

**THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY
OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN
APRIL 26, 2023**

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met in regular session on April 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Aldersperson Absent: Laura Cromer.

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings presented March 22, 2023 minutes for approval. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Business

Mrs. Pam Wiggins thanked Watertown Police Officers for sitting in alley and making sure people are slowing down and stopping at stop sign.

Ms. Pam stated the Library is going to be remodeled and therefore the Library will be closed two (2) to three (3) weeks. She will get final word out tomorrow when project will start. The approximate time is 3rd or 4th week in May. Ms. Pam has asked for a purple awning.

Ms. Pam stated she wanted to have an eclipse party. On Saturday, October 14, 2023 we are having an eclipse which is supposed to happen around 10:00 a.m. They would like to have Watertown High School Band to play and this will be a Community Event. There will also be a wine train coming in that day. Also, there will be another eclipse April 2024 and we have a way to place your glasses in a case that you can keep them until the next eclipse.

Mayor Jennings made recommendation to hold the event and block off middle portion of square. Howell made motion to approve with proper second made by Caleb. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Bell shared with City Council, Flex for a Cause, a nonprofit organization. Mr. Bell is wanting to get permission to bring the family event to Watertown. Basically it is a fundraising event to support their efforts in providing funding for neuromuscular disease research for muscular dystrophy. Mr. Bell is wanting to do an event with car show and live music in the center of the square. It will not interfere with the businesses. This event would be Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Bell stated they would pay for two (2) off duty officers and close down the square.

Mayor Jennings stated his only hesitation is closing the square but suggested Mr. Bell communicate with the Chamber of Commerce about the event.

Fire Report

Chief Blake Haun presented fire report with total monthly calls of 51 with an average of 1.64 calls per day. Chief Haun stated he would like to invite the Mayor and City Council to an open house at the Watertown Fire Station on Saturday, April 29th at 6:30 pm.

Chief Haun presented a proposal for training grounds. We can gain funding and different grants, etc. The issue is we don't have a place to put it so we're requesting to allocate a piece of land specifically over across the creek. Chief Haun stated they could start doing some fundraising or grants to develop a training center for the future.

Chief Haun stated the fire department does not have a reporting software and required by the state to report all incidents which they are currently using the state's website. Chief Haun asked for \$3200.00 for next year's budget to set up. No action was taken.

Chief Haun stated the repairs on the 2000 International (engine 21) are estimated at \$20,681.68 to rebuild.

Mayor Jennings recommend to repair the 2000 International for \$20,681.68. Steve made motion with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated WEMA will be sending four (4) people per shift and they will be sending another engine to Watertown Fire Department. Mayor Jennings stated this will not affect our Volunteer Fire Department.

Police Report

Assistant Chief Henderlight requested three (3) AR rifles. One in each car. The cost for three is \$2,007.84.

Mayor Jennings stated the funds from the sale of the auction of the three police cars is \$3,700.00 which will pay for the three (3) rifles.

Larry made motion to purchase with proper second made by Kyle. Cost is \$2,100. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated he was fine with the money from the sale of the surplus police vehicle go back into the police department.

Mayor Jennings asked for a motion to spend the rest of the Surplus funds, what's left over from the capital outlay note and make up the difference up to a total of fifteen thousand (\$15,000) to equip the three (3) new police vehicles. Kyle made motion with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Chief Henderlight stated they are making it mandatory for one of the officers to go through every school every day and do a walk through and get familiar with each school. This is

to get them familiar with the schools and the entry ways of our schools. Also, this will let the students see our officers and get acquainted with them as well.

Sewer Report

Dale presented report stating there were some problems with the main pump station. Problems caused by a blockage in the pumps caused by wipes combined with the patched pump leaking. The epoxy patch on the pump failed causing the drywell side of the pump station to flood. This water had to be pumped to clear the blockage. The pump has been patched again and the station is in service.

Mayor Jennings asked Dale who has keys to the pump station? Dale replied, himself, Michele Cox that is employed by him, Robert Morgan and a key at City Hall.

Old Business

Mayor Jennings stated the Community Center Restrooms have been renovated and are now ADA Compliant. They are going to look really nice.

Mayor Jennings stated we did a capital outlay note for \$130,000.00. The state requires him to report to council a CT0253 report on debt obligation. The purpose of the report is to let the City Council know any amount of money that was spent in addition to it as far as legal fees. There was no additional money spent. No action required.

Mayor Jennings presented City Council with report of the Surplus property. The total sale was \$6,861.62.

Kyle mentioned Bob would like to make one of the Escapes a City vehicle for the street department.

Mayor Jennings asked about update on retirement meeting. Steve stated meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Jennings thanked Steve for getting the benches and trash cans from the Lebanon Outlet Mall contribution. Steve stated we also got some tables and chairs from the food court area and several other items at no cost to the city.

New Business

Mayor Jennings stated legislature has just approved Juneteenth holiday as a state holiday. Mayor Jennings stated it could be added to our personnel policy as a paid city holiday so I am asking to approve on first reading. Caleb made motion to approve on first reading with proper second made by Howell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Freedom Ministry has asked to use the park across the creek for a Tent Revival. This will be July 23 -28 at 7:00 p.m. nightly. Steve asked to check the additional insurance and Kyle asked to check expiration on date of insurance.

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

Mayor Jennings stated we have made a claim with the insurance company for the roof repairs at City Hall. They have agreed to cover the emergency expense \$1,352.00 to secure the roof. Gerald Lamberson has submitted a bid for repairs for \$43,550.00 which the insurance company will pay. The insurance company will not pay where the brick is pulling away from the building and the treatment for mold. The insurance adjuster is going to try to find as much as he could to cover under the policy. We also have some money on a certificate of deposit for repairs to property. No action required.

Mayor Jennings stated The Chamber of Commerce has given City Of Watertown a Bill of Sale of the Turntable and does not want to be the owner of it. Since it is sitting on our property the bill of sale will transfer to us. Mayor Jennings recommends we accept. Howell made motion to accept with proper second made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the audit contract is \$6,000.00 with Mr. John Poole. Mayor Jennings recommends the contract. Kyle made motion to accept bid with proper made by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented to council a list of capital projects. Mayor wants everyone to be made aware of projects coming and will add the fire department projects. This does not need any action.

Mayor Jennings stated on property tax collection we have collected 96.2 percent.

Mayor Jennings stated next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Council member comments

Howell – no comments

Steve asked when will we be bidding the sewer project? Mayor Jennings stated he expected to have the easements done tonight. We had agreed with one and they have already signed the easement. The other one came back asking for more money. Mayor Jennings stated he is going to discuss with him.

Steve stated from last meeting one of our citizens mentioned about sidewalks. She had made reference to the Multimodal Transportation Grant through the state which is a 90 to 95 percent grant and a five or ten percent match. The application period opens today and ends May 16, 2023. Steve asked if we could ask Steve Smartt make a submission to potentially look at doing our sidewalks along Main Street from the Elementary School to the Railroad tracks on the East end of town.

Caleb stated he looked into it as well and was told it has to be on a State road.

Steve made motion to get application submitted through the state for grant on sidewalks with proper second made by Larry. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle asked if old city hall building could be used by the police department for court, training school and traffic school since we are doing some repair work. Mayor Jennings stated it is not ADA Compliant and all the stuff will need to be stored somewhere.

Caleb – none

Larry asked if discussing details on budget/salaries are held in open form. Mayor Jennings stated they will be discussed in open meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned.



Michael R. Jennings



City Recorder

