

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Municipal Building Courtroom

June 6, 2016

Minutes

The June 6, 2016 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 Warren L. Gooch presiding.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Gooch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Councilmember Trina Baughn.

ROLL CALL

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

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

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

Martin McBride, 954 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, addressed Council regarding the need to invite representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) headquarters in Washington to address the Council on the issue of Oak Ridge residency.

Anne Garcia Garland, 120 Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, reminded Council about documentation she previously provided that multiple laws were broken during the marina bathroom project. Councilmember Hensley stated that this issue was addressed during the City Manager's review and that a new accounting system is being put into place that will address issues such as this in the future. Councilmember Baughn requested to be on record as stating that she has taken steps to address these issues and concerns, including attempting to get the auditors to address the issues at hand. At the invitation of Mr. Watson, the auditors did come in and offered to assist with clarifying whether laws were violated. When she attempted to take them up on that offer, it was voted down 6-1. Councilmember Baughn further stated that she wants to be on the record that she has performed her due diligence in attempting to address the matter.

Richard Spraker, 207 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, addressed Council regarding his proposal to manage Centennial Golf Course.

Myra Mansfield, 103 Hendrix Drive, Oak Ridge, commended the City for its current retail growth. She also expressed concern about the need for more housing that would attract young professionals. Councilmember Hensley stated that the Land Bank is looking at the older houses as rental resources and is examining niche marketing as a way to appeal to potential renters.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Smith moved for adoption, and Councilmember Hope seconded.

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

Confirmation of the Nomination of Mr. James E. Rushton by the Oak Ridge Utility District Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016, BY IMPOSING A TAX ON ALL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY, FIXING THE RATE OF THE TAX, ADOPTING A BUDGET, AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS.

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

Anne Garcia Garland, 120 Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, stated her support of upgrading the City's accounting and electric software as well as the compensation study. She questioned why there would be a third party conducting the study and how the budgeted amount of \$50,000 was derived and whether that would be a maximum amount.

Martin McBride, 954 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, stated that as the Council considers the annual budget, it is important to reflect on why Oak Ridge has one of the highest property tax rates in East Tennessee, his explanation being the Department of Energy's discriminatory bias against the community. He also pointed out the impact the closure of the Secret City Excursion Train on the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith moved that the public hearing be closed, and Councilmember Hensley seconded.

Councilmember Hensley moved for approval, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that she was pleased with the City staff's budget presentation and that the compensation study is an excellent step forward.

Councilmember Hensley asked questions regarding the Street/Public Transportation fund and printing/duplication charges and praised the level of cooperation between the Budget and Finance Committee, City staff and the schools.

Councilmember Baughn asked, with the increase in the refuse fee, what amount would be reflected on a resident's monthly bill. Finance Director Janice McGinnis stated the bill would reflect \$14 per month.

Several Councilmembers asked questions about whether or not the state would approve certain expenses budgeted for the schools as non-recurring expenses. Officials from Oak Ridge Schools were also on hand to answer questions from Council.

Councilmember Hope asked for clarification regarding the compensation study and asked whether or not any potential savings from the refuse fee increase could be looked at as a tax rate reduction.

Several Councilmembers asked questions about the compensation study, and there was discussion about whether the study should be conducted in-house or by a third party.

Councilmember Chinn commended the City staff on bringing forth a balanced budget even with the inclusion of the school funding, but he stated his concern about the increase in the cost of living in Oak Ridge due to an increase in fees without a reduction in the tax rate.

Councilmember Chinn moved to amend the ordinance to lower the tax rate by 4.4 cents, which is equivalent to \$376,902, and Councilmember Hope seconded.

Councilmember Callison stated the City needs to put the money from the increase in refuse fees into infrastructure maintenance, and that the City is well-positioned this year for more positive results in the future.

Mayor Gooch stated that he could not support the motion due to the City's need for capital improvements.

