

# AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

## Chattanooga City Council

### May 31, 2022

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#### **Call to Order**

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Council Chairman Darrin Ledford called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Raquetta Dotley and Councilpersons Carol Berz, Demetrus Coonrod, Chip Henderson, Jenny Hill, Isiah Hester, and Marvene Noel. Others present were Emily O'Donnell, City Attorney, and Kyana Grady, Council Administrative Assistant. Councilman Ken Smith was not present.

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#### **Others in Attendance**

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Mayor's Office: Joda Thongnopnua, Chief of Staff; Julia Bursch, Deputy Chief Operating Officer; and Chris Anderson, Senior Advisor for Legislative Initiatives; Finance: Brent Goldberg, Chief Finance Officer; CPD: Celeste Murphy, Chief, and Jerome Halbert, Captain; Regional Planning Agency: Karen Rennich, Deputy Director; Parks & Outdoors: Scott Martin, Administrator

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#### **Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Item 5A**

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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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#### **Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Item 5B**

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Councilman Henderson asked Mr. Thongnopnua about a parking reduction. Mr. Thongnopnua offered to explore the options for minimizing parking.

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#### **Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Item 5C**

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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 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, & 7E**

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

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#### **Purchasing Questions**

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

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#### **June 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

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Regarding item L, a discussion ensued with Mr. Thongnopnua on the following:

- The total cost for the grant regarding Public Service (Chairman Ledford)
- The Court cost and fees, the participation of the County, and the process for choosing streets (Vice Chair Dotley)

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

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## **Future Considerations**

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There were no questions or comments; therefore, the issue was closed.

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## **Other Business**

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### **Downtown Library Budget Follow-up**

Chairman Ledford opened the floor to Councilwoman Berz, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, for an update on the Budget process. She introduced Mr. Thongnopnua, who spoke on the following:

- Library change in structure/ delegation
- Historical Designation of the downtown location
- City Code
- Spending beyond budget
- Presenting prospective purchases over \$25,000 to Council

A discussion ensued. Councilwoman Noel expressed appreciation for the changes in progress and questioned how long the current process has been in effect. She questioned if the \$7.3 million budget request. She questioned if the funding could be allocated elsewhere, if the amount could not be updated, and if the library could be removed completely from the budget.

Councilwoman Coonrod expressed support of the library and advised on the multitude of services that are provided by the agency add value to our city.

Councilwoman Hill expressed support of the library and suggested more robust programming.

Vice Chairwoman Dotley expressed support for the library, but expressed her concerns about the weight of impact not equaling the amount funded to them. She also noted no initiative taken by the library in violence prevention.

Councilman Henderson expressed his desire to see a more prolific library.

Chairman Ledford noted there is no library presence in the 37421 community, and advised that the Council could discuss the library budget request further on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Upon no further questions or comments, the discussion on the library was closed.

### **Violence Prevention**

Councilwoman Coonrod requested a report from Dr. Lambert as to the measures being taken to prevent violence in the city. Mr. Thongnopnua agreed. Councilwoman Coonrod also requested a meeting with Mr. Thongnopnua to further discuss Administration's violence prevention plans. Chairman Ledford expressed that he would like to see this topic explored further; therefore, a presentation by Dr. Lambert will be scheduled for the Strategic Planning meeting on June 21, 2022.

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

### **Ad Hoc STVR Committee**

Councilman Henderson advised that next Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. there will be an ad hoc committee meeting in the J.B. Collins Conference Room regarding the findings of the Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVR) focus groups that have been meeting.

Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

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## **Adjournment**

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There being no further business, Chairman Ledford adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.