

**OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

May 27, 2014

The Work Session of the Oak Ridge City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on May 27, 2014 in the Courtroom of the Municipal Building.

Present: Trina Baughn, Councilmember
Tom Beehan, Mayor
Anne Garcia Garland, Councilmember
Charlie Hensley, Councilmember
Chuck Hope, Councilmember
Jane Miller, Mayor Pro Tem
David Mosby, Councilmember

Also Present: Mark S. Watson, City Manager
Ken Krushenski, City Attorney
Diana Stanley, City Clerk

BRIEF DEMONSTRATION TO THE OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL ON NEW AUDIO AND VOTING UPGRADES TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COURTROOM.

Mike Brown with M&M Productions provided an overview to the City Council on the audio and voting upgrades that would be occurring to the Courtroom and discussed the potential of moving forward, in the future, with integration upgrades for video and agenda management.

REPORT FROM IRMA MUTIAHSARI AND HERA NUGRAHAYU ON THE "LITTLE LIBRARY" PROGRAM AND APPLICATIONS TO NEIGHBORHOODS IN OAK RIDGE.

Irma Mutiahsari and Hera Nugrahayu both provided details on their report on the prospect of a "Little Library" Program—a program to create small "library-like" establishments in areas of community gathering—in Oak Ridge and how it could potentially be utilized in the community.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW BY THE CITY MANAGER REGARDING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DESIGNATION AND INTEGRATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ENERGY (AMSE) AND OAK RIDGE LIBRARY INTO STRATEGIC PLANNING AND VISION.

The City Manager explained that there was potential for future planning to integrate all of the aforementioned organizations into the community for the historical promotional focus of Oak Ridge. He further explained that he would like for the City to obtain community ideas/feedback regarding this potential integration and move forward with discussions of interested prospects, both locally and regionally, for a possible corporation to move forward.

David Moore, Director of AMSE, provided City Council with his background and indicated that he was looking forward to beginning discussions of the museum's future.

JOINT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OAK RIDGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AND CITY COUNCIL ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

The City Manager provided City Council with an overview of the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), noting current contract provisions; composition and goals of the board; present challenges; finances, including the decline in hotel tax collections over the last few years; and recommendations to integrate the organization as a part of city services.

Following this presentation, the City Council provided their pros and the cons of the proposal introduced by the City Manager to Hugh Ward, Vice Chair of the CVB and Katy Brown, Executive Director of the CVB, with the general consensus of Council wishing to leave the CVB as a stand-alone entity based on their autonomy to complete tasks and projects outside the scope of procedures of the City.

During these discussions, members of City Council also expressed their interest in the CVB considering new alternatives to achieving goals set by them for the City Council and exploring others means to continue to better promote tourism in the area.

DISCUSSION ON FRIENDSHIP BELL REPORT AND SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS FOR REPAIR.

During these discussions on repair of the Friendship Bell, City Council offered several solutions for the City to consider for funding, such as public and/or government support, community fundraisers, and a community repair initiative.

Josh Collins, Recreation and Parks Department Director, and Tim Carty of TetraTech reviewed the engineering report, as prepared by TetraTech. During this review, it was noted by Mr. Collins that the new structure to support the bell would need to be built for longevity and water management, as water was one of the main issues that deteriorated the structure.

As part of their recommendations, City Council also wished to see repair ideas recommended by the Recreation and Parks Board later in the fall.

CHARTER REQUEST FROM COUNCILMEMBER BAUGHN.

Councilmember Baughn explained that she had requested discussions on potential Charter amendments related to the school's budgetary projections and the expenditures to have community input in time for the elections this November.

The City Attorney explained that the language provided in the General Law of the State of Tennessee was also presented in the Charter and that the City cannot violate General State Law in that the City can only appropriate and modify appropriations for the school's budget, not dictate spending.

The City Attorney explained that he would explore this issue further and bring suggestions back before City Council. As part of these discussions, City Council also discussed the idea of school projects requiring major funding be brought before City Council by the Board of Education earlier in the budget year for ample consideration.

UPDATES:

White House Initiative Mayor's Makers Challenge

The City Manager noted that information in this initiative would be forthcoming.

Informal Meetings with City Council

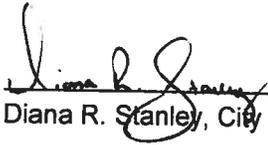
The City Manager suggested continuing informal meetings of City Council as was done with the budget discussion earlier in April with topics potentially chosen by Council. During this update, it was noted by Councilmember Garcia Garland that these meetings would not substitute her original request for additional meetings.

Questions on recent "wine in grocery store" bill

The City Manager noted that a citizen petition had begun supporting wine in grocery stores and that he would keep Council informed of updates on that initiative.

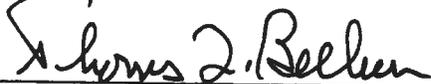
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
July 14, 2014



Thomas L. Beehan, Mayor