

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Municipal Building Courtroom

February 10, 2020

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 2020 in the Courtroom of the Municipal Building with Mayor Warren L. Gooch presiding.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Rafael Morales, Oak Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Jim Dodson.

ROLL CALL

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

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

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Elect one (1) applicant to the Anderson County Community Action Commission

Susan Asbury was elected on the first ballot.

Elect three (3) applicants to the Oak Ridge Beer Permit Board

Mark Cantrell, Tribby Kelly, and Rodney Nelson were elected on the first ballot.

Mark Cantrell was elected to serve the unexpired term ending on December 31, 2020 on the second ballot.

Elect two (2) applicants to the Board of Building and Housing Code Appeals

Dr. Bruce LeForce and John McMillan were elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) applicant to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Roger Petrie was elected on the first ballot.

Elect five (5) applicants to the Convention and Visitors Bureau/Explore Oak Ridge

Mayor Gooch moved that Robin Berrier, Heather Brown, and Alex Cruze be elected by acclamation as hotel representatives on the Convention and Visitors Bureau/Explore Oak Ridge, and Councilmember Hope seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Emily Jernigan was elected on the first ballot, and Terry Domm was elected on the second ballot.

Elect three (3) applicants to the Environmental Quality Advisory Board

Councilmember Callison moved that Brittany Cramer and Darcie Holcomb be elected by acclamation for the two non-student positions, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Abigail Hausladen was elected on the second ballot as the student representative.

Elect three (3) applicants to the Health and Educational Facilities Board.

Jeffrey Gebhart, Janice Harris, and David Wilson were elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) applicant to the Oak Ridge Heritage Railroad Authority

Gordon Fee was elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) applicant to the Oak Ridge Housing Authority

Jean Lantrip was elected on the first ballot.

Elect two (2) applicants to the Oak Ridge Land Bank Board of Directors.

Melinda Hillman and Kristin Robertucci were elected on the first ballot.

Elect two (2) applicants to the Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission

Sharon Kohler and Jane Shelton were elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) applicant to the Personnel Advisory Board

Councilmember Dodson moved to elect Lynette Waite by acclamation, and Councilmember Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Elect five (5) applicants to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Mark Cantrell, Jake Greear, Bradley Spears and Michele Thornton were elected on the first ballot. Christopher Melhorn was elected on the second ballot.

Christopher Melhorn was elected to serve the unexpired term ending on December 31, 2021 on the first ballot.

Elect five (5) applicants to the Senior Advisory Board

Dr. Elaine Bunick, Gene Dunaway, Jackie Nichols, and Lisa Plante were elected on the first ballot. Lynda Rose was elected on the second ballot.

Lynda Rose was elected to serve the balance of an unexpired term ending December 31, 2020.

Elect four (4) applicants to the Trade Licensing Board

Councilmember Callison moved to elect Mark Maddux, Joe McCarty, Jerry Seiber and Danny Scott by acclamation, and Councilmember Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn

voting "Aye."

Elect three (3) applicants to the Traffic Safety Advisory Board

Andrew Howe, Ronald Linkins, and William Polfus were elected on the first ballot.

Election of Council Representatives/Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments

Election of three (3) Council members to the City Judge Salary Review Committee

Councilmember Smith moved to accept staff's recommendation and elect Mayor Pro Tem Chinn and Councilmembers Callison and Smith to the City Judge Salary Review Committee, and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Election of City Council representative to the Anderson County Economic Development Association Board of Directors

Mayor Gooch moved that Rick Chinn be re-appointed as the City Council representative on the Anderson County Economic Development Association Board of Directors, and Councilmember Dodson seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Election of City Council representative to serve on the City/Schools committee to develop a solution on the School Administration Building

Councilmember Kelly Callison was elected on the first ballot.

Confirmation of Mayor's reappointment of Shira McWaters to the Anderson County Regional Solid Waste Planning Board

Councilmember Hope moved for confirmation, and Councilmember Callison seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Confirmation of appointment of Mark Wats, City Manager, to represent Oak Ridge on the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board and the Anderson County Economic Development Association

Councilmember Hammond moved for confirmation, and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

PROCLAMATIONS AND PUBLIC RECOGNITIONS

A proclamation designating February, 2020 as Influenza Prevention Month

Councilmember Callison moved for approval of the proclamation, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

SPECIAL REPORTS

Approval of letter to TVA from City of Oak Ridge to provide for an Oak Ridge public hearing/meeting on Bull Run Power Plant plans

City Manager Mark Watson asked Council to affirm the submittal of a letter making the request. It was agreed to by unanimous consent.

Report of City Manager Mark Watson and Councilmember Chuck Hope on status of Oak Ridge Rowing Association lease and NCAA Rowing Championship and any necessary discussion and Council directive

City Manager Mark Watson and Councilmember Hope provided an update regarding the Oak Ridge Rowing Association lease. Councilmember Hope stated that it was essential to be a good steward of the City's assets at the lake while at the same time improving communication between the City and the Rowing Association and coordinating event schedules.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn stated that the lease rate is low, but the City gets a great deal of benefit from the agreement. He said he hated to see an impasse between the City and the Rowing Association and would really like to support rowing in Oak Ridge.

Councilmember Hammond asked if there was something unique about these particular negotiations. Councilmember Hope stated that the main issue seems to be the length of the term of the lease.

Councilmember Dodson stated that it is important to note what rowing brings to the table in Oak Ridge and that it was too bad attorneys had to get involved.

Mayor Gooch stated that it is essential to protect the interests of the City on Melton Lake Drive and the hoteliers.

