

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

March 14, 2024

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Henderson, Tennessee met in regular session on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the City of Henderson City Hall. Present and presiding was Mayor Robert W. (Bobby) King. City Recorder Jim E. Garland called the roll with the following being present:

Aldermen: Mark A. Barber, Donna R. Butler, Buel Maness, Jason Rhodes, and
Keith Smith.
Absent: Michael Phelps.

Also present at the meeting were: City Recorder Jim E. Garland, City Attorney Jerry Spore, Police Chief Gary Davidson, Building Official Brent Beshires, Public Works Director Carter Scales, Fire Chief Doug Acred, Utility Director Darryl Green, and Asst CMFO Alicia Holder.

Mayor King called the meeting to order at the appointed time. Alderman Barber gave the invocation, and Alderman Smith led the Pledge to the Flag. The following proceedings were entered here-to-wit:

The minutes of the previous regular meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to accept the minutes as presented, duly 2nd by Ald. Maness. Motion carried.

The accumulated accounts were presented for informational purposes. Ald. Butler stated that Carl Perkins did get the \$40,000 donation and asked if they would allow a tour of the location. Mayor King will follow up. Ald. Butler then referred to B1, line item 23, payment of \$106,296.53 to Chester Co. Government for six months of dispatch fees and asked if the fees were always this high. Recorder Garland stated that it has been between \$90,000 and \$120,000 every six months for several years and as salaries increase the amount that we pay increases. However, the 911 board will be discontinuing its donation of \$30,000 which will mean an automatic increase of \$15,000. There being no further questions on the accounts, the meeting continued.

The first item on the agenda was a call for delegations to address the board. Ms. Norma Meissner addressed the board stating that she had three (3) topics to address with the board.

1. Pedestrian Crosswalks – she stated that she was almost hit the previous week while walking her dog. This has been discussed in the past and she wants to know why we cannot get the special paint that the State requires for crosswalks. Who does she need to petition at the state to get this done? Recorder Garland stated that when he talked to the state in the fall, they were not going to paint until the spring due to weather conditions that could/would damage the paint. Recorder Garland will reach out to his contact at the TDOT for status.

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2. Spraying pesticides to kill mosquitoes – she stated that she brought this up a couple of years ago and feels like this will be an early long summer and the mosquitoes will be bad. They carry diseases and every year another disease is identified that is transmitted via the mosquito. She wants the board to consider spraying for mosquitoes in city limits. Recorder Garland stated that the machine had not been touched in approximately 15 years and that the city would need to certify a person for the use of the pesticides. She had done a lot of research with the CDC and she knows someone with the CDC after speaking with them this is not the most effective way to eliminate the mosquitoes. She has done her research and we can double check if we want. Ald. Butler stated that there was another resident who had addressed this previously as well. After further discussion, it was decided to do more research on the subject.
3. Voting procedure – She stated that she recently learned that if a person lives in the county and owns property in the city, why are they not allowed to vote in a city election? Mayor King stated that the State of Tennessee changed the rule in the 80's. To get it changed, per the State Election Commission, it would require a separate database to count/record non-residents to vote. Several steps would need to be taken to get it changed. The cost several years ago for the database was over \$10,000. After further discussion, she will bring this issue back next election year.

There being no further delegations, the meeting continued.

The next item on the agenda was to consider a purchase of a trailer-mounted air compressor for use by the Public Work and Utility Departments. UD Green stated that this can be purchased through the Sourcewell agreement and they have one proposal for \$29,306.20 which is within the budget. This includes the freight and should be here within a couple of weeks. A motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve the purchase for \$29,306.20 using the budgeted ARP funds, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried

The next item on the agenda was to consider a purchase of two heavy metal plates for the Utility Department to use to cover excavations in streets and parking areas. UD Green stated that we have several gas valves to replace and since the welding is outsourced, there are times that the hole is barricaded but left uncovered. The plates would allow for the holes to be covered. The State has very clear specifications and requirements for the plates. The costs are \$5,145 each and he is asking to purchase two for a total of \$10,291.00. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Barber to approve the purchase under general equipment for \$10,291.00 as presented, duly 2nd, by Ald. Smith. Motion carried.

Any other Business:

1. Announce the date/time for the next budget meeting for 03/21/24 at 5:30 PM. Recorder Garland stated that he had spoken to most of the board members and this date/time worked. They will review PWD, BI, and PD on this date. They will come back on April 4th and review FD, City, and Parks. Utility will be done late in April. Ald. Butler asked about the revenues and if he thought we were in line with what he had thought. He stated that we were doing better than expected at this time.
2. Discuss the Storm Siren issue. Recorder Garland stated that we had a siren that had been out of service for approximately three months due to a lightning strike. The recommendation is to replace the entire control box. Chief Acred and Chief Mechanic Melton will do the installation saving \$2,000.00. The box is \$8,835.00. The siren is

located at Premier Way and Industrial Drive. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve the purchase of the siren box from Safety Com for \$8,835.00, duly 2nd by Ald. Smith. Motion carried.

3. Consider hiring a GIS Contractor. Recorder Garland stated that the city has been without a GIS Technician since July 2023 causing the GIS system to get behind resulting in issues. He stated that we need to find a way to get caught back up since we are not having any luck filling the open position. A lot of things have changed that he and Brent are not familiar with regarding the system. He has been in touch with three different GIS companies to get some estimates on what a per-hour consultant would cost to get the GIS system back to where it needs to be. The estimates are coming back between \$150 and \$175 per hour. Since we have not paid a salary since July, he would like to transfer \$10,000 from the GIS salaries line item to the GIS consultant line item. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to transfer \$10,000 from the salary to the contract services line items to move forward with a contractor, duly 2nd by Ald. Maness. Motion carried.
4. Advise the board of the April 2, 2024 meeting of the IDB concerning the Hotel TIF at 6:00 in the chambers. Tom Trent- the TIF attorney will be here to answer questions.

UD Green stated that one of the roll-up doors at Record Drive has been repaired at least two different times costing between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each time. The cost to gut and start with a new motor and panel would be \$4745. He is recommending that we purchase a new door for \$7,235 from Doors and More out of Lexington. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Smith to replace the door for \$7,235, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

UD Green stated that he had two electrical engineers come down and they are almost ready to finalize the specifications and go to bid for the work at the Water Plant. He also has drawings that he received yesterday to be reviewed for the chemical feed systems. There is a pre-construction conference for the North Avenue project set for March 21 in hopes that the work will start on April 1st. He reviewed several project updates. Ald. Butler asked for an update on the backup generator at the water plant. He stated that the project is complete and all problems have been solved.

Fire Chief Acred stated that as mentioned last month, they received a grant from the State Fire Marshall's office that they will use to purchase hoses and cameras. According to the purchasing policy, he is required to get the board's approval, The grant amount is \$48,270 and the quote came in at \$48,269.97. There is no city match on this grant. A motion was made by Ald. Smith to approve the purchase with the grant, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

Chief Acred stated that the fire department has a 1997 rescue truck that they would like to take out of commission and sell at the surplus auction. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to move forward with the selling of the truck, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried.

Recorder Garland stated that we finally got permission to move forward with the Multi-Modal Grant. The preconstruction meeting is set for March 22nd at 10:00 am and will hopefully get started shortly thereafter.

Ald. Barber stated that all the board members should have received the email that Recorder Garland forwarded from Park Superintendent Miller regarding the ditch at Gene Record Park. Due to new construction on North Church, the ditch is losing a lot of dirt and eventually will lose a couple of trees. There will need to be dirt work completed to slope the sides of the ditch to get ready for rip rap.

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Ald. Smith asked if everything was received from Bob's Landscaping. Recorder Garland stated all was in good order and he and PWD Scales will reach out to the company tomorrow to get the mowing started.

He then asked about the status of the cell tower contract. Recorder Garland stated that they could not locate the contract and that they may need to reach out to the utility service to get a copy.

Mayor King stated that in the General Assembly, Representative Kirk Haston was working on pushing through a depreciation bill that would result in getting a break per year. Not what was looking for but better than nothing.

At the last budget meeting, he talked about a cap on property tax at 2%. The subcommittee desk of planning wants it at a 5% cap. A 5% cap would mean \$.045 for the city. Per the meeting, Representative Todd out of Jackson, this law could make the city and county raise taxes each year.

The Recall Bill from a state senator out of East Tennessee gives authority to recall only two groups - school boards and municipalities every two years.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ald. Barber to adjourn, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

Signed: Robert W. King

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

Signed: Jim E. Garland

ATTEST: _____, CITY RECORDER