

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

**JANUARY 17, 2023**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Alderpersons Absent: Caleb Barrett

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led in prayer.

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

Mayor Jennings stated he had receive a call of confirmation from Congressman John Rose that the last budget bill approved by Congress (1.7 trillion) includes 1 million dollars for the City of Watertown to pave streets. Mayor Jennings stated his chief of staff, Van Hillary and Ray Render, his district director, were very helpful. Mayor Jennings stated he was still optimistic that funds will come from somewhere else for the turntable. Mayor Jennings stated a rough paving estimate was based on 12 miles at 1.5 inches of pavement at 20 feet wide would cost around \$1,300,000.00 not including any leveling or milling. Mayor Jennings stated he did not believe the \$1,000,000 dollars would pave everything in town. Mayor Jennings stated we have some money put away in anticipation of something like this but does not recommend using all of it. Mayor Jennings would recommend that we issue a capital outlay note for five or seven years to do all the paving and we can pay it back with yearly payments, if it can be done responsibly.

Mayor Jennings stated he hoped we can do the entire city. If we can't then this City Council will have to make a determination as to how far we go with it and what doesn't get paved. Mayor Jennings stated he hoped it doesn't come to that and every street can be paved.

**Public Business**

Jim Amero stated he was closing his antique shop by the end of January 2023. Jim mentioned people are not obeying the direction of traffic signs and this happens too often. Also, if the city employees could work on some of the trash pickup around the square.

Mayor Jennings closed public business to go into a public hearing on the two annexations.

Steve made motion to recess meeting to go into a public hearing with a proper second by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher Lawless with the Wilson County Planning Office was available for the public hearing held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 regarding two properties. The Joe D. Parkerson property

(approximately 1.25 acres) and the William Taylor property (approximately three (3) acres). Both on Parkerson Road.

Laura had a citizen to ask her if we were to approve this would we still have regulations on the type of structure that could be put on the property. Mayor Jennings replied yes and subject to our R-1 zoning.

Laura asked would they only be able to build for whatever it perks. Christopher stated if ordinance is adopted they'll have a two-year time frame to extend sewer to those properties at the property owner's expense. They'll be able to build homes based off our available sewer capacity.

Steve asked how many linear feet of Public Street is this going to add to the city? Brian Keith with K&A Surveying stated 260 feet.

Mayor Jennings asked for a motion to go back into regular session.

Laura made motion to go back into regular session with proper second made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher presented to City Council plan of services for property owned by Joe D. Parkerson (1.25 acre tract). City of Watertown will provide police and fire services within two (2) years. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher presented annexation for the Joe D. Parkerson property (1.25 acre tract) into the city limits with the proposed zoning of R1.

Mayor Jennings recommended Ordinance 2022-06 annexation Joe D. Parkerson property. Laura made motion to approve on second and final reading with proper second made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher presented to City Council plan of services for property owned by William Taylor (three (3) acre tract). City of Watertown will provide police and fire services within two (2) years. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher presented annexation for the William Taylor property (three (3) care tract) into the city limits with the proposed zoning of R1 low density residential zoning. Howell made motion to approve on second and final reading with proper second made by Casey. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Sewer**

Dale stated one of the aeration blowers at the wastewater plant has stopped working. Wascon has been notified for repair. Dale stated he would advise Mayor Jennings when he has cost for repairs.

Steve asked how this impacts our city? Dale stated we have two (2) blowers and we are running on one (1) at the time. Larry stated in his short time on City Council we have seen a number of expenses associated with wastewater. Is there or has there been an effort to look at the antiquated equipment and give us a general idea of what we may or may not run into for future expenses barring replacing the entire system?

Dale stated the engineering firms look at some of this as the rehab project and plant upgrades and replacing the blowers is part of what we've been looking into.

Larry stated it may be beneficial to us as a council to have a project with a defined start date, finish date, milestones and timelines so we can plan budgeting. If we could plan in advance it would be beneficial.

Steve asked if part of this project is to move line out of the creek?