Jim Rogers, 107 Dover Lane, Oak Ridge, President of the Oak Ridge Rowing Association, addressed Council about the difficulties the group has encountered in negotiating a new contract with the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gooch requested that the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A "TENNESSEE COUNTS" GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$10,000.00 TO BE USED IN THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 CENSUS.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the Consent Agenda as amended, and Councilmember Hammond seconded.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Approval of the January 13, 2020 City Council regular meeting minutes

Resolution No. 2-8-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA) TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGYRIGHT® PROGRAM.

Resolution No. 2-9-2020

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT THE TENNESSEE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BOARD'S DECISION TO INCREASE THE STATEWIDE 911 SURCHARGE RATE FROM TO \$1.50.

Resolution No. 2-10-2020

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE A CITIZEN COMMITTEE TO COMMEMORATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION IN OAK RIDGE AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSMITTAL OF A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN CHUCK FLEISCHMANN TO SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS IN OBTAINING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THIS LANDMARK EVENT BY THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

After approval of the Consent Agenda as amended, the item which was removed was brought up for discussion:

Resolution No. 2-11-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A "TENNESSEE COUNTS" GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$10,000.00 TO BE USED IN THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 CENSUS.

Mayor Gooch moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Hope seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution, and answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

(NONE)

FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

(NONE)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2-12-2020

A RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT (FY2020-093) TO HENLEY ROOFING, CO., HEISKELL, TENNESSEE, FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMPLEX IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$978,500.00.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Resolution No. 2-13-2020

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE HORIZON CENTER ON LOTS 5, 6, AND 7, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 327 ACRES, FOR A TEST TRACK AND RESEARCH FACILITY.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. Industrial Development Consultant Steve Jones answered questions from Council about the proposed development.

Councilmember Dodson stated that there needed to be a balance between economic impact and environmental concerns. He said that he would like more information about the project before he made a decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn stated that this proposal would be an ideal use for the property with the undulation of the land. He said he favored a claw back provision which would include a timeframe for developing the property.

Councilmember Hope stated that this proposal could be marketed to a number of different groups for potential events and that when the project goes before the Industrial Development Board an emphasis needs to be placed on a timeline for developing different events.

Councilmember Smith stated that a spectator sport would not fit the definition of a use for this property, but

that she might be supportive of the proposal if a clear concept could be presented. She also stated that City Council should have additional opportunities to weigh in on the project moving forward.

Councilmember Hammond stated that he had researched this industry, and it has a very good track record of working with residents and addressing environmental concerns.

Doug Colclasure, 103 Monticello Road, Oak Ridge, asked Council to keep in mind the environmental concerns a project like this could cause.

Alfred Denny, 238 N. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, asked Council to consider the unintended consequences of the noise of the development and the impact of the racing noise that might make the city unattractive to some.

Jeff Cox, Regional Executive for Sports Car Club of America in Knoxville, spoke in favor of the resolution and pointed out that the proposed airport would override any noise this project would generate.

Robert Kennedy, 209 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, and Chairman of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board, voiced his opposition to the resolution.

Eric Wracker, Loudon, stated that motorsports has a big following in this area, and he supports the resolution.

John Snook, Knoxville, stated that most of the cars that would be utilizing this park have mufflers, and sound levels are monitored constantly.

Martin McBride, 954 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, stated that having such a development could continue to encourage the Department of Energy to refer their employees to Farragut realtors if the natural beauty of the area is jeopardized.

Wende Doolittle, 108 Locust Drive, Oak Ridge, stated that there is a great deal to consider and many complicated issues with this project.

Ken Cowin, 145 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, spoke in favor of the resolution and stated that most motorsports parks such as this one are equipped with noise meters that monitor the noise.

David Wilson, 1079 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, and Chairman of the Industrial Development Board, stated that property values are not certain to deteriorate as a result of this project, and that the IDB and the developer will take into account the best interests of the citizens of Oak Ridge.

Linda Adams, 102 Fallberry Street, Oak Ridge, stated that the airport would cause more problems than this proposed project, but she is concerned about the proper zoning for this area.

Joe Hensley, Knoxville, stated that he has a passion for motorsports and that the IDB should to proper studies on noise control before moving the project forward.

Diane Cowin, 145 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, spoke in favor of the resolution and stated that the proposed project would result in very little change to the existing land around it.

Mayor Gooch proposed an amendment to the first "Resolved" clause to read: "that the recommendation of the City Manager is approved and City Council hereby expresses its support and interest in the further development of the Horizon Center on Lots 5, 6, and 7 containing approximately 327 acres for a test track and research facility. Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

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

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS.

(NONE)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

Councilmember Hope stated that the new lights on Melton Lake Drive make the road much safer.

Councilmember Dodson announced the Paint the Town Event on May 9th on Wilson Street. More details will follow.

Mayor Gooch congratulated the Oak Ridge Dance Team Training Program for winning multiple championships at Walt Disney World.

Council member Hammond announced a musical event called Musical Journeys through American Race Relations on Saturday, February 29th at High Places Church from 4-6 p.m.

Scheduling

City Manager Mark Watson announced that the February 18th City Council work session would have a Recreation and Parks focus.

COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS OR FUTURE BRIEFINGS

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

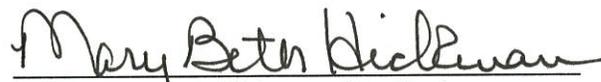
CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

ADJOURNMENT: 10:48 p.m.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 9, 2020



Warren L. Gooch, Mayor



Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk