

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

September 21, 2021

Call to Order

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. in the Council Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. 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 Sherrell Ware, Council Administration Support.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Brent Goldberg, Chief of Staff; City Court: Judges Sherry Paty and Russell Bean; and Regional Planning Agency: Karen Rennich; Council Office: Nicole Gwyn, Clerk

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice-Chairman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (September 14, 2021) were approved as published.

Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Items 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D

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

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Item 6A

Chairman Henderson requested more information from Ms. Rennich on the Alternate Version .

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7A

Upon no questions or comments, the issue were closed

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7B

Upon no question or comments, the issue were closed

Resolutions – Agenda Item 7C

Upon no question or comments, the issue were closed

Purchasing Questions

Mr. Goldberg responded to questions on the SEI contract rebid. He also confirmed for Councilman Byrd that community complaints about services must come through the departments or individual councilpersons.

September 28th Agenda (Two-week Agenda)

Chairman Henderson opened the floor to the honorable Judges Paty and Bean for a discussion on his sponsored legislation regarding the elimination of the City Court – second division. He recognized both Judges Paty and Bean, who were present in the Assembly. The judges, along with Attorney O'Donnell, responded to questions and comments from the Council on the following topics:

- Addressing enforcement issues (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- Impact of only one division (Vice-Chairman Smith)
- Ways to strengthen City Court (Councilpersons Coonrod and Councilman)
- Wraparound services in relation to recidivism (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Evening court hours (Councilwoman Coonrod)
- Researching Magistrates as an option (Councilman Byrd and Councilwoman Berz)
- City Court jurisdiction (Councilpersons Byrd and Henderson)
- How to maximize City Court citations (Councilman Ledford)
- City Court jurisdiction and Class C misdemeanors (Councilpersons Ledford and Byrd)
- Session Court jurisdiction on certain citations (Councilman Ledford)
- Effectiveness of the AHO (Councilman Ledford)
- Number of dockets assigned (Councilwoman Hill)
- Judge Bean's case load (Chairman Henderson)
- Citations to City Court (Councilman Byrd)
- Court vouchers (Councilman Byrd)
- How to strengthen City Court (Councilman Byrd)
- Judge Paty taking on Division 2 cases (Councilman Ledford)
- Impact of "no shows" / sufficiency of one court (Councilwoman Berz)
- Creative thinking regarding the courts (Councilwoman Berz)

Councilwoman Hill requested information on the judges' caseload and staff. Councilwoman Berz requested a legal opinion in writing from Attorney O'Donnell on City Court jurisdiction and Class C misdemeanors. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Future Considerations

(None discussed)

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.