

**THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF
THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN
JUNE 21, 2022**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on June 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Alderperson Absent: Kristie Cantrell.

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

Mayor Jennings presented May 17, 2022 minutes for approval. Motion made by Howell Roberts as corrected in reference to stop sign location with proper second made by Steve Casey. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Business

Randy Anderson requested the use of the park on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Randy stated he wanted to give back to the community for their support given him with his new business opportunity. Randy stated this will be a free event with inflatables, chili cook off, corn hole tournament. Randy stated he will have liability insurance for inflatables and event insurance. Mayor Jennings asked Randy to send the insurance information to City Hall email address prior to event. Larry Byrd made motion to approve with proper second made by Laura Cromer. Motion carried unanimously.

Debbie Robertson resides at 313 West Main came to address a storm water issue. She is requesting a pipe be installed in the ditch and asphalt placed over the pipe similar to what the city did for her neighbor some time ago. Mayor Jennings stated Bob would take a look at it and report back to City Council.

Steve Casey stated we have to be careful installing pipes and filling up ditches because the drainage on the road must go somewhere. Since there are no catch spaces or inlets this could cause other drainage problems.

Sewer Report

Dale Smith stated he had been communicating with Wascon regarding the main pumping station. Wascon has not had any success finding the parts needed to repair the pumps as they are old and no longer in production and have recommended we replace the pumps with dry well submersible pumps. They are in the process of quoting pricing for the job.

Dale stated he has been in contact with our consulting firm that is working on the sewer rehab project, in order that we get the type and size pumps we need. Dale stated he will keep Mayor Jennings updated with pricing as soon as he gets the information.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-03 to repeal the Existing Sewer Use Ordinance and Adopt Wastewater Regulations. Steve made motion to approve on second reading with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Report

Chief Blake Haun stated there were a total of 48 calls with an average of 1.54 calls per day. Chief Haun stated there are currently 22 members with 10 of those members having state medical license.

Chief Haun stated with the increased price of fish the fire department will be selling Barbecue instead. This will start 4th of July weekend.

Police Report

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated there needs to be some repairs to the police department building. When there is hard rain the water comes inside the sliding doors and the doors are rusting out. Mayor Jennings stated there is funding for repairs and asked Henderlight to get pricing.

Water System Report

The water storage tank is in need of pressure washing outside tank and clean inside. Mayor Jennings reminded the council of previous discussion. After speaking with J.C. York who is present this evening Mayor Jennings recommended the city proceed with both of these tasks. If you have any questions for J.C. please ask them now.

Steve Casey asked if we should consider painting the outside of tank after it has been cleaned rather than waiting a year or two to pressure wash again before painting. J.C. stated TDEC was requiring pressure washing at this time. J.C. noted he could get estimates for painting. Mayor Jennings then asked if we could proceed with the pressure washing in the 2022-2023 budget and consider sand blasting and painting in 2023-2024. J.C. stated this would be appropriate.

Motion by Laura Cromer to accept bid of \$9,100.00 to pressure wash the exterior of the water tank with proper second by Steve Casey. Motion carried unanimously.

J.C. opened discussion regarding the recent lightning strike that has resulting in loss of communications between the plant and pumps. Currently the system is on a timer four (4) hours on, four (4) hours off. If pumps get behind we move to a manual operation. This being said we need to take some immediate action.

J.C. stated they looked into three options to upgrade the communications. He is recommending a middle of the road system that is currently utilized by the Wilson County Water Authority. The operation team is very familiar with this system. After general discussion regarding estimated time frame 4 to 6 weeks, system redundancy, spare parts, lightning questions, etc, motion made by Steve Casey with proper second made by Howell Roberts to proceed with the SCADA improvements. Approximate cost is \$51,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Easements

Mayor Jennings stated we need two (2) easements to allow us to move forward on the sewer project. Mayor Jennings stated they have been meeting with Danny and Anthony Hall regarding the easement property. The Halls are requesting compensation in the amount of \$16,000.00. The Halls are also requesting the easement be moved closer to the creek which will require state approval. Mayor

Jennings stated this is the big easement running from East Main Street running north along the east side of the creek up to the pumping station and crossing going into the pumping station. This is approximately 700 – 800 feet. The smaller easement belonging to the Licklighters. Mayor Jennings stated he has been communicating with their daughter. She still has questions for the engineer. Mayor Jennings has asked Steve Jones the engineer on this project to contact her directly.

Mayor Jennings recommend paying \$16,000.00 to the Halls for the easement. Howell Roberts made motion to approve the \$16,000.00 as long as the State approves proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the update on the codes going back to 2005 is being sent into MTAS for publication and view on website. Mayor Jennings has communicated with Pat Jackson about a sign to go in front of City Hall.

Mayor Jennings stated Howell Roberts had requested a list of all the people who have requested a building permit from 2020 to present which has been done.

Mayor Jennings stated Jeff Tunks has 72 football helmets that need to be declared surplus and sold on gov.deals because of the age and safety. This money will be put back into Parks and Recreation for the football program. Steve Casey would like to make sure we advertise as disclaimer they are not qualified for play. Steve Casey made motion to declare surplus helmets with proper second made by Laura Cromer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the rear end went out on the back hoe. They have left us a loaner until they fix it. At this time we are not sure who is going to be responsible for the bill but since we have just recently purchased we feel like this will be covered under warranty.

Mayor Jennings presented the Resolution Requesting the Board of Election Commissioners of Wilson County, Tennessee to call an Election on November 8, 2022 for the Purpose of Electing Three (3) Aldermen. Motion to approve by Laura with proper second Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-04 To Adopt a Budget for Fiscal Year-2023. Mayor Jennings stated there is not a water increase or tax rate increase in this budget. Mayor Jennings recommending a \$1.00 hourly increase for all employees and \$2.00 hourly increase for all police officers including part time officers. Mayor Jennings also stated in the next couple of months recommending any part time employees that have been with us for over a year get paid holidays, police or non. Laura made motion to pass budget on final reading with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-05 To Establish a Property Tax Rate to Fund the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget. Howell made motion with proper second made by Steve to pass on final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated there will be a Special Call Meeting at 5:30 p.m. with a Public Hearing at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Mayor Jennings stated the July 4th parade will be Monday, July 4, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. with fireworks to follow by 9:00 p.m. or dark.

Mayor Jennings stated the next meeting will be Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Council member comments

Howell Roberts – no comments

Steve Casey – no comments

Laura Cromer – no comments

Caleb Barrett – no comments

Larry Byrd – no comments

Laura Cromer made motion to adjourn meeting with second by Caleb Barrett.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mayor, Michael R. Jennings

City Recorder