
MINUTES OF THE *WORK SESSION*
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE
CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – 5:00 P.M.

Board Members

Mayor John Schroer	P	Alderman Margaret Martin	P
Alderman Clyde Barnhill	P	Alderman Ken Moore	P
Alderman Pearl Bransford	P	Alderman Ann Petersen	P
Alderman Beverly Burger	P	Alderman Michael Skinner	P
Alderman Dana McLendon	P		

Department Directors/Staff

Eric Stuckey, City Administrator	P	Eric Gardner, Engineering Director	P
Vernon Gerth, ACA Community & Economic Development	P	Shirley Harmon, HR Director	P
Russell Truell, ACA Finance & Administration	P	Mark Hilty, Water Management Director	P
David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive	P	Gary Luffman, BNS Director	P
Shauna Billingsley, Interim City Attorney	P	Catherine Powers, Planning/Sustainability Director	P
Rocky Garzarek, Fire Chief	P	Joe York, Streets Director	P
Jackie Moore, Police Chief	P	Brad Wilson, Facilities Project Manager	P
Fred Banner, MIT Director	P	Lanaii Benne, Assistant City Recorder	P
Becky Caldwell, Solid Waste Director	P	Linda Fulwider, Board Recording Secretary	P
Lisa Clayton, Parks Director	P		

1. Call to Order

Mayor John Schroer called to order the Work Session of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Franklin, Tennessee, on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Boardroom.

2. Citizen Comments

None

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Consideration of Event Permit Application from the Alex LeVasseur Memorial Fest for an Event in Jim Warren Park on June 27, 2010

Lisa Clayton, Parks Director

This is an annual event. Alderman Barnhill asked if the complaints about noise had been handled. Lisa Clayton advised the problem was solved last year.

4. Consideration of Event Permit Application from Heritage Foundation for Franklin Brew Fest (formerly Feile Franklin) to be held in Downtown Franklin on March 13, 2010

Jackie Moore, Police Chief

No comments or questions

5. Discussion of Curb Side Recycling Program

Becky Caldwell was present to answer questions. Lewis Bumpus, Williamson County Landfill, was on hand as well. When the program was presented last meeting, the blue bag option was favored over the blue roll-out container option. Alderman Burger asked for an explanation of the difference between the two options.

Ms. Caldwell explained the main difference is cost. Blue rollout containers are similar in cost to the black trash containers and would be purchased by residents. Purchase of trucks by the City would be higher as well; mini-packer trucks are \$80,000 each with larger trucks costing \$140,000 each. The blue bag program is preferable because bags are somewhat transparent and handlers could see if there were unacceptable items, such as glass, in the bag. If so the resident would be notified.

Alderman Martin asked if the service is free other than the cost of the bags. Ms. Caldwell said there is no direct cost to residents, except the bags, but it would help keep service fees down by diverting to recycling. Thus, less cost in tipping fees. Ms. Caldwell attributed the phrase *you have to see blue at the curb to see green* to Alderman Skinner. Solid waste costs the City more than what residents pay in fees. One of the best tools to control cost going forward is more recycling. Ms. Caldwell remarked there is no way to know who will participate with the blue bag program. If the blue rollout containers were implemented the City would have to charge. Blue bags are available at Target, Wal-Mart, and Harpeth Hardware and could possibly be available at area grocery stores as well.

Discussion:

- Curbside recycling is voluntary
- Public education important
- In future it may be mandatory for municipalities to divert a certain percentage of waste
- Tipping fees recently increased 25%
- Blue bag curbside recycling a real opportunity, at a very low cost, to make the community better.
- A great opportunity to gauge citizen acceptance of curbside recycling
- Mini-packer trucks are same as used for trash pickup and if program fails could be used in fleet
- Implement a three-year program and monitor
- Break-even point estimate at 45%
- Recycling convenience centers will continue to operate
- No foam or glass allowed in recycling bags
- Glass is sand and interferes with the recycling process of plastic and cardboard
- Develop a promotional program to take to schools to educate children and give them blue bags
- July 1, 2010 proposed start time is doable
- Great opportunity for citizens to help keep costs down
- Option 3 is recommended

6. Professional Services Agreement (PSA) Amendment with Jackson Thornton for the Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Analysis in the Amount of \$15,769.46

Mark Hilty, Water Management Director

Mr. Stuckey noted the City requested additional work above the contracted amount. Mayor Schroer added the request was made in 2008 when the validity of the analysis was questioned and back-up numbers were requested. There will be a public forum February 22 @ 6:30 p.m. An initial draft of objectives will be sent to BOMA to weight each one.

