

**THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF
THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN
JULY 19, 2022**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on July 19, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings presented June 21, 2022 minutes for approval. Motion made by Laura with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Caleb to approve minutes for Special Called Meeting June 29, 2022 with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Business

Debbie Robertson resides at 313 West Main showed pictures she had taken of the drain and sidewalk issues. Mayor Jennings stated he had discussed with Bob Morgan and they will pursue the issues in finding a solution.

Police Report

Assistant Chief Henderlight presented police report. No questions asked.

Mayor Jennings requested an updated roster by rank.

Assistant Chief Henderlight addressed City Council with the use of golf carts on city streets. Assistant Chief Henderlight indicated a complainant had requested permission to ride her golf cart, because of medical issues and price of gas, to the square to get her hair done. Assistant Chief Henderlight sympathized with those individuals that might be impacted if the city permits golf cart usage on the streets. Henderlight stated that everyday use would require additional regulation. Steve Casey stated he would be concerned with someone crossing to Three Forks. Steve also indicated he wants to see any license-holder carry liability insurance on the golf cart. They have insurance available for this and need to be insured. Mayor Jennings stated that is a good point and we need to think about the safety of the drivers and everyone else on the road too.

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated the software needed to be in compliance according to TBI. The City has been in violation since 2019. Assistant Chief Henderlight has found new system with Watson. Set up expense, all computerized with all reports processed as soon as possible and reported to TBI. The approximate cost is \$20,000 with an up keep cost of \$4,100/yr. Mayor Jennings recommended getting the system. Howell made motion. Steve asked if there would be additional cost if we added more users or not sure if the license would be good for long term? After much discussion Howell withdrew his motion. Mayor Jennings suggested to bring back in August. In the meantime, if anyone has additional questions email Assistant Chief Henderlight.

Assistant Chief Henderlight addressed the council with vehicle issues. Mayor Jennings stated we are in need of new police cars. Assistant Chief Henderlight stated we are on a waiting list for a new cruiser but it could be six months before it is added to the fleet.

Officer Donna Gray spoke out about the situations the police officers find themselves in at times due to the condition of the existing vehicles. Officer Gray stated if we can't get to our citizens as a result of these issues, it's a risk for the safety of the community. Officer Gray stated Smithville Police Department has two cruisers which they have on a rotation system. They have approximately 63,000 and 56,000 miles on them and cost between \$7,000 and \$9,000. Laura stated we definitely need the new police vehicles. Mayor Jennings stated the city has enough cash to purchase the two used cruisers from Smith County. Laura made motion to buy two (2) cars from Smithville Police Department (subject with mechanic inspection) with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve made motion to get in line for a second vehicle regardless when available with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.
Howell stated to get rid of all the old vehicles.

Sewer Report

Dale Smith stated still having issues with the pumping station. He has contacted three contractors for pricing on the repair work at the main pumping station. He has not been given a quote yet.

Mayor Jennings stated Wilson County Landfill is requesting an extra 10 feet for their equipment. Laura made motion to approve with proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Report

Chief Blake Haun stated there were a total of 61 calls with an average of 2.03 calls per day. Chief Haun stated the barbeque sale went really well and they will continue selling barbeque for a few months then discuss alternating between selling barbeque and fish. Mayor Jennings requested an updated roster by rank.

Old Business

Mayor Jennings stated the water tanks have been cleaned inside and out. Mayor Jennings stated the rear end went out on the backhoe the service call is approximately \$1100.00 but still being determined who will be responsible for the bill.

New Business

Mayor Jennings presented resolution "A Day of Prayer for our Schools" to be designated Sunday, July 31, 2022. Caleb made motion with a proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the Chamber would like to use The Three Forks Community Park for a back to school drive on Sunday, August 7th at 6:00 p.m. Laura made motion to approve with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings requested from city council to attend the TML Conference in Gatlinburg August 13-16. Mayor Jennings asked for approval for the cost of 2 night hotel and cost of conference. Mayor Jennings stated any city elected official was welcome to join him as well. Steve made motion to approve with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented year end budget and stated we finished very well with the General, Water and Sewer. Parks was in the negative but plan on fixing before next year. Laura asked what is the proper procedure for building a house inside the city limits? Mayor Jennings talked with Tom Brashear concerning a contract with the county for zoning and planning services in the

sum of \$6,600.00. Applicant makes application through the city and then Tom approves and issues permit and completes final inspection. To increase our number of inspections and upgrade our process will require updating our contract with the county and increasing our yearly contribution.

Mayor Jennings stated Tom Brashears is in need of another Building Inspector in his office. Mayor Jennings stated a new contract might fund half of the salary for this position. It is more cost efficient than us doing it on our own.

Steve stated the county charges an impact fee asked if the city could do this as well. Mayor Jennings replied this would be difficult getting processed but will check into it.

Mayor Jennings stated next city council meeting will be Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

Mayor Jennings stated the fourth of July parade was a huge success!

Mayor Jennings stated Wilson County Commissioner Sara Patton bought the State Baseball Champion signs to be installed at each end of city limit. The unveiling of the signs will be Monday, July 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Jennings stated the baseball team was honored at the Nashville Sounds game on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

Council member comments

Howell asked about trailers being in town and once left they can't be replaced. Mayor Jennings stated there are not supposed to be any single wide trailers in town. Mayor Jennings stated this is where Tom Brashear can assist us with this issue.

Howell stated good parade but there were cars going in both directions of traffic and very dangerous for the children.

Steve asked about the street paving status. Mayor Jennings stated still working on getting some answers and will give updates as he receives.

Laura stated she had several complaints about water pressure being low or no water pressure. Mayor Jennings stated he would ask J.C. York about the issues.

Laura asked when there is a proposed rezoning on a piece of property what are the procedures? Mayor Jennings stated the Planning Commission makes a recommendation then comes to City Council. Then there has to be an approval with 2 readings and public hearing.

Laura mentioned the bus drivers have been complaining about the turn into the middle school they are dropping off the side due to break off of pavement.


Kristie – no comments

Caleb -- no comments

Larry asked if the purple paw prints have been repainted.

Steve made motion to adjourn meeting with proper second made by Larry.

Meeting Adjourned.


Michael R. Jennings


City Recorder