

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF
THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN

MAY 17, 2022

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on May 17, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

Alderpersons Present: Howell Roberts, Steve Casey, Laura Cromer, Larry Byrd and Mayor Mike Jennings.

Alderpersons Absent: Kristie Cantrell and Caleb Barrett.

Mayor Mike Jennings called the meeting to order and led in prayer.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Steve Casey to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Jim Amero was present stating that the crosswalk lines are starting to fade and the sewer pump station at the end of Elm Avenue and Commerce Avenue has trees growing from the roof. The Train Robbery will be on May 21st and wanted to recognize Chelsea Robertini and Samantha Stacey for a great job handling the Mile Long Yard Sale. Jim Amero also stated that vehicles are still parking the wrong way in front of the hardware store and other stores in that surrounding area and nothing is being done about this. Mayor Jennings will let Bob Morgan and the police department know about the issues.

FIRE REPORT

Chief Blake Haun presented the fire report. The fire department had a total of 63 calls the month of April with an average of 2.1 calls per day. Blake Haun stated this Saturday there will be a firefighter motorcycle group called Fire and Iron at the Fire Department and will have barbecue and corn hole with a small bike ride afterwards that will benefit the fire department. Blake Haun stated the Fish Fry will be June 4th and two members of the department have completed their medical and first responder training and will be going to get their state license soon. Larry Byrd asked how many calls are medical and how many members are trained to respond to medical calls? Larry Byrd also asked how frequently do they have to wait for WEMA to arrive? Blake Haun stated that 46 out of the 63 calls were medical with 50% to 60% of the members are trained to respond to the medical calls. Since the County is short staffed with some stations closed down the response from WEMA is delayed at times. Steve Casey asked how difficult would it be to add the percentages to the report? Blake Haun stated he will take care of adding this information to the monthly reports.

POLICE REPORT

Assistant Chief Mike Henderlight was present with the police report. Mike Henderlight stated that he has been discussing with Mayor Jennings some budget requests. Mayor Mike Jennings stated one is purchasing a new car in next year's budget with a bid thru Wilson County Motors on a government bid.

We needed to go ahead and order before Thursday to get the offer but will be October before we can get a car. Mayor Mike Jennings added if we decide not to purchase a car we can back out of the deal.

SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated that the changes have been made to the sewer ordinance and notice has been put on the website. We will need to do a Public Hearing and second reading to approve the sewer ordinance. The only changes were some calculations on the local limits and the plant protection criteria. The State has already approved the changes.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve the sewer ordinance on first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Dale Smith stated he has been having some pumps leaking at the sewer plant on Commerce Road. Wascon came to do a temporary fix and he will have an estimate soon on the total repair cost.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Mike Jennings stated he is still trying to get the easement so we can proceed with the sewer project. Mayor Jennings is trying to get a meeting scheduled with the property owner on June 1st or June 6th.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated that the dugout at the park has been repaired due to storm damage. The cost was approximately 3000.00, it was fixed in time for the league to start the season.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated to start the process on the code updates a Resolution needs to be signed. The cost will be 3500.00. Steve Casey would like to add the web-hosting option to benefit the citizens in the community to view if needed.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Steve Casey to approve the Resolution to allow MTAS to codify and revise the ordinances for 3500.00 and to add the web-hosting option with an additional cost of 200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated that the senior citizens had recently donated money to help remodel the restrooms in the community center. Mayor Jennings asked the council what their thoughts was on getting started on the project. Steve Casey asked what do the senior citizens want? Howell Roberts suggested to ask several contractors to bid if interested and have a meeting with the senior citizens. Laura Cromer asked if Jim Kidwell could meet with us to help with the ADA guidelines and requirements. Mayor Jennings stated he will call Jim Kidwell and find out his thoughts and recommendations and bring back to the June meeting.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated that we need a new sign in front of the City Hall building. Mayor Jennings thoughts are maybe a nice digital brick sign that we could use to post community events. Mayor Jennings will get in touch with Sun Graphics to get the project started.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Mike Jennings stated when the basketball team went to the state tournament several years ago we painted purple and white paw prints. Mayor Jennings had someone to approach him asking about the paw prints that had been painted on streets in the past. Mayor Jennings had spoken with Bob Morgan and we still have the paint. Laura Cromer stated this would be great to do to show school spirit and support so the whole community can enjoy. Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Howell Roberts to paint purple and white paw prints from the square to the end of West Main Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated he had met with the water plant operators, they had a list of things needing to be repaired at the water plant. Mayor Jennings stated lightning had struck the well houses during the last storm.

