

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Municipal Building Courtroom

June 4, 2018

Minutes

The June 4, 2018 meeting of the City Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Municipal Building with Mayor Pro Tem Rick Chinn, Jr. presiding.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember Chuck Hope.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilmember Hans Vogel.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Kelly Callison; Mayor Pro Tem Rick Chinn, Jr; Councilmember Jim Dodson; Councilmember Charles J. Hope, Jr.; Councilmember Ellen D. Smith; and Councilmember Hans Vogel. Mayor Warren Gooch was absent.

Also present were Mark S. Watson, City Manager; Janice McGinnis, Finance Director; Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk; and Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney.

Councilmember Dodson moved to amend the agenda to call up a proclamation proclaiming June 4-9, 2018 as Secret City Festival Time. Councilmember Vogel moved for approval of the proclamation, and Councilmember Hope seconded.

The proclamation passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hope, Smith, Vogel and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye." Mayor Gooch was absent.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018, BY IMPOSING A TAX ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, FIXING THE RATE OF THE TAX, ADOPTING A BUDGET, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

Councilmember Smith moved to open the public hearing on the ordinance, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

Linda Braden, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oak Ridge, addressed Council to oppose any increase in the property taxes.

Darris Upton, 202 Tusculum Drive, Oak Ridge, stated that curbs are crumbling in the city, and he would like to see some results from the tax money being spent.

Pat Gengozian, 114 Capital Circle, Oak Ridge, stated that Oak Ridge is a city with a very low tax base, and she is in support of the money needed to complete projects such as the senior center.

Seeing no other citizen wishing to address Council, Councilmember Dodson moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

Councilmember Smith moved to approve the ordinance on first reading, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn requested that if there are any amendments to the budget ordinance that they be presented at the next meeting.

City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the budget ordinance, and Finance Director Janice McGinnis answered questions from Council.

Councilmember Smith asked some factual questions about the budget pertaining to DOE's payment-in-lieu-of tax, professional and contractual services, and personnel. She also stated that many projects in the budget have been long-term projects that are finally being implemented.

Councilmember Callison congratulated the City Manager for setting 2019 goals for all of city staff and stated that Council should ask next year as to how city staff did in meeting those goals.

Councilmember Dodson reiterated his desire for school resource officers in each middle school and the high school.

Councilmember Vogel stated that folks should read the City Manager's transmittal letter as it does a great job summarizing the challenges facing the city. He also asked several questions of Ms. McGinnis.

Councilmember Hope inquired about funds for sidewalk improvements and street resurfacing, as well as funding for the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn stated his opposition to the two-cent property tax increase and urged Council to look at any way possible to hold the property tax rate steady.

The ordinance was approved as amended by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hope, Smith, and Vogel voting "Aye" and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "No." Mayor Gooch was absent.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 6-40-2018

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 4-23-2018 AWARDING A CONTRACT FY2018-142 TO ROGERS GROUP, INC. KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, FOR STREET MILLING AND RESURFACING OF DESIGNATED CITY STREETS TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF WORK AND FUNDING WITH RESPECT TO REPAIRS TO MELTON LAKE DRIVE.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution and Councilmember Smith seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution, and Shira McWaters, Public Works Director, answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hope, Smith, Vogel and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye." Mayor Gooch was absent.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

Linda Braden, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, addressed Council regarding an issue she is having with her water meter.

Rebecca Williams, 102 Deerfield Lane, Oak Ridge, asked Council to consider a contract to manage the Oak Ridge Farmers Market. City Manager Mark Watson stated that he would put this item on the next work session agenda for discussion.

David Kitzmiller, 144 Wellington Circle, Oak Ridge, urged Council to make the paving of West Outer Drive

a priority.

Martin McBride, 954 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, asked Council to extend an invitation to the Secretary of Energy to attend the Scarborough Community reunion in July. He also stated the City has not done enough to explore the tourism heritage of the African-American community.

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Elections/Appointments

Announcements

Councilmember Hans Vogel announced that he will be resigning from City Council effective June 30, 2018 to accept a job in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Scheduling

COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS OR FUTURE BRIEFINGS

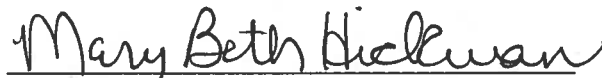
SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

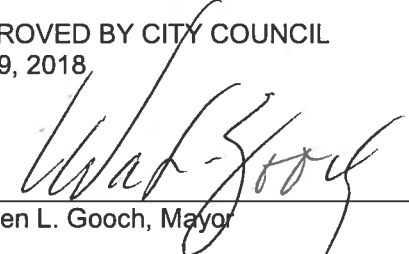
City Manager Mark Watson reported that the Oak Ridge Fire Department has reaffirmed its ISO 2 rating.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

ADJOURNMENT: 8:33 p.m.


Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
July 9, 2018


Warren L. Gooch, Mayor