

**THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF
THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on November 15, 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 meeting to order and led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings presented October 18, 2022 minutes for approval. Laura made motion to approve minutes with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings read a thank you note from Margaret Gwaltney in reference to the loss of her husband Mike and brother of Randy Gwaltney and thanking for the gift given.

Mayor Jennings stated City Recorder April Lamberson has completed her CMFO class (Certified Municipal Financial Operator).

Public Comments

None

Fire Report

Fire Chief Blake Haun presented fire report. There were 56 calls with an average 1.80 calls per day over the past month.

Chief Haun stated the squad vehicle is needing some repairs.

Sewer Report

Dale Smith stated TDEC performed an inspection on our pretreatment program. Report is attached.

TDEC: Scott & Ritter

Dale responded to questions that were asked in last meeting regarding Scott & Ritter a quote for Commerce Avenue pump station. The pumps included in the pricing have a 60 month warranty from startup. This is a full warranty, not pro-rated. The controls have a 1 year manufacturer warranty. Scott & Ritter have a standard 1 year warranty on any work they perform. Dale stated Scott & Ritter assured him the work to be performed in the quote will not exceed the price quoted. Mayor Jennings stated this is to repair the main pump station on Commerce Ave and this is not included in the rehab project. Steve made motion to accept bid from Scott & Ritter for \$228,000.00 with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Report

Assistant Chief Henderlight presented police report. No questions asked.

Mayor Jennings stated the retention pay Henderlight mentioned last meeting could be funded by the State from the \$70,000.00 grant the Police department has received. Mayor Jennings stated there would be an amount for officers who have been employed 1-3 years, 4-5 years and a maximum amount 6+ years. Mayor Jennings stated the retention bonus amount will be 1-3 \$1500, 4-5 years \$2500 and 6+ years \$4500 all to be paid half on December 15th and June 30th 2023. Part time employees who have been employed at least one (1) year and accumulate twenty (20) hours per week will receive \$600 on December 15th and June 30th 2023. The amounts will be paid in half on these dates. Mayor Jennings stated this will be beyond Christmas bonus.

Mayor Jennings stated he recommends this same bonus for the other city employees.

Steve made motion to approve with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated this will be coming out of two different budgets. The police will be coming from the Governor's grant and the other city employees will be paid from General and Water and Sewer Funds.

Larry asked if this is sustainable if there is no other grant funding in five (5) years. Mayor Jennings stated this is a onetime thing as we speak. This is not an annual/automatic bonus.

Mayor Jennings stated we approved on 1st reading last meeting that part time employees who have been here a year and work 20 hours on a rolling average will get holiday pay. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Larry asked if sick or vacation days expire? Mayor Jennings stated vacation days expire but you can accumulate your sick days.

Old Business

Urban Growth Boundary:

Mayor Jennings stated the Urban Growth Boundary committee recommended some changes now. It will go to public hearing in all four entities by end of January and if there are no more changes anywhere, the committee will approve it one more time and then it will go to the State to be signed off on.

Community Center Restrooms:

Mayor Jennings stated he put information out for bids for the community center restrooms update remodeling in the paper but has not been in paper yet.

Sewer Project:

Mayor Jennings stated the update on sewer project is we are just waiting on one more easement agreement.

Audits:

Mayor Jennings stated the state has reviewed some of our audits from the past and they have asked him to report on the debt obligation. When you borrow money for a city or county you are required to fill out a CT-0253 form. We only have one debt where we borrow money but on these leases where they go more than a year I have to report to you we have a debt obligation. We have some items that were purchased for the police department over five years. Body cameras for \$18,345. We have a debt obligation that started in 2019 with a payment of \$3,669 and carries through 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 at no interest, no professional costs and no cost to issue but that is in our audit as a recurring debt not

the conventional type of debt. The second one is conventional type debt. It was issued in 2014. We borrowed \$115,000 to build the walking track at 4% interest and we are making payments of \$11,856.34 a year. There will be four (4) more years of that before it is paid off. The only professional cost was \$200 in legal fees. Third one is the police vehicle cameras that we agreed to purchase for \$70,000. We are paying \$14,000 a year and will be paid off in 2025. No professional issuance cost and no interest rate. Mayor Jennings stated this does not require any action just has to be noted in the minutes.

Sign:

Mayor Jennings stated we have gotten a proposal for a new sign to be put in from of City Hall. Please look over these prices and let's bring back to next city council to discuss.

Rail Grant:

Mayor Jennings stated Steve Smartt will be filing for a 1.4 million Federal Grant on November 29 for a 2 million dollar rail infrastructure. Project requires a match anywhere between 20-40% we split the difference of 30%. The match is \$600,000 (\$300,000 individual railroad ties and \$300,000 for city and county funding). Mayor Jennings stated we have letters of support from Chamber of Commerce, Railroad Authority, State Representative Clark Boyd, Senator Mark Pody and Mayor Randall Hutto.

Mayor Jennings stated in October the federal government through the State of Tennessee has funds for an infrastructure plan. We would get \$699,000 if we matched with \$233,000. We filled out the application with the help from Steve Jones with Water Management. It is designed for water improvements. We have estimated \$250,000 for water treatment plant improvements. That would be installation of a new motor control center and wiring throughout the plant and bring the electrical equipment up to current codes and standards and new flow meters installed to improve accuracy and upgrades to the controls at the water treatment plant. Another \$375,000 for water storage tank rehab. Lastly \$249,884.16 for leak detection services for the water system and remote devices that can identify noise in the pipes generated from the movement of water and during nighttime hours this noise can be associated with leaks. It is designed to lower water loss.

Mayor Jennings stated City Hall will be closed November 24 and 25th.

Mayor Jennings stated next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Council member comments

Howell - none

Steve – none

Laura liked the communicating by email before the council meeting.

Caleb – none

Larry asked about surplus equipment in water department.

Also next year if we can block off the square for the Halloween festivities since it's after business hours anyway. This could be dangerous with the number of kids walking and people trying to drive through. Mayor Jennings stated this is something we will take a look at doing for next year.

Mayor Jennings stated the Police had a very good night for their Halloween in the park and heard lots of good comments.

Laura made motion to adjourn November meeting with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Laura made motion to adjourn October meeting with proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor, Michael R. Jennings

City Recorder