

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

OCTOBER 18, 2022

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on October 18, 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.

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings presented September 20, 2022 minutes for approval. Laura made motion to approve minutes with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Business

Emily Nix asked who was in charge of the military monument and having veterans names added to the monument? Emily stated it was her understanding it now belonged to the City. Mayor Jennings stated he was not made aware of this and it was an Eagle Scout project and we have never added any names.

Deena Dowd stated it was her understanding there was funds left over from that project that needed direction. Mayor Jennings stated we would get to the bottom of this.

Emily also wanted to thank the Police Department for a problem she had in her area that they resolved.

Police Report

Assistant Chief Henderlight presented police report. No questions asked.

Henderlight asked Mayor Jennings about the agreement for the school crossing guards between the Watertown Police Department and Wilson County Board of Education. Mayor Jennings stated it was approved at last meeting so it will be signed.

Henderlight stated the new police car has been striped with purple and black. The tiger paw and looks great!

Henderlight asked about the status of the sealed bid on the Impala? Mayor Jennings stated it has not been advertised. Steve stated he had agreed to put out on social media but will need photographs and description.

Henderlight stated at the beginning of budget he presented a proposal to consider part time employees holiday pay and retention bonuses after being employed after 6 months. This is to keep employees and would be cheaper on the city instead of having to keep training, buying uniforms, etc.

Mayor Jennings asked what is threshold and how long do they have to be here to be eligible for it?

Mayor Jennings stated he would like to pass it on first reading tonight so we could bring back in November and they will be eligible for Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Mayor Jennings asked council if they were interested in doing this and what their thoughts were and what will be the parameters?

Larry stated he was an absolute advocate for it. There's value to have officers that are familiar with the community and have built relationships and if you are constantly replacing them with new officers that's really hard to do.

After much discussion Mayor Jennings made recommendation to approve paying part-time employees for holidays. Details could be determined before the November meeting and approved on second and final reading in November. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Henderlight stated we got the approved and signed THSO Grant which is the High Visibility grant. It's part of the payment of the \$14,000.00 that we spent Axon and we get \$4,000.00 of that back.

Henderlight stated he had already applied for Governor Lee's new grant for law enforcement which is a pretty good size amount and can be used for bonuses, equipment, etc. We could use for anything we have expenditures that we go over budget because this particular grant doesn't have parameters that some of the federal grants that we get do.

Sewer Report

Dale Smith absent.

Mayor Jennings stated Dale has given us a report and we have from our last meeting the proposal to make those repairs for \$228,000.00. He got another quote from Wascon for \$124,000.00 for material and equipment only. Wascon stated they did not have time or the people to do the installation. Dale commented that the materials and equipment at Wascon quote is higher than the materials and equipment of the \$228,000.00 bid. Mayor Jennings stated Dale had to replace a retaining band that holds the pump to the motor. Damage due to wipes being flushed. This band cost \$400.00.

Larry asked if we could divide the project. Steve stated his concern was it stated in last month's meeting it would take 14 to 16 weeks to get the materials and it has already been a month. If we delay this again that's another month. Steve stated he did not think we should take the risk of delaying it another month. Larry asked if we could handle the worst first and then potentially delay the least important portion until after the first of the year whenever is a more convenient time. Mayor Jennings stated with that break down it will still hit during this budget year. Steve stated if we need to have a special call meeting in two weeks when we get information or questions answered we need to have a meeting. Mayor Jennings stated he was going to ask at end of meeting to recess this meeting by November 1st for additional ARP money.

Water Report

Mayor Jennings presented the water report from JC York. JC stated in his report they are working with Water Management Services on a score card application for grant money as well as a list of projects that the money can be spent on per the State rules.

Laura stated after looking at report it says we are within our scope up to this point and will be on it from now on and we were going to appeal. Will we still be responsible for the \$75,000.00 fine? Mayor Jennings stated he has not gotten a response back from them but mostly likely we will still be responsible for the fine.

Fire Report

Assistant Chief Joe Decker presented fire report stating there were 47 calls with an average of 1.53 calls per day.

Old Business

Urban Growth Boundary meeting scheduled for November 1st at 1:30 p.m. at Mt. Juliet City Hall. This is when our proposal will be presented. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Mayor Jennings stated there will be an invitation for anyone to bid on remodeling the bathroom in the Community Center/City Hall in the next article of The Watertown Express.

Mayor Jennings mentioned the staff and himself are meeting with Pat and Donna Delmas of Sun Graphics next Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. to talk about a sign out in front of City Hall.

Mayor Jennings stated we still have one of the sewer easements in question. They wanted to make sure where our line is going to go inside of the Wilson County Water Authority easement and near the creek. Steve Jones was able to contact the Water Authority for location and has sent this information to property owner and hoping to get a response soon. Mayor Jennings stated once we get an approval we can get bids.

New Business

Mayor Jennings stated Jennifer Folsom has asked to use the Watertown Farmers Ag Pavilion on Saturday, March 18, 2023 to distribute trees. This is on behalf of the TN Environmental Council. This is free and you can find information on line at <https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html> Caleb made motion to approve with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings made recommendation to extend Steve Smartt contract. Steve is working on getting a grant for the turntable which has to be filed by November 30th. Mayor Jennings stated Steve has been doing a great job for us. Howell made motion to approve Steve Smartt contract with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Randy Anderson will be having his event at the park on Saturday, November 5th. Steve asked if we have gotten the Liability insurance approval. Mayor Jennings stated we will check on this and be sure we have before the event.

Mayor Jennings stated early voting begins Wednesday, October 19, 2022 with Election Day Tuesday, November 8th.

Mayor Jennings stated the next council meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Council member comments

Howell - none

Steve asked if we have gotten the revised information or update on Codes from MTAS, a projected date when it will be finished? Mayor Jennings stated we will check with MTAS.

Laura – none

Caleb – none

Larry asked if we have the old backhoe and if there is anything at old city shop we can declare surplus to sell to offset any expenses.

Mayor Jennings asked for a motion to recess to the call.
Laura made motion with proper second made by Howell.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor, Michael R. Jennings

City Recorder