

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Kingsport, Tennessee
Monday, April 6, 2009, 4:30 PM
Council Room – City Hall

PRESENT:

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Dennis R. Phillips

Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote

(arrived at 4:40 p.m.)

Alderman Larry A. Munsey

Alderman Patrick W. Shull

Alderman Jantry Shupe

City Administration

John G. Campbell, City Manager

J. Michael Billingsley, City Attorney

James H. Demming, City Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:34 p.m., by Mayor Phillips.
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy City Recorder Gilbert. Absent: Alderman Valerie Joh, Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote (*who arrived after roll call at 4:40 p.m.*) and Alderman Charles K. Marsh, Jr.
3. **WORK SESSION TICKLER.** Mayor Phillips reemphasized that Netherland Inn Bridge project is under State of Tennessee control and the State has until December 31, 2009 to finish the project.

Assistant to City Manager Chris McCartt reported on the huge success of the public's response to and attendance at the reopening of the Bays Mountain planetarium.

4. **UPDATE ON RE-USE OF QUEBECOR SITE/FARMERS MARKET.** Mr. McCartt went over previous discussion about relocating the Farmers Market to the Quebecor site, revisited the history of the market's various City locations, and mentioned funds that have been garnered toward locating the market at the Quebecor site.

[Vice-Mayor Mallicote arrived at 4:40 p.m. during this presentation.]

Board members discussed possible parking issues and solutions, the need to invest City funds to demolish and repave whether or not market locates there, and moving the market to another, more permanent, location on the site once other demolition work is accomplished.

Mayor Phillips asked Mr. Jim LaFollette, chair of the Kingsport Farmers Market executive board, to convey his thoughts, on behalf of the group, on this location and whether the market fare will remain local product only.

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Mr. LaFollette reported that they are very pleased with the space available, the visibility, the set-up and with the opportunity of developing a market on this site. He assured the Board that the Farmers Market will sell only produce, locally grown within a 50-mile radius. He sees this action as a positive situation for both the market and the City. He thanked the BMA for the cooperative spirit and is looking forward to very good year.

Alderman Shull expressed concern over City funds spent on providing space for the Farmers Market when, initially, it appeared the ideal use of the Quebecor site was manufacturing and wants to avoid public perception that the City is catering to one group of citizens.

City Manager Campbell attempted to allay Alderman Shull's concern by pointing out that funds spent for demolition was necessary for any redevelopment at the site and that \$147,000 for additional demolition will come from the City's general fund and will be reimbursed from funds received as the site is developed through projects such as Project Friday and the sale of other pieces of Quebecor property. Mr. Campbell mentioned that another group has expressed interest in the Holliston Mills portion once it is made more marketable and attractive.

5. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS ON APRIL 7, 2009 REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA. City Manager Campbell, members of staff and community members provided a summary or presentation for each item on the proposed agenda. Those items the Board discussed at greater length or which received specific questions or concerns included:

VI.B.3 Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Schools General Project Fund Budget (AF: 94-2009). Kingsport City Schools (KCS) Financial Officer David Frye answered questions and concerns about this action item and talked about the scheduling issues associated with renovating the current high school parking lot. The KCS Board approved this funding, with two Board members voting against this project.

After reviewing agenda items through Item VI.D.1, Mayor Phillips asked if Board members would agree to skip ahead to Item VI.D.6 because of participants in the audience.

City Manager Campbell stated that meetings have been held with various parties involved regarding the possible acquisition of the former Lynn View High School site, currently owned by Tri-Cities Christian School (TCCS). He provided details discussed in working with various representatives, wherein the City would purchase the property from the County for \$190,000. The City would continue to utilize the tremendous group of volunteers involved in numerous athletic programs taking place at the facility and he described other groups and activities that would benefit from the City's ownership of that property. If Board members approve the resolution, it will be provided to the County Commission for consideration during its upcoming April meeting.

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After discussion on Item VI.D.6, Mayor Phillips returned to review of the remaining agenda items, resuming at Item VI.D.2.

6. PRESENTATION ON SENIOR CENTER. Senior Center Manager Shirley Buchanan provided Board members with a hand out entitled *Usage Comparison for Boys & Girls Club* which detailed the many classes being held at the Boys & Girls Club facility. She reported that membership has grown tremendously in the last few years and described four current branch sites the Senior Center is utilizing and classes being offered, as well as possible future branch sites being considered.

7. PRESENTATION ON KATS-BUSES/SHELTERS/ETC. Assistant to City Manager McCartt updated the Board on improvements and changes made to the City's transit system, including adding a fifth route to the MeadowView area to serve the needs of those needing to go to the Social Security office, Department of Human Services and the extensive medical services now provided in that area. Improvements along the routes include addition of benches, bike racks, and signage and route signs. Additionally, buses are being used as advertisement for City services such as Bays Mountain and the Kingsport Public Library.

Board discussion centered on public transit stimulus funding available and acceptable capital uses for these funds, such as vehicle replacement, which will be brought for Board consideration in May. Dialogue covered whether fares should be reduced or eliminated to encourage ridership. Mr. McCartt indicated that route and fare issues will be revisited in July.

8. PRESENTATION ON RED LIGHT CAMERAS. Police Chief Gale Osborne shared the history behind implementation of these cameras. He reminded Board members that the goal was to reduce the number of traffic fatalities, accidents and injuries in Kingsport and use of this technology appears to be successful in doing achieving that goal.

Chief Osborne provided Board members with information comparing what other city agencies are charging for fines and court costs for red light camera citations. Budget Director Judy Smith provided figures on fine revenue collection and went over the amount apportioned to cover staff expense to process and amount distributed to Redflex according to contractual obligation.

Chief Osborne also provided figures on number of violations reviewed per year, the number dismissed for various reasons and the number actually prosecuted.

Alderman Munsey stated that, after seeing the comparison with other cities, he is more comfortable the costs are reasonable, but sees installation of warning lights at these intersections as a more important issue. In particular, he pointed out that, heading east on West Stone Drive, the red light camera intersection at Union Street requires a warning light due to the combination of speed allowed and the downhill slope of the roadway.

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BOARD COMMENT.

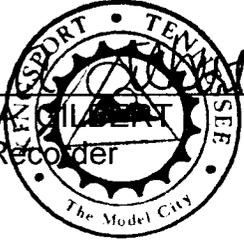
Mr. Tim Whaley, Community and Government Relations Director, reminded Board members that Dobyns-Bennett High School "Youth in Government" class would be attending the Board meeting tomorrow night and will shadow Board members and staff at the table. He asked that Board members arrive around 30 minutes prior to the meeting to meet and be matched with students.

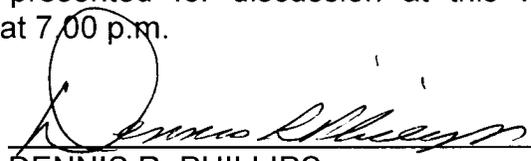
Mr. Whaley added that more students will shadow City staff members on Wednesday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with lunch and a brief presentation to follow from the City Manager, the Mayor and himself, regarding municipal government.

PUBLIC COMMENT. Ms. Mary McNabb mentioned her involvement with the Senior Center and being aware of the tight budgets many seniors are coping with. She referenced earlier discussion regarding eliminating or waiving fees for seniors enrolling in Senior Center membership and classes. In addition, she said the \$2.00 ADA fare each way for some to travel is a hardship also to some low-income seniors.

9. ADJOURN. Seeing no other matters presented for discussion at this work session, Mayor Phillips adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.


ELIZABETH AZILBERT
Deputy City Recorder




DENNIS R. PHILLIPS
Mayor