

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Kingsport, Tennessee
Monday, December 15, 2008, 4:30 PM
Council Room – City Hall

PRESENT:

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Dennis R. Phillips
Alderman Valerie Joh
Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote
Alderman Charles K. Marsh, Jr.

Alderman Larry A. Munsey
Alderman Patrick W. Shull
Alderman Jantry Shupe
(arrived at 5:15 p m)

City Administration

John G. Campbell, City Manager
J. Michael Billingsley, City Attorney
James H. Demming, City Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:32 p.m., by Mayor Phillips.
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy City Recorder Gilbert. Absent: Alderman Jantry Shupe (arrived at 5:15 p.m.).
3. **WORK SESSION TICKLER.** Alderman Shull asked, in reference to the Senior Center classes beginning at the Boys and Girls Club, if this was the City's first use of the facility since contracting to do so. City Manager Campbell confirmed that it is and Alderman Shull further asked about plans for additional City use to capitalize on the \$100,000 per year arrangement. Assistant to the City Manager, Chris McCartt, replied that, in addition to checking into use for adult basketball, three on three or pick-up games, the City also plans to make use of the Club's outdoor facilities.

Alderman Munsey was concerned that there are no lights at the exit around the Virginia/Tennessee state line and asked who would be responsible for installation. Jeff Fleming, Director of Development Services and Assistant City Manager for Economic Development, responded that the City has to fund that lighting and the BMA has approved lighting for certain interstate exits, such as the one for MeadowView. Transportation Engineer Michael Thompson added that there are interchange funding programs through TDOT (Tennessee Department of Transportation) to assist with that funding.

4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS ON DECEMBER 16, 2008 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:

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Mayor Phillips requested that the Board move up Agenda Item 5 which incorporates Board meeting agenda Item VI.D.5 at this time because State Representative Tony Shipley was in attendance to address this action.

5. DISCUSSION ON SR-126 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS. Transportation Engineer Thompson presented information on this safety improvement project which encompasses eight major safety enhancements on SR-126 from Center Street to I-81. Mr. Thompson provided a description of each improvement, the area it would enhance and the estimated cost of each project. These major improvements, along with some minor ones, were estimated to total \$4.88 million.

VI.D.8 Consideration of a Resolution in Support of Safety Improvements and Reconstruction of SR-126 (Memorial Boulevard) and SR-93 (John B. Dennis Highway) to Interstate 81 (AF: 380-2008). State Representative Shipley explained he is attempting to gather a consensus of support of this road improvement project due to the fact that this 8-mile stretch of road is the most dangerous one in the State of Tennessee. He added that, while improvements may not all get done, based on today's financial situation, he would like to see this project move ahead incrementally. He is seeking this support from the City of Kingsport to raise the Top Planning Report (TPR) status with TDOT.

Board members discussed the impact these improvements would have on certain property owners along the roadway and development areas that would benefit.

[Jantry Shupe arrived at 5:15 p.m. during the City Manager's discussion on Item VI.B.1.]

VI.B.1 Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the General Fund Budget by Increasing the Number of Positions in the Development Services Division by Adding a Researcher/Planner II Position (AF: 383-2008). In response to an inquiry from Alderman Shull whether the Leisure Services director position would be added back if the BMA approves this action, City Manager Campbell explained that this position is not being taken away, just the funding for it over the next two years while carrying out the City's agenda with current City staff. Mr. McCartt, who is overseeing Leisure Services, is already very involved and familiar with various Leisure Services projects and is being assisted by extremely capable department heads, as well as assistance from previous Leisure Services director, Tom Bowman, in dealing with projects involving Bays Mountain Park.

Alderman Marsh had previously asked for measures to gauge the effectiveness of this position but commented that none has been provided. Mr. Marsh is concerned about the difficulty in quantifying the value of this economic development position. City Manager Campbell responded those measures should be available by next week and described the scorecard used by NETWORKS to help measure efficiency.

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6. PRESENTATION ON DOG PARK RESTROOMS. Assistant to City Manager Chris McCartt provided information on the proposed structure, as well as provision of water for drinking fountains for humans and dogs. Mr. McCartt went over options for construction, weighing the pros and cons of constructing with in-house labor (\$22,000) or outsourcing (\$27,000). He will bring this item before the Board tomorrow night to request funding approval for the project.

7. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON KING COLLEGE MEDICAL SCHOOL POSSIBILITY. Mayor Phillips provided background information on how City officials learned of this opportunity and his contacts with Dr. Jordan, King College's president. The Mayor explained the complicated process regarding accreditation and described the proposed facility's needs with regard to a building (around 100,000 square feet) and projected capital (around \$70 million) involved in attracting a medical school.

Board members discussed a possible timeframe for opening a medical school in the area, hospital and other opportunities available at local medical facilities to accommodate graduate students, possible available sites, and whether the Board, as a whole, agreed with moving forward to attract this medical school.

Mayor Phillips indicated he will continue to speak with Dr. Jordan and encouraged all Board members to contact Dr. Jordan. He offered to invite Dr. Jordan to attend a future work session meeting to field questions, if desired.

8. DISCUSSION OF PRECONSTRUCTION SERVICES BY CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR MEADOWVIEW EXPANSION. City Manager John Campbell stated that this position has been narrowed down to three finalists for Construction Project Manager for the Meadowview Expansion project and added that the project's architect is interested in filling this position soon to complete necessary evaluations.

9. EARLY LOOK AT NEW PUBLIC WORKS PRODUCTIVE PROCESS. Public Works Director Ryan McReynolds demonstrated and illustrated the PDA/GIS that will allow garbage trucks using these devices to indicate where certain services are needed, such as brush and leaves pick-up, alleviating the time that items such as furniture and other trash are left curbside for pick up.

10. DISCUSSION TO CHANGE BMA MEETINGS FROM MARCH 16 AND 17 TO MARCH 23 AND 24. City Manager Campbell requested this meeting change to allow Board members to attend the National Conference of Cities in Washington DC the week of March 16, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

BOARD COMMENT. Alderman Munsey made the Board aware of the Audit Committee current plans of preparing some financial statements in-house, resulting in a savings of \$10,000. This being the first year of in-house preparation, the financials are slightly delayed and there is an Audit Committee meeting scheduled for December 30, 2008 at

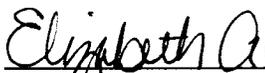
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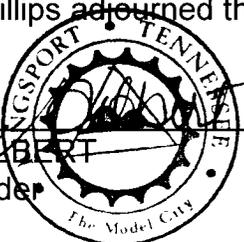
1:00 p.m. for Aldermen Munsey, Shull and Mallicote to meet, along with City Finance staff. The reports are required to be filed with the State by the end of the calendar year, which will be done, and Alderman Munsey will report to the Board at its January 13, 2009 business meeting.

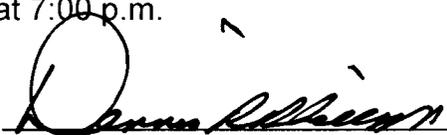
Community and Government Relations Officer Tim Whaley mentioned the legislative agenda passed out at last BMA work session and informed the Board that the other three cities have voted and agree on the majority of the items. He said that Bristol asked that 357 not be included as a project or priority. He inquired whether Board members wanted to vote on this item tomorrow night and also mentioned that Sullivan County opted out, regarding the airport authority, which is required to be adopted on an individual basis.

In response to a request by the Board, Police Chief Osborne provided an update on the Kingsport police officer charged with assault by his wife. The Kingsport Police Department internal investigation found no policy violations and Officer Daniel Scott Lane was exonerated in Hawkins County court today when his wife refused to testify and later admitted that all allegations were false. She is subsequently being charged with giving false information. Officer Lane will soon be back to work at the KPD.

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


ELIZABETH A. GILBERT
Deputy City Recorder




DENNIS R. PHILLIPS
Mayor