

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

July 13, 2021

Call to Order

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present, including Council Vice-Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Raquetta Dotley, Anthony Byrd and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Brent Goldberg, Chief of Staff; Regional Planning Agency: John Bridger, Executive Director; Economic Development: Anthony Sammons, Interim Administrator, and Jermaine Freeman, Interim Deputy Administrator

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6B, 6C & 6D

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

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6E & 6F

Councilwoman Berz informed the Council that she would be seeking to defer these items. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6G, & 6H

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

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6I

Mr. Bridger informed the Council that this C-3 text amendment would be moved back for a couple of weeks. Councilman Ledford stated that an alternate version is ready to be heard in Legislative Committee. Chairman Henderson asked for the committee on July 27th. Vice-Chairman Smith agreed. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6J, 6K & 6L

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

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A & 7B

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

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7C

Mr. Goldberg introduced Mr. Sammons to speak regarding his pending appointment. Councilman Byrd questioned what the position entails. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7D

Mr. Goldberg introduced Mr. Anderson, who also spoke on his pending appointment. Councilman Byrd voiced concerns about the current moral of City employees. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

July 27th Agenda

Councilman Ledford requested that the names of the legal service firms be listed in the caption of item 7A. Attorney O'Donnell concurred. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues was closed.

Future Considerations (3 Week Look Ahead)

Councilwoman Hill updated the Council on item 1B. Councilman Ledford asked Mr. Freeman for an update on item A. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Discussion of Budget Process

Councilwoman Berz updated the Council on the budget process and noted that they would receive budget books by August 10th. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Department Report ~ Under the Hood

Mr. Goldberg presented his “Under the Hood” report [see attached] to the Council in a presentation that covered information on the following:

- Roads
- Traffic Signals
- Bridges
- Side Walks
- Greenways
- Next Steps

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

- East Gate Connector Road (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Implementation of getting roads paved (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Response time for Projects (Councilwoman Berz)
- Capacity (Councilwoman Berz)

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

Other

Councilwoman Hill stated she had asked a constituent, Beth Mann, to come before the Council to address her concerns regarding July 4th fireworks disturbances. Chairman Henderson allowed Ms. Mann to speak for 3 minutes after Ms. O'Donnell read the rules for public comment time. Councilwoman Berz informed Ms. Mann that this issue is coming before the Council during their Strategic Planning Meeting. Councilwoman Berz asked Ms. Mann to resend her email on the fireworks so it could be forwarded to the full body. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Attachment:
"Under The Hood" Presentation

Under the Hood

Presentation to City Council
July 13, 2021

Brent Goldberg
Chief of Staff

Under the Hood

- The American Society of Civil Engineers reported this year that infrastructure problems cost each U.S. household **\$3,300 per year**.
- Between now and 2039, the country needs more than **\$13 trillion** in investments to close the gap.
- **Chattanooga is no different.** We face shortfalls and escalating needs across our built infrastructure.
- This presentation will contain some challenging numbers. They convey the magnitude of our task in **revitalizing our city's infrastructure**.
- While it is financially impossible to repave every road and rebuild every bridge, we must have the **courage** to face our **problems** if we are to begin to **solve them**.

Roads

Our roads have been in decline for many years:



Roads

- Roads are rated using a **PCI** (Pavement Condition Index) score of between **0 and 100**.
- Chattanooga's current average road condition is **62 PCI** across **2,352** miles of local roadway.
- Once a road's condition drops below a **40 PCI**, defined as 'poor,' it generally requires **significant structural repairs**.
- Spending **\$1** on preservation eliminates or delays spending **\$6 to \$10** on reconstruction.
- Many of the roads with the lowest rating of 'poor' are in our **most vulnerable communities** and neighborhoods.

Roads

- For FY 2021, the City budgeted **\$6.3 million** for paving.
- But to maintain a 62 PCI average we must spend **\$9.22 million** per year just to break even, studies show.
- Without immediate action, the five-year financial gap to maintain existing conditions is expected to triple to **\$16 million** in ten years due to further pavement deterioration and other factors such as street cuts.
- To put this in perspective, reducing the number of roads rated as “poor” to 0 over the next decade would cost more than **\$17 million** per year, nearly triple the current amount.
 - This would raise the average PCI score to **70**, and over time would allow more resources to be spent on preservation and less money to be spent on more expensive rehab/rebuild projects.

