

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

November 24, 2020

Call to Order

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the electronic-conducted (virtual) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was present, including Council Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Carol Berz, Anthony Byrd, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell and Erskine Oglesby, Jr. Other panelists present via electronic means: Phil Noblett, City Attorney; Lydia Christoph, Administrative Support; and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist. Councilwoman Demetrus Coonrod joined the meeting after the call to order.

Others in Attendance (via electronic means)

Mayor's Office: Maura Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer; Human Resource: Beverly Moultrie, Chief Human Resource Officer, and Shea Jefferson, Deputy Chief Human Resource Officer

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice-Chairman Smith and seconded by Councilman Oglesby, the minutes of the last meeting (November 17, 2020) were approved as published.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7I & 7J

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

Purchasing Questions

Councilman Ledford had questions about the automotive window tinting contract. Chairman Henderson asked Mr. Sammons to get in touch with Councilman Ledford offline to respond to his questions. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Department Report

Ms. Sullivan informed that the Council that Ms. Moultrie would be giving them an HR report along with Ms. Jefferson. They gave a presentation that included information on the following:

- Pandemic Pivot
- Ways We Have Pivoted
- Centralized Communication
- Benefits Open Enrollment
- Taking Wellness Virtually
- Health & Wellness Initiatives
- New, New Hire Orientation
- GARE (Government Alliance on Race and Equity)
- Mental Health Benefit Enhancement
- Other Enhancements
- HR Department Challenges
- HR Department turnover

A discussion ensued, wherein the following questions and concerns were addressed:

- Number of Behavioral Health Resources (Councilman Ledford)
- PTSD Training (Councilman Ledford)
- Outsource Cost (Councilman Ledford)
- Number of People that have left (Councilwoman Berz)
- Research for Sum of years (Councilwoman Berz)
- Challenges of Turnovers (Councilwoman Berz)
- Outdated Technology (Councilman Henderson)
- Implementation of Technology (Councilman Henderson)
- Option for More Services (Councilman Ledford)
- Donate Options for Employees EAP Services (Councilman Ledford)

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

IDB Discussion

Councilman Oglesby and Councilwoman Coonrod asked for a two-week deferral. Chairman Henderson confirmed that the discussion would take place on December 8th. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Budget Amendment

Chairman Henderson turned the chair over to Councilwoman Berz, Budget and Finance Chair. She introduced Ms. Sullivan for a budget amendment presentation related to CARES Act funds received by the City. The presentation included information on the following:

- One-Time Employee Supplement
- Tivoli
- Forgotten Child Fund
- Bessie Smith
- United Way
- Small Businesses

A discussion ensued, wherein the following questions and concerned were addressed:

- Public Meeting (Councilwoman Berz)
- Part-Time Employees (Councilman Mitchell)
- Elected Officials (Councilman Ledford)
- Increment divisions for Small Businesses (Councilman Ledford)
- Notifying Public (Councilman Henderson)
- Reimbursable Item Expenditures (Councilman Henderson)
- Priority for Fire Academy (Councilman Henderson)
- Urgency for distributing to other Agencies (Councilman Henderson)
- Small Business relief need (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Use of Money (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Report on COVID Funds use (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Council being included in the Decision Making Process (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Decision making timeline (Councilwoman Berz)
- Procedure for Public input (Councilman Mitchell)

Councilwoman Berz requested that a question and answer segment take place at the next Strategic Planning meeting and a Public Hearing be held at the next Council Meeting on December 1st. Chairman Henderson added that there might also be a need for a Budget and Finance Committee. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:34 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.]