoke about the CDC criteria and the Council's authority in regards to making this happen. She also voiced concerns about recognizing the issue as a legislative body and a community.
- Councilman Gilbert spoke about African American resources in the community.
- Councilman Oglesby expressed that these type of issues have been tabled for years and questioned the need for more conversation.
- Councilwoman Berz supported an education session if the Council wished to proceed with this item. She also commented about the resolution needing "more teeth" to it.
- Councilman Byrd questioned the intended outcome of this item would be and asked the attorney how people could be held accountable if this item was passed. Attorney Noblett informed everyone about the purpose of this being a resolution, not a ordinance.
- Councilman Mitchell voiced concerns about the process of what is really done and not talked about.

Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

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**Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B**

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

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**Resolutions – Agenda Items 7C**

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Councilman Byrd questioned Ms. Sullivan about the locations where this resolution would apply, the department overseeing it, and land behind the Carver Center. Councilman Gilbert requested further explanation on this item from Mr. Bergdoll. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

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**July 14<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

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Chairman Henderson asked Councilman Mitchell if item 6G could be moved to July 28<sup>th</sup> and if item 6K could be discussed in the Public Works & Transportation Committee on today; Councilman Mitchell agreed to both requests. Councilwoman Coonrod informed the Council that community members wanted a letter ready prior to the vote on this item; Chairman Henderson shed light on the process for this to occur. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

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**Future Considerations (3-Week Look Ahead)**

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Councilwoman Coonrod inquired about the tourism enhancement grant and the application process, to which Mr. Beeland responded. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues was closed.

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**Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

[Editor's Note: Any person may join the electronic-conducted meetings of the Chattanooga City Council at the scheduled time by visiting online at [council.chattanooga.gov](http://council.chattanooga.gov).]