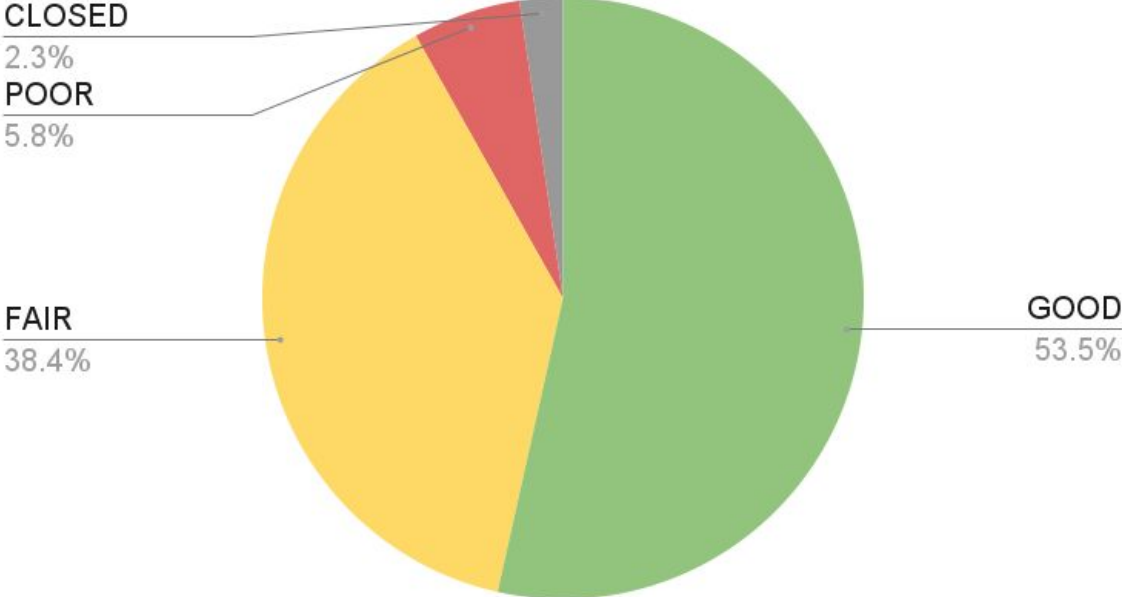
Traffic Signals

- We have currently identified more than **17 intersections** that warrant traffic signals.
- New signalized intersections cost approximately **\$200,000 to \$300,000** per intersection, so the anticipated cost to install signals at the warranted intersections is **\$3.4 million to \$5.1 million**.
- Current funding levels allow for building **one new traffic signal per year**, or the repair of 1-3 existing signal intersections per year.
- Signal network - Due to the amount of bandwidth that our existing connected signal infrastructure needs on the City's network, DIT has estimated **\$4 million to \$5 million** for proposed network updates.

Bridges

Average bridge age – 46 years

BRIDGE CONDITION SUMMARY



Bridges

- Old pavement is inconvenient, but old bridges are a matter of life safety and economic survival.
- The City of Chattanooga manages **86 structures** crossing rivers, creeks, roads, and railroad tracks and budgeted just **\$400,000** in FY21 for bridge repair.
- Over the next five to 10 years, Chattanooga needs about **\$120 million** to repair our most critical bridges to avoid life-safety impacts to ambulance and fire service.
- Excluding Wilder (\$15 million), Wilcox (\$30 million) and Walnut (\$20 million), all of which have funding plans, we still have a need for **\$55 million** in bridge repairs over the next five to ten years, in addition to **\$2 million** per year for regular maintenance.

Sidewalks

- There are currently **490 miles** of sidewalk across the City.
- To add additional new sidewalks to both sides of city streets rated as collectors and above, which includes 25% of our streets, we would need to **add sidewalks to 627 miles** of our roads. (25% of 2510 miles)
- Using current contract costs for sidewalk construction, or \$440 per linear foot, multiplied by 627.5 mi, new sidewalks would cost \$1,457,808,000, or about **\$1.5 billion**.

Note: this amount does not include sidewalks on most local neighborhood streets.

Greenways

- Residents have asked for additional greenway construction throughout the city.
 - East Line
 - North Chick
 - Northshore
 - Alton Park Connector
 - University Greenway
- Based on recent greenway construction costs, we would estimate construction of new greenways to cost approximately **\$3 million to \$6 million per mile.**

Next steps

- Seek input from the community to ensure that we deploy dollars for maximum impact.
- Examine infrastructure plan through an equity lens to ensure vulnerable communities are not left behind.
- Seek outside sources of funding to help offset shortfalls.
- Analyze use of onetime federal recovery and infrastructure funds to help offset infrastructure shortfalls.
- Revise budget to reverse decades of infrastructure decline.

Under the Hood

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