7. Presentation on Mack Hatcher Parkway Extension Context Sensitive Design (CSD) Elements

David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive
Eric Gardner, Director of Engineering

David Parker noted this is the preliminary CSD approved by TDOT. Mr. Parker introduced Gary Hawkins, Hawkins Partners, and Tony Montiel of Wilbur Smith and Associates who gave the presentation. Design books were distributed.

The aesthetic elements in the approved landscape concept were reviewed. Each segment of the parkway is landscaped in a manner appropriate to the area including grass shoulders, gently sloping drainage swales, meadow grasses, preserved open views, native plants, croplands, and canopy trees in groves. The intersection of Highway 96 and Mack Hatcher will be a new gateway into the City from the west. At the roundabout there will be 35 foot pillars that look like carved limestone. Old Charlotte Pike terminates with two cul-de-sacs. The landscaping there is more agricultural. The north roundabout at Del Rio Pike is simplified with horse fencing and plantings in the middle. The Harpeth River Bridge will not look like a typical bridge. The railings will have pedestrian scale railings. Drivers will be able to see the river as they cross. There will be a trailhead that tells the story of the Harpeth River.

Probable cost is \$6.9 million which is \$2.2 million less than the construction documents. TDOT paid for the design and will pay for construction. There was some discussion on the capacity of the roundabouts with tractor-trailers and large trucks using Mack Hatcher. Although they were designed to handle these vehicles, Alderman Barnhill expressed some BOMA members are concerned. Even if TDOT is paying for it, it is still taxpayer money and not the best way to get traffic through that intersection. Mayor Schroer responded one reason that was done was to slow down traffic. David Parker said the alternative was to make a grade sensitive interchange that would have included building a wall.

- Alderman McLendon joined the meeting (5:53 p.m.)

Very little maintenance required for the low impact design. Irrigation will be needed at Highway 96, but effluent will be available. The initial plans for the widening project are being reviewed. The Capital Investment Committee will see initial draft at their meeting on Thursday. Costs do not include grading for the trail system that is remote from the road. The cul-de-sacs at Old Charlotte were necessary as there was no room to do grading.

8.* Consideration of the TDOT Agreement for the Mack Hatcher Parkway Extension Amendment No. 1, Agreement No. 070112, Pin 101454.01, State and Local Cooperation Future Budget Request, COF Contract No. 2009-0051

David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Director

Mr. Parker explained this item is about funding for the City to acquire right-of-way. The agreement approved in August 2009 was contingent on changing some of the language and that has been done. A subsection pertaining to landscaping was added. Aldermen Petersen and Burger emphasized the importance of using native plants. Alderman Burger prefers no mulch or pines be incorporated.

9.* Consideration of Bid Award to Camp & Sons LLC, d/b/a W. P. Camp & Sons of Nashville, in the Amount of \$575.00 for Purchase and Removal of the Single-Family Residential Dwelling at 1009 Hillsboro road as a Means of Disposal of Said Surplus Property, and Approval of the Agreement for Same
Eric Gardner, Engineering Director

Shauna Billingsley distributed copies of documents for purchase; all are part of the bid process.

10. Discussion and Consideration of Staff's Recommended Priority Ranking for Small Projects to be Funded as Approved in the Capital Funding Plan; \$500,000 Set Aside Per Year

David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive

Mr. Stuckey related most of the smaller projects were transportation related. Some Parks projects have been added. One concern is the Eastern Flank Battlefield original cost of \$1.3 million. He asked Lisa Clayton and Joe York to look at less-expensive options. Harlinsdale issues include upkeep and maintenance of the barn and family home; basic repairs such as roofing, etc. to deter deterioration.

The Royal Oaks intersection was \$900,000 below projected cost and McEwen at Cool Springs saved \$350,000. That money isn't necessarily available for these projects. Nichol Mill was mentioned as high priority. Mayor Schroer said these are things to think about and there are projects that may come to the fore. There are possibilities for matching grants. He is reluctant to spend the yearly \$500,000 just because it is available. It is important to figure out the processes. He said he appreciated staff ranking the projects; however, final decisions are up to BOMA. He would like to send this back to the Capital Investment Committee for thorough discussion. Mr. Stuckey noted there had been some discussion at CIC, but they thought the whole Board should discuss it. During discussion it was pointed out not all projects are safety concerns, if all the money is committed there would be no funds if some projects go over budget, and some projects could be scaled down to see what is workable at a lower price.

Mayor Schroer requested the list with staff rankings be put in an Excel spreadsheet, including the Parks projects, and forwarded to the aldermen to rank.

