

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 18, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Erskine Oglesby, substituting for committee chair, Councilman Anthony Byrd, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. A quorum was present, including Vice-Chairman Chip Henderson, and Council members Carol Berz, Demetrus Coonrod, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell, and Ken Smith. Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Lydia Christoph, Administrative Support, were also present.

Others in Attendance

Regional Planning Agency: John Bridger, Executive Director; Transportation: Blythe Bailey, Administrator; Public Works: Justin Holland, Administrator

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Ledford, the minutes of the last meeting (February 11, 2020) were approved as published.

This Week's Agenda: February 18, 2020

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A-B

Councilman Smith asked Attorney Noblett about a variation in the language for these resolutions, and Councilman Ledford noted that Goodwill and the Forgotten Child Fund now seemed to support the property donation. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7C-E

There were no questions regarding these STVR resolutions.

Next Week's Agenda: February 25, 2020

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A-C

There were no questions regarding these resolutions.

Billboard Ordinance: Moratorium on Applications for Outdoor Advertising Signs

Councilman Mitchell asked the Chairman if the Council could allow constituents to discuss the billboard ordinance. The Chairman agreed, and, by consensus, allowed the discussion. Attorney Noblett gave rules for comments. After which, Councilman Mitchell recognized the following persons wishing to address the Council on this ordinance:

- **Nicole Watson**, Reagan Outdoor – She commented on support for the ordinance.
- **Derek Markey**, Plainview LED – He commented on the challenge to the ordinance and who would it benefit.
- **Matt Richmond**, Billboards for Education – He commented on allowing previously-approved billboards to stay.

Councilman Smith asked Attorney Noblett for an update on the ordinance, and summarized the situation regarding the 6th County Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. He explained some specifics of what the new ordinance would and would not affect. He then asked Attorney Noblett for language that would better define things, like whether or not a sign generated revenue, and options and goals of a moratorium.

Vice-Chairman Henderson questioned Attorney Noblett on the following:

- Why a moratorium was needed;
- Whether the court ruling invalidated the Chattanooga ordinance;
- If continuing with business as usual would open Chattanooga to a lawsuit;
- If there were a way around the moratorium; and
- How the moratorium impacted the life, safety, and health of Chattanoogaans.

There were further questions and comments from the dais on the following:

- Possibility of a special permit process, and looking into every alternative to a moratorium (Councilman Ledford).
- City trying to help people sustain their businesses (Chairman Oglesby).
- City trying to be fair to everyone (Attorney Noblett).

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Oglesby adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.