Dale stated it is a two part project. Project one rehab the collection system and that's the project we are working on.

Mayor Jennings stated some of the things we have spent it is his goal to lump them into the money that we borrow so we can get some of the City's money back and later start a future project but it will have to be done.

### **Police**

Assistant Chief Henderlight thanked council for the new system they have received. It has made things easier and much better for the officers.

Assistant Chief Henderlight mentioned he would like to purchase three (3) bean bag shot guns. These are less legal force. The price for these guns are approximately \$650.00 each. Assistant Chief Henderlight stated he would bring before council next month.

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated he has received one sealed bid on the Impala and we can't sell until we advertise. Mayor Jennings stated it must be declared surplus.

Steve made motion to declare car #20 and the Impala surplus so we can proceed with getting them posted to sell. Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Fire Report**

Fire Chief Blake Haun presented total calls for 2022 of 640 calls with 224 of those in the city. Chief Haun gave information on vehicles and maintenance that they have completed and some things still needed.

Howell was concerned with the number of calls outside the city and requested if the City could look into getting some financial help from the county. Mayor Jennings stated he would address at next budget meeting.

### **Old Business**

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-10 amending the personnel policy of the City of Watertown. Should any employee retire after thirty (30) years of continuous service with the City of Watertown and has reached the age of 65 years, the City of Watertown shall continue to pay the insurance for that employee from the date of his/her retirement until his/her death. Howell made motion to approve on second and final reading with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-09 to amend the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 by making the following additional appropriation in the water and sewer fund. See attachment. Howell made motion to approve on second reading with proper reading made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-11 to amend the schedule of interfund receivables and payables in the city's audit. Declared as "transfer" rather than "loans".

Steve made motion to approve on second reading with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented Ordinance 2022-08 to amend the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 by making the following additional appropriations. See attachments. Howell made motion to approve on second and final reading with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings brought back for discussion to City Council the request of the new sign to be placed in front of City Hall. Larry stated in his opinion it was not a good idea or timing to spend the money. Larry stated we have some pertinent challenges and we could spend that money more wisely. Howell stated we should go ahead and buy the sign and improve our City Hall and our property. We have spent the money on the floors and building to improve it.

Mayor Jennings stated we will not consider tonight but will bring back at a later date.

Mayor Jennings stated next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

### **New Business**

John Jewell advised City Council the Jazz Festival 2023 will be Saturday, July 15. John stated the stage will be at a different location this year. John stated with approval of Wilson Bank and Trust they will use the parking lot of the bank for the stage. John also noted Jazz Festival cost the city nothing. The Jazz Festival committee raises all the money for the event.

Steve made motion to move the Jazz Festival to Wilson Bank and Trust property and to block Depot Street if needed. Laura second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Council member comments**

Larry asked if we have decision on water department surplus? Mayor Jennings replied, no.

Larry stated at one time we discussed potentially an ordinance associated with golf cart usage. How do we go about doing that? Is there anything stopping us from making the recommendation now and pushing it through? Mayor Jennings stated not from him and suggested get with Assistant Chief Henderlight to guide us on how it needs to be worded so we will be legal. Steve mentioned there might need to be liability insurance just like on your car.

Larry stated he would check with other cities with guidance as well. Mayor Jennings asked Larry to bring back before City Council at next meeting.

Kyle – none

Laura had someone ask if city had donated the middle school field to Wilson County Schools. Mayor Jennings replied no. We don't own that.

Laura asked are we working with Wilson County Schools to fix the bleachers? Mayor Jennings stated it is not the County's responsibility.

Laura asked about fences and codes and do you have to have a building permit? Mayor Jennings stated to address those questions to Tom Brashear.

Steve suggested until we get a sign we can advertise any meeting on the Chamber of Commerce website.

Howell asked who is responsible for the globe lights around Watertown. Mayor Jennings stated he thought it was a partnership between the owner who purchases the bulbs and the City replaces them.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

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Mayor, Michael R. Jennings

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City Recorder