The motion failed by board vote with Councilmembers Baughn, Chinn, and Hope voting "Aye," and Councilmembers Callison and Hensley, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Smith voting "Nay."

Mayor Gooch moved to amend the ordinance to reducing the general fund contribution to the Oak Ridge Schools in the amount of \$538,048 and transferring that amount to the capital projects fund. Councilmember Baughn seconded the motion.

The motion failed by board vote with Councilmembers Baughn, Chinn, and Mayor Gooch voting "Aye," and Councilmembers Callison, Hensley, Hope and Mayor Pro Tem Smith voting "Nay."

The ordinance was approved by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Chinn, Hensley, Hope, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Mayor Gooch voting "Aye," and Councilmember Baughn voting "Nay."

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2, TITLED "THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, BY AMENDING THE FOLLOWING: ARTICLE II, TITLED "DEFINITIONS," TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR "RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION"; SECTION 3.27, TITLED "RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS," TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION (H) PERTAINING TO MOVING COPY SIGNS; AND SECTION 14.10, TITLED "SIGNS FOR OFFICE-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS," TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT MOVING COPY SIGNS SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE LINE OF MOVING COPY.

Councilmember Callison moved for approval, and Councilmember Hensley seconded. Councilmember Hensley moved to open the public hearing on this ordinance, and Councilmember Callison seconded. Seeing that no citizen wished to speak on the ordinance, Councilmember Hensley moved that the public hearing be closed, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

Community Development Director Kathryn Baldwin provided an overview of the ordinance and answered questions from Council.

The ordinance was unanimously approved by board vote with Councilmembers Baughn, Callison, Chinn, Hensley, Hope, Mayor Gooch, and Mayor Pro Tem Smith voting "Aye."

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2, TITLED "THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, BY AMENDING ARTICLE II, TITLED "DEFINITIONS" TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR "FITNESS AND RECREATIONAL CENTERS;" AND AMENDING SECTION 7.03, TITLED "B-2, GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS," SECTION 7.04, TITLED "UB-2, UNIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS," AND SECTION 8.01, TITLED "IND-1, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS," TO ADD "FITNESS AND RECREATIONAL CENTERS" AS A PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USE.

Councilmember Hensley moved to open the public hearing, and Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded. Seeing that no citizen wished to speak on the ordinance, Councilmember Callison moved that the public hearing be closed, and Councilmember Hensley seconded.

Community Development Director Kathryn Baldwin provided an overview of the ordinance.

The ordinance was unanimously approved by board vote with Councilmembers Baughn, Callison, Chinn, Hensley, Hope, Mayor Gooch, and Mayor Pro Tem Smith voting "Aye."

FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Elections/Appointments

Announcements

Councilmember Baughn announced that a book by Washington Post reporter Dan Zak is complete and is being released on July 12. It can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com and is entitled *Almighty: Courage, Resistance and Existential Peril in the Nuclear Age*. The book contains a heavy focus on Oak Ridge.

Councilmember Callison asked the City Manager if the City's surge tanks have been used during the recent heavy rain. Public Works Director Shira McWaters stated that there were no issues.

Scheduling

City Manager Mark Watson reminded Councilmembers about the next Council meeting on June 13.

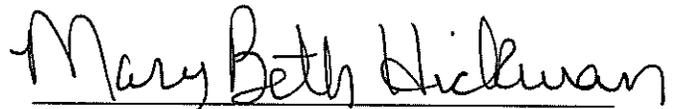
COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS OR FUTURE BRIEFINGS

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

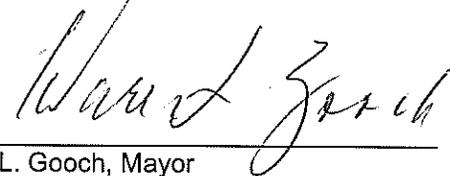
CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

ADJOURNMENT: 9:15 p.m.



Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
July 11, 2016



Warren L. Gooch, Mayor