

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Kingsport, Tennessee
Monday, October 20, 2008, 4:30 PM
Council Room – City Hall

PRESENT:

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Dennis R. Phillips

Alderman Valerie Joh (*arrived at 4:37 p.m.*)

Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote

Alderman Charles K. Marsh, Jr.

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:** 4:33 p.m., by Mayor Phillips.

2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy City Recorder Gilbert. Absent during roll call, Alderman Joh arrived shortly thereafter at 4:37 p.m.

Alderman Marsh indicated that he has requested, twice in writing, discussion on MeadowView and, upon noting it is not included on the agenda, inquired if it would be added or dealt with it in different way.

City Manager Campbell responded that, upon receiving Mr. Marsh's request, believed that discussion would be included in the comprehensive CIP discussion at the called meeting to be scheduled next week.

Alderman Shull asked City Attorney Billingsley if he had reviewed the time limit to request a reconsideration of a Board action that was mentioned on page 15 of the October 7, 2008 BMA meeting minutes. Mr. Billingsley responded that, according to the rules, a request for reconsideration had to be brought up at the meeting at which the disputed vote was taken. He further clarified that the request had to be made by a party who was part of the majority vote, not dissenting, as the minutes reflected he had previously thought.

Alderman Shull requested that the record reflect the correction that a request for reconsideration of a BMA vote must be presented by a Board member who had voted in the majority of the disputed vote. [*Alderman Joh arrived at 4:37 p.m. during this discussion.*]

Board discussion then led to scheduling a called special work session next Thursday, October 30, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., to hold a comprehensive CIP discussion and review.

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of Kingsport, Tennessee, Monday, October 20, 2008

3. **WORK SESSION TICKLER.** No comments were made.

4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS ON OCTOBER 21, 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:

VI.AA.4 Public Hearing and Consideration of Ordinances to Annex/Amend Zoning of the Cherry Knoll Annexation and Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the Plan of Services (AF: 332-2008). City Planner Weems presented this annexation action. Board members questioned the reasons for taking in this property and City Manager Campbell explained that the major reason the two developers involved requested the annexation was sewer. This property is very close to the Fall Creek sewer trunkline and the City already has major water lines in that area. He sees this area as good, undeveloped land, along a route that is one of the best ways to get from the airport to Fall Creek and the developer has expressed interest in working with the City to develop this route.

Alderman Marsh added that this annexation would allow the City to put in needed infrastructure prior to development and would, in the long run, be less expensive than having to go back and retrofit.

Alderman Munsey said it is his understanding that this annexation has nothing to do with the city manager's contractual obligation to live inside the City and this annexation item was an entirely unrelated issue, along with the proposed Warrior Falls annexation on this agenda. City Manager Campbell confirmed that his family is close to making an offer on another house within the current City limits and plans to move, regardless of these annexation actions.

VI.D.4. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Mayor to Sign all Documents Necessary to Apply for and Receive a Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Enhancement Grant—Greenbelt Pedestrian Bridge Connection Project (AF: 333-2008). Alderman Marsh voiced his support for this project but opined it should be doable for much less than \$450,000 (\$360,000 in TDOT Enhancement Grant with a City match of \$90,000). Metropolitan Planner Chris Campbell explained the reasons for the seemingly high cost of this bridge's construction.

As part of the discussion, Mayor Phillips mentioned he would like next year's budget to include funding to complete the entire Greenbelt.

On another, unrelated bridge project, Alderman Munsey asked about the Orebank Bridge fiasco and was told the construction foreman responsible for the error that required removal of concrete work and reconstruction of one side is no longer on the job or with the company. City Manager Campbell said he will ask Travis Brickey, spokesman for TDOT, to provide an explanation to share with the public.

**Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of
Kingsport, Tennessee, Monday, October 20, 2008**

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

5. PRESENTATION ON FY09 FIRST QUARTER FUEL REPORT. Fleet Manager Steve Hightower reported in response to previous BMA request for this FY09 first quarter fuel report. In response to Board inquiry about a 4.9% fuel usage increase for the first FY09 quarter, he described the additional City service requirements, some which are temporary, such as patrol cars needed on I-26 while road construction work is being completed, public works at the landfill has been using the tub grinder full-time, using around 34 gallons an hour, to provide wood chips to Domtar.

City Manager Campbell emphasized that the City is currently in transition, due to the poor national economic times, and had planned to purchase at least 12 hybrid replacements but is not able to do so at this time. The City just received three new buses that will double fuel efficiency, as well as shooting propane into diesel trucks that provides 30% gain on gas mileage with vehicles that usually run 2 to 3 mpg.

Alderman Marsh pointed out that in August 2009, the City will experience a spike in school bus fuel usage, with the necessity of picking up students in Cooks Valley and busing them to the new John Adams Elementary School in the Rock Springs area. He further indicated he has spoken to Mr. Hightower about the economical feasibility of spending higher prices to purchase "green" vehicles without a proven economical benefit.

City Manager Campbell agreed that working toward being "green" was not necessarily economical, citing the fact that the City has moved back from B-20 alternative fuel to B-10 because of the expense involved without any comparable benefit.

6. TRANSIT SYSTEM UPDATE. Assistant to the City Manager Chris McCartt went over a PowerPoint presentation to recap and update BMA on the City's transit service. He described the new route structure, reaction to the minimal fare increase, new signage and schedule, along with implementation of the new express pass fare of \$25 for unlimited riding for a month.

He reported that the next steps will be to evaluate survey results and modify routes as needed, with a fifth route option and Saturday Service being considered. He added that operating hours are being evaluated and a pilot program with KHRA being explored regarding job access trips and updating marketing transit services.

Alderman Munsey inquired about the status and success of the lunch hour routes and Mr. McCartt replied they had been suspended because of a need to fill driver positions to meet ADA and fixed route requirements. He indicated discussion is ongoing with Eastman personnel because Eastman employees were primary users at lunchtime. That service could be expanded from servicing only Building 280, as was being done, to additionally include the Eastman Employee Center and Eastman Credit Union.

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of Kingsport, Tennessee, Monday, October 20, 2008

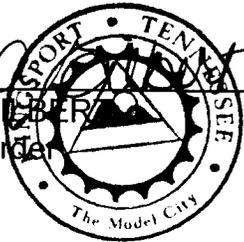
Mr. Munsey suggested that, since total annual transit revenue appears to be negligible, why not offer the transit service at no charge in order to help those who have no other means of transportation. He asked Mr. McCartt to report back to the Board the annual revenue figures.

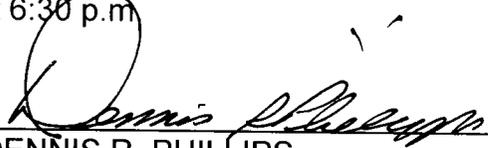
There was further Board discussion on expanding route hours which currently run only Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eliminating ridership from those needing transportation to 8:00-5:00 and/or weekend jobs. Mr. McCartt referred back to the issue of finding drivers who must possess a CDL and the City competes with the schools districts which also have difficulty filling bus driver positions.

Alderman Shupe suggested ridership would increase if all bus stops were posted with a schedule after he noted that some do not. Mr. McCartt responded that all "designated" stops currently have schedules and transit staff are working on posting signs at "non-designated" stops which will contain approximate times and a phone number to call for more information.

7. **ADJOURN.** Seeing no other matters presented for discussion at this work session, Mayor Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.


ELIZABETH A. GEBER
Deputy City Recorder




DENNIS R. PHILLIPS
Mayor