

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

Chattanooga City Council

May 16, 2023

Call to Order

Council Chair Raquetta Dotley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Vice Chair Jenny Hill and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Ken Smith, Darrin Ledford, Isiah Hester, Carol Berz, Marvene Noel, and Demetrus Coonrod. Other participants present were Phil Noble, City Attorney, and Melissa Bardoner, Council Support Specialist.

Other Participants in Attendance

Mayor's Office: Jermaine Freeman, Interim Chief of Staff; Transportation: Ben Taylor, Interim Deputy Administrator; Anthony Sammons, (Pending) Chief Equity Officer; AHO Applicant: Mike Mallen

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Vice Chair Hill and seconded by Councilman Hester, the minutes of the last meeting (May 9, 2023) were approved as published.

Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Items 5A – 5G

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

A. 2023-0034	D. 2023-0038	G. (No case number)
B. 2023-0040	E. 2023-0041	
C. 2023-0054	F. 2023-0043	

These seven items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Item 6B Case No. 2023-0057

Chair Dotley advised the Council to look out for the latest business agenda update, which included this rezoning case (2023-007), which had been moved from next week's agenda to this week's agenda for consideration. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7B

Councilman Hester questioned Mr. Freeman about the long-standing contract with the Hamilton County Department of Education for the lease of the Washington Hills Community Center. During which, Mr. Freeman committed to coming back to Councilman Hester about the length of lease. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Week's Proposed Agenda Items (No questions)

Purchasing Questions (No questions)

Future Considerations (3 Week Look Ahead)

2a. – Vice Chair Hill questioned Mr. Sammons about the changes in language that the Council could expect regarding abatement.

10b.iv - Councilman Ledford questioned Mr. Taylor about this appointment for a Landscape Inspector. Mr. Freeman joined in the discussion on the following topics:

- Trees not being replaced on landscape buffers (Councilman Ledford)
- Tree Commission notifications for the Council (Vice Chair Hill)
- Clear-cutting trees and consideration of additional fees (Councilwoman Berz)
- Updating requirements to keep tree canopy (Councilwoman Berz)
- Resident mistrust concerning buffer enforcement (Councilman Ledford)

Department Report (None)

Committees: *Parks & Public Works Committee*

Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO) Interview – Mike Mallen

Chair Dotley turned the floor over to Mr. Mallen, an attorney and businessman, who gave a 3-minute presentation on his qualifications for the AHO position. After which, Mr. Mallen responded questions on the following topics:

- Property rights and impact on zoning (Councilman Ledford)
- Expectation of additional code responsibilities (Vice Chair Hill)
- Levels of enforcement of the AHO (Vice Chair Hill)
- Possibility of the AHO position evolving (Councilman Ledford)
- Carrying an undetermined workload (Attorney Noblett)
- Term length and serving at the pleasure of the Council (Attorney Noblett)
- MTAS training and continuing legal education (Attorney Noblett)
- Most recent update for the STVR ordinance (Attorney Noblett)
- Administrative support considerations by Mayor's Office (Attorney Noblett)
- Level of Interest in the AHO Position (Councilwoman Smith)

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Dotley adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.