Aldermen Bransford and Burger expressed economic development projects are important because of tourism dollars. Alderman Barnhill said the purpose of the \$500,000 was to fill it up and not spend it unless an opportunity came up to do something needed. That was why they decided to earmark the money.

11. Consideration of Proposed ORDINANCE 2010-12, An Ordinance to Amend Title 9, Chapter 4, Relative to the Regulation of Taxicabs in the City of Franklin

Shauna Billingsley, Interim City Attorney

Metropolitan Nashville regulations for taxicabs are very comprehensive (included in agenda packet). Eric Stuckey said regulations in the Franklin City Code are burdensome, thus staff recommends to piggyback on Metro and use their certification process. Drivers with valid licenses in Metro would be authorized to drive cabs in Franklin.

12. Discussion on the Merits of the Waiving Plan Review and Building Permit Fees for Public Schools and Selected Not-for-Profit Agencies Located Within the City of Franklin

Mayor John Schroer

Several non-profit organizations have requested fee waivers. Some of these are United Way agencies that receive City donations. Eric Stuckey said he thought it a bad idea to waive fees. Fees are the costs to provide services. How would it be decided who would pay and who would not? There would be different tax bases to consider. A fee for service is part of the development community.

Alderman McLendon commented building and plan review is based on the size of the project, the amount of fees, given the cost of a project, should not be a deal-breaker for any non-profit.

13. Annual Report on Franklin’s FACTA Program (Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act), Identity Theft Protection

Rodney Escobar, Risk Manager

Eric Stuckey noted the policy was approved last year and this is a required annual report.

14. Consideration of Proposed RESOLUTION 2009-55, A Resolution Adopting and Implementation of the New Historic District Design Guidelines

Alderman Ann Petersen, FMPC Board Representative

Eric Stuckey introduced and officially welcomed the City’s new Planning and Sustainability Director, Catherine Powers.

Erin Reinders clarified they are tracking changes on the appendix to the resolution. Once the resolution is adopted the guidelines will be changed accordingly. Building height: staff recommends the addition of the following: “The building height should be consistent with the height and scale of neighboring buildings and shall not exceed the building height permitted in the Franklin Zoning Ordinance.” Because of that statement being added they also recommend taking out any statements identifying specific height regulations in the guidelines. The Historic Zoning Commission will use their best judgment on the surrounding buildings as to what would be appropriate “for the rhythm of the block” (phrase coined by Steve Valley)

15. Consideration of Proposed ORDINANCE 2009-77, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 4, Section 4.1.6, and Chapter 8, Section 8.3, of the City of Franklin Zoning Ordinance Relating to Home Occupations

Alderman Ann Petersen, FMPC Board Representative

Tom Marsh said this is based on requests from residents. Appropriate home occupations are, for example, catering, office service providers, general consulting, and small scale child care. The State requirement for small child care is up to seven children. The Planning Commission requests the ordinance reflect up to four children. Alderman Barnhill prefers the ordinance state up to seven children to comply with State licensing. There was some discussion on the stipulation in 4.1.6(5), (c), (vi) that states no more than one pupil or client can be on premises at a time.

16. Consideration of Proposed ORDINANCE 2010-03, An Ordinance to Amend the City of Franklin Zoning Ordinance to Revise Provisions Relating to the Powers, Duties, and Membership of the Franklin Board of Zoning Appeals

Alderman Ann Petersen, FMPC Board Representative

Gary Luffman explained the revision is to conform to Tennessee law as to terms of office and the number of members to serve on BOZA.

17. Discussion SPUI vs. Diamond Interchange (Continued Discussion and Additional Subject Material Information)

David Parker, City Engineer/CIP Executive

Eric Stuckey noted the cost incurred by TDOT on design of the SPUI thus far is \$200,000 with the meter running. To change to the diamond interchange would cost the City.

Alderman Burger said she talked to eight experts and the man who invented the SPUI. The SPUI would be a step to the future for moving more traffic faster, and facilitating left turns. Diamonds cause backups.

Alderman Barnhill stated the bottom line is the \$5 million for a SPUI can be used somewhere else.

Issue will be taken to February 23, 2010 Work Session and BOMA.

18. Status Update on ORDINANCE 2009-55, Offenses Against the Peace and Quiet

Eric Stuckey, City Administrator

Due to time constraints will address next meeting.

19. Review and Discussion of Policy for Sewer Connection

Alderman Michael Skinner

Due to time constraints will address next meeting.

20. Other Business

None

ADJOURN

Work Session adjourned @ 7:04 p.m.

Mayor John C. Schroer

Minutes prepared by: Linda Fulwider, Board Recording Secretary, City Administrator's Office - 3/10/2010 10:53 AM