

Consider Resolution No. 11-451, a resolution to enter into a contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for grant funding relative to traffic signalization projects. City Engineer Jack Tompkins stated this project is for a new traffic signal at Madison Creek Pike and Long Hollow Pike, Caldwell Lane at the entrance to Moss-Wright Park, and synchronization of traffic signals on Long Hollow Pike. These projects are fully funded from federal highway administration funds which flow through TDOT and must comply with their regulations. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Coombs to approve Resolution No. 11-451. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell and passed unanimously 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.


City Recorder


Mayor

REGULAR MEETING
GOODLETTSVILLE CITY COMMISSION

Date: March 10, 2011

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: City Hall

Present: Gary Manning, John Coombs, John Finch, Dan Bloodworth, Jane Birdwell

Also Present: Joe Haynes, Jim Thomas, Tim Ellis, Julie High, Richard Pope, Claudia Davis, Phillip Gibson, Jack Tompkins, Harry Bell, Danny Okert, Larry DiOrio, Rick Gregory, Tom Tucker, Joe Bardill, Les Carlisle, Mike Dorris, Sammy Uldrich, Rick Perry, Audra Cherry, Charlie Morrow, Tim & Stacey, Jennifer Hancock, Andy Garrett, Albert Vincent, Ben Alexander, Ken Jenkins, Jerry Birdwell, Lee Hickerson, John Ricks, Denver Schimming, Darlyn Farris, Steve Shoulders, Susan Rotkiewicz, Zach Young, Mike Romine

Mayor Manning called the meeting to order. Commissioner Bloodworth offered prayer. Mayor Manning led the chambers in the pledge of allegiance.

City Recorder Davis called the roll: Mayor Manning present, Vice Mayor Coombs present, Commissioner Finch present, Commissioner Bloodworth present, and Commissioner Birdwell present.

Consider approval of the minutes of the regular Commission meeting on February 24, 2011. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Coombs to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell and passed unanimously 5-0.

Darlyn Farris, 206 Hollywood Street, stated that she favors the police officers being able to take their patrol cars home. She also inquired why the beer ordinance was amended to reduce the distance requirements. Mayor Manning responded that the beer ordinance amendment was passed by the Commission on the recommendation of the Beer Board after extensive study and review and after many hours of work. There were a lot of reasons behind their recommendation for these changes.

Lee Hickerson, 616 Angela Circle, expressed his concern that the City allows tobacco and beer stores, noting the moral and safety issues. Mayor Manning stated the Commission cannot legislate a business in or out of the city if they meet the requirements.

City Manager Thomas reported the 50th anniversary annual banquet of the Goodlettsville Area Chