

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

**FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on February 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings presented January 17, 2023 minutes for approval. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Business**

Beth Sjostrand resides at 359 Woodland and was asked by Becky Dungy owner of Watertown Flower Shop to read a letter written by Dungy on behalf of The Watertown Flower Shop. The letter stated how much Dungy appreciates and supports small businesses. Also, to see the train bring people to Watertown and walk around the square and shop. We have something special here and let's keep it that way.

Mayor Jennings appreciated the kind words and comments and thanked Beth for sharing the letter.

Tim Dowd shared with the City Council he is now the newly elected Historic President.

**Sewer Report**

Dale stated Wascon will be letting him know if the blower can be repaired and cost. Larry made motion to purchase one (1) blower not to exceed \$22,000.00 with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve asked schedule for plant rehab. Dale stated plant upgrades will be necessary when the consent order is lifted because permit limits will be more stringent. State has basically relaxed limits until the collection system rehab is complete.

**Police Report**

Assistant Chief Henderlight presented police report. No questions asked.

Mayor Jennings mentioned the bean bag shotguns presented by Assistant Chief Henderlight at last meeting. Mayor Jennings stated as he recalls these were better to have instead of the Taser guns. Assistant Chief Henderlight stated some liability with Taser guns and less legal force with the bean bag shotguns. Steve made motion to purchase four (4) bean bag shotguns not to exceed \$3,200.00 with proper second made by Laura. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated the new police cars should be ready middle of March. Mayor Jennings asked the council how many needed to be purchased? After much discussion there will be three (3) new police cars purchased.

Larry made motion to purchase three (3) new police cars not to exceed \$130,000.00 with proper second made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Wilson Bank & Trust will do a five (5) year Capital Outlay note at 5.5 percent. Wilson Bank will do all the legal work. Mayor Jennings stated he will write a letter to Comptroller's office asking for permission to issue Capital Outlay note.

Mayor Jennings stated he wanted to know the warranty for vehicles. Mayor Jennings stated any work that needed to be done on the vehicles while under warranty will need to be completed by the dealership.

#### **Old Business**

Mayor Jennings asked Assistant Chief Henderlight about the use of golf carts on city streets. Assistant Chief Henderlight stated he has reached out to other cities but does not have an answer. Mayor Jennings stated since we have some events coming up we need to address at our March meeting.

Mayor Jennings stated Assistant Chief Henderlight would like to review the ordinance on pit bulls. Also, language change on ordinances on cracked windshield and mufflers on vehicles. Mayor Jennings stated these will be addressed at March meeting.

#### **Fire report**

Fire Chief Blake Haun presented total calls of 59 with an average of 1.9 calls per day. Fire Chief Haun recognized members at incident which was reported in town in a laundry room. The members responded quickly and did an excellent job.

Mayor Jennings stated it is always good to hear good reports. Mayor Jennings also wanted to thank Bob and Eric Morgan for helping in a case reported by Assistant Chief Henderlight.

Larry asked about all the expansion of houses and apartments and our continued growth and growth boundaries if we are adequately prepared for the influx of the additional buildings? Also asked if we are prepared to accommodate new annexation and the growth boundaries. Fire Chief Haun stated as it is now we should be and as we continue to grow we will analyze and take a look at any needs. Fire Chief Haun stated we are fully staffed. Mayor Jennings stated we are obligated to the City first.

#### **New Business**

Mayor Jennings recommended to declare the following surplus: three (3) police cars, backhoe, dump truck, old playground equipment and old city service truck. Laura made motion with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve suggested putting all together and have an auction. Mayor Jennings stated they will bring back next month with suggestions on an auctioneer.

Mayor Jennings stated he emailed City Council the Wilson County Hazard Mitigation Plan. It has to go through approval from the three municipalities Wilson County, Wilson County School System and Lebanon Special School District. Mayor Jennings stated we can vote on it in March. Mayor Jennings stated next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

#### Council member comments

Howell asked if City could form some type of board to work with companies opening business in Watertown. Laura asked if this part of our Planning Commission. Mayor Jennings stated it is but if this is a legal operation there is nothing we can do to stop it.

Mayor Jennings stated the City employees have been working on a water leak on Priest Ave. There is no cut off valve and this has to be changed out and install under pressure. Mayor Jennings recommends under emergency basis to purchase two (2) valves not to exceed \$13,000.00. Laura made motion with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Howell brought up previous discussion on the sign to be place out front of City Hall. Budget of \$35,000.00. Howell made motion to purchase and have sign installed. Laura stated she has spoken with Boy Scout about making a sign. Laura stated we do need a sign. Kyle stated he agreed we needed a sign but would like to get a less expensive and smaller sign. Kyle recommends to spend \$35,000.00 on sewer project and not a sign.

Mayor Jennings stated he would like to advertise meetings and do something nice and whatever we do it will be here for a while.

Howell's motion to purchase sign failed for lack of second.

Larry made motion to engage The Boy Scouts and some of the high school seniors and determine if they could build the base so the cost of the sign will go down. Laura asked to bid out to get lower price than \$35,000.00. Mayor Jennings replied yes we can. Mayor Jennings stated the reason he went with this sign company is because they do a lot for Watertown. Kyle second the motion. Motion passed 6 - 1.

Steve asked April to follow up with MTAS on our Codes update.

Laura announced Watertown High School will have Career Fair on March 28, 2023. This is for juniors and seniors only. Laura asked if we can get tax money from food trucks. Mayor Jennings this is something that needs to be explored.

Kyle – none

Caleb – none

Larry asked if City Council can get information regarding improvements necessary to upgrade the water distribution system. He noted we have a lot of older pipes and new growth. He would like information as to necessary improvements.


Mayor Jennings stated the City Certified Operators have provided a list of improvements (some in progress) and are working with our engineer Steve Jones to request State funds in the amount of

\$699,000.00. The City would have to match with 25%. The total project would be approximately \$900,000.00.

Larry mentioned he had been in contact with Wilson Bank & Trust and specifically the Raymond James representative to discuss possible retirement plans. He would like to ask Raymond James staff to attend the next City Council meeting and answer a few questions. No commitment on expense at this time. Several options to consider.

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

Meeting Adjourned.

  
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Mayor, Michael R. Jennings

  
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City Recorder