

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

December 7, 2021

Call to Order

Council Chairman Chip Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room in the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present, including Vice Chairman Ken Smith and Council members Jenny Hill, Darrin Ledford, Carol Berz, Raquetta Dotley, and Demetrus Coonrod. Others present were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Nicole Gwyn, Council Clerk. Councilman Anthony Byrd joined the meeting later. Councilman Isiah Hester was not present.

Others in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Joda Thongnopnua, Interim Chief of Staff; Economic Development: Jermaine Freeman, Senior Advisor for Economic Opportunity & Interim Administrator.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice Chairman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Dotley, the minutes of the last meeting (November 30, 2021) were approved as published.

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

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

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D & 7E

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

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7F

Councilman Ledford inquired from Mr. Thongnopnua about the change being parallel with the current fiscal year. Upon no further comments or questions, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7G, 7H, 7I, 7J, 7K, 7L & 7M

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

December 14th Agenda

Chairman Henderson confirmed with Mr. Freeman that the one STVR item had been removed from the agenda. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues was closed.

Future Considerations (3 Week Look Ahead)

Councilwoman Hill asked Mr. Freeman for further information regarding item C and the leasing of the building. A discussion ensued.

- Councilwoman Coonrod expressed concerns about a 20-year lease. She inquired about using current surplus City-owned property or property within certain communities. She also asked about the process for housing staff, the possibility of changing the lease term, and the safety of the building.
- Councilman Ledford asked about the timeline for improvements, the tenure policy, the square footage, and the number of employees to work on the premises. He also had questions about the real estate prices in certain areas and the process for terminating the lease.
- Councilwoman Hill inquired about the possibility of purchasing the building and having time to review the lease agreement.

During the discussion, Mr. Freeman offered to propose a 10-year lease to the landlord. Attorney O'Donnell addressed questions about the maximum number of years for a building lease. Councilwoman Berz also gave the Council further insight on why this building was selected. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.