

**THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY  
OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN  
MARCH 22, 2023**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on March 22, 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 February 23, 2023 minutes for approval. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Business**

Mrs. Nell McKinney and Mrs. Kay Wingate presented to City Council two bids to repair the Community Center Restrooms. Steve stated the bids were not equal bids and whoever we go with needs to be ADA compliant. Mayor Jennings recommends Mid TN Renovations LLC bid for total of \$3,485.00 and make appropriate changes for ADA compliance and additional improvements if needed. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Faiza Miller and her brother Ashoor Shlemon represented Watertown Smoke Shop located at 308 Public Square. Faiza stated they are family oriented and are here to serve Watertown. Watertown Smoke Shop offers CBD and hemp products as well as vape items. Ashoor stated CBD has been found to have a positive effect for pain, mood, sleep and even memory. Howell had concerns of kids going into store trying to purchase items. Ashoor stated they have a sign posted stating you must be 21 years of age to enter.

Caleb asked if they sell bongos? Ashoor replied yes. Caleb stated the square has always been a family center kind of place and a lot of kids in and out. His concerns is the kids seeing the items. Ashoor stated he was open to suggestions to covering/tinting windows. Mayor Jennings stated as long as what they are selling is not illegal there would be no problem and if you start covering up it will raise questions with people what is going on inside.

Steve asked if they could come up with a poster to place in window and educate what CBD actually is, what it is used for, etc. This would help mitigate misconception.

Jennifer Mosher who resides on Water Ave addressed City Council with sidewalk issues not being ADA accessible. Mayor Jennings stated the sidewalks belong to the property owners but would be interested in finding some kind of federal or state money that would allow us to upgrade sidewalks. Mrs. Mosher stated she spoke with someone who is with the transportation program monitor for TN and she stated the sidewalks are the responsibility of the residents except in the case of cleaning up for ice or snow as well as trash removal. It comes back to the town and their multimodal access. There is a grant coming up that as a town can apply.

Mayor Jennings asked Mrs. Mosher if the lady at the State made the blanket assertion that the sidewalks are the property of the city? Mrs. Mosher replied no, she said the TN law is the sidewalks are the responsibility only keep up what is already there we are not responsible. Mayor Jennings asked if this could be put in writing and reference the law.

Mrs. Mosher stated the application for the grant is April 26 through May 16. The State will pay 90 to 95 percent. Mayor Jennings stated we will take a look at pursuing a grant.

#### **Fire Report**

Chief Blake Haun presented total monthly calls of 44 with an average of 1.5 calls per day. Chief Haun stated the 2000 International Pumper had an issue with the PTO gear box. It has been leaking oil and he is in the process of getting quotes to have that replaced.

#### **Sewer Report**

Dale stated he did get a quote from Wascon for the blower replacement including labor charge. See attachment. No action taken by City Council.

#### **Police Report**

Laura stated she had complaint about weapons being discharged within the city. She was referring to a bow & arrow. Assistant Chief Henderlight stated he knew the situation and would handle himself.

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated he would like to purchase four (4) AED's and put in the police cars. The approximate cost would be \$2,400.00.

Laura made motion to purchase with proper second by Kyle and not to exceed \$2,400.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings made recommendation to approve on first reading Golf Cart Ordinance. Steve asked if we could stop them from going across the Highway. Larry stated state law prohibits golf carts on state routes.

Mayor Jennings stated we need to review and bring back next meeting. Therefore he withdrew his recommendation.

Mayor Jennings stated the capital outlay request has been sent and state has required us to get more than one bid from local banks. We had one come in higher and the others refused to bid. Mayor Jennings stated he has submitted to the state and waiting for response.

Mayor Jennings stated Mike Walker has the surplus items listed and bidding is under way.

#### **Old Business**

Mayor Jennings made recommendation to accept audit from last year ending June 30, 2022. Caleb made motion with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings recommended Hazard Mitigation Plan for approval. Steve made motion to approve with proper second made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Chris Andrews will no longer be our IT guy. Aaron Wilson will be taking that position for \$500/month and first 20 hours are included in that amount. Anything past the 20 hours will be \$50/hour.

**Council member comments**

Larry asked if we would have sewer project done before paving the streets. Mayor Jennings replied absolutely. Mayor Jennings stated we could have three (3) projects going at one time (sewer, streets and turntable).

Larry would like city to consider a retirement plan for city employees. Larry stated the city wouldn't make any contributions to it for the next physical year if we are approved. The gentleman with Wilson Bank and Trust suggested a basic IRA that is handled in house. The employee can come in and set up in their name and make their own contributions. The city could match or however we want to do it. Mayor Jennings stated he was fine with looking at this.

Mayor Jennings stated have a work session at 5:00 with the banker on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Larry asked to have City Council set up a public safety committee. Laura stated as we grow maybe a good idea. Mayor Jennings stated he would be interested in looking into that and what would be the responsibilities. Mayor Jennings stated he was not sure if he wanted to create another bureaucracy but open minded to it. Larry would like to check out with other cities.

Larry asked about monitoring hydrant water system operations. Untrained citizens are getting water from hydrants. Could they contaminate the water system? Larry was asking if we could set up time and particular times of day and monitor the system.

Mayor Jennings stated there are only 5 people and if they don't pay their privileges are taken away.

Caleb-none

Kyle asked for update on city ordinances being codified by MTAS. Mayor advised the 288 page document has been sent to city for a final review. Can then be placed on website.

Laura stated after much research on the sign and speaking to citizens they were for the \$35,000.00 sign to be purchased and place in front of city hall. Laura made motion with proper second made by Howell. Motion failed 4-3. Steve, Kyle, Caleb and Larry voted no. Howell, Laura and Mayor Jennings voted yes.

Steve stated the Lebanon Outlet Mall is closing and Watertown can have the metal park benches and trash cans. Steve made motion to accept with proper second made by Kyle. Motion carried unanimously.

Howell stated we should buy a roller and put hot mix down when repairing the streets. This would be better than cold mix. Repair our streets like they should be done.

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

Meeting Adjourned.



---

Mayor, Michael R. Jennings



---

City Recorder