Mayor Jennings stated that the water tank has to be cleaned regularly and TDEC has recommended this be done. We have two proposals, one proposal is to clean the tank where we don't have to drain or shut down the tank where a diver goes in to clean, the second is having to shut down the tank to drain which causes the levels to get low. Mayor Jennings recommends the proposal where the diver goes in to clean the tank .The cost is 5950.00 to clean only & repair the level indicator. This has been done 4 or 5 times in the past.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve the bid for 5950.00 to clean the water tank. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated the water plant system needs a major electrical overhaul. If the system goes down we won't be able to pump water which would cause major problems. We do have an agreement with Wilson County Water in case of emergency but this would cost lots of money. The proposal for connecting the two wells back to the treatment plant and to get rid of the mercury switches in the plant would cost 51829.00. This includes a complete turn-key dfa scada system for the water plant, two remote wells and one remote ground storage tank. Mayor Jennings recommends this needs to be done. Steve Casey had a question concerning the security portion that allows for remote access over the internet and is concerned that there is nothing stated in the bid as to what kind of security or encryption is involved and curious on how to prevent a cyber-attack. Mayor Jennings will find out more information and the Council will hold off on motion until next meeting but if need to move quickly on repairs will call a meeting sooner.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated the budget is in good shape and hoping to have new budget in place by next meeting or sooner.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated we had talked about surplus items in the past and he will ask all departments to provide a list so we can have a surplus auction or advertise on govdeals.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated the next meeting will be June 21st.

Mayor Mike Jennings stated our IT guy, Grant Irons, will be graduating Thursday night. Mayor Jennings wanted to congratulate all of the graduating kids and their families for their accomplishments.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Howell Roberts has concerns about buildings & carports being placed all over town that we need someone to take care of these issues. Howell Roberts stated carports are being placed in front of houses and by codes all should be placed on the side or back yards of houses. Mayor Mike Jennings stated that Tom Brashears with the Wilson County Planning takes care of our building permits and is covered up with all the construction happening in the county. Residents still apply and pay for permits thru the city and permit applications are sent to Tom Brashears for review and approval. Larry Byrd suggested we revisit the codes and make any changes or adjustments, this may be a beneficial approach since some are severely outdated. Mayor Jennings suggested we make a list of permits that have been issued recently to review and will ask Tom Brashears to come to next meeting to discuss the rules and regulations.

Steve Casey wanted to add comment about the crosswalks being painted on square, he stated there is a stop sign at the intersection of Elm Avenue and Commerce Avenue but no one pays any attention to it. Steve Casey suggested if the street department could paint a sign on the road this may help with the issue. Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve the street department to paint the words stop ahead on the street before the intersection at Elm Avenue and Commerce Avenue to give notice of an approaching stop sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Laura Cromer stated last month we talked about the crossing guard at the Middle School and she had an update, she had spoken with Steve Spencer he advised the crossing guard will be finishing out this school year but will not be returning next year. The crossing guard main function has been nothing more than to get the buses in and out and will be looking for a replacement but being short staffed may need the police department to cover this for 30 minutes in the mornings and afternoons. Laura Cromer stated the district may entertain paying for this service. Assistant Chief Mike Henderlight stated that there has not been a crossing guard for some time that the police department has been covering the traffic. Mike Henderlight stated it's hard for one officer to work the school traffic and regular patrol at the same time especially if they need to respond to a call. Mayor Jennings doesn't understand why the school system can't provide the school traffic service here. Mayor Jennings stated that they may can structure something into the budget, maybe if police work school traffic they can receive extra pay or have someone dedicated to just work the school zone.

Laura Cromer had someone to ask since the ARP funds can be used for health or wellness could the funds be eligible to use to add lights to the t-ball fields. Mayor Jennings doesn't think this would be considered an eligibility but would find out.

Laura Cromer feels like codes are being enforced more now and that's great but has been brought to her attention by a citizen that the city is breaking codes as well such as alley ways and the turn table at the park is grown up with grass.

Larry Byrd stated he had noticed a foul odor by the hardware store. Dale Smith stated this may be coming from the Mexican Restaurant grease trap he will take a look at. Larry Byrd also stated that there is a school bus that is going over the speed limit on Church Street in the morning time. Mayor Jennings stated that Steve Spencer needs to know this information.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Steve Casey to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.



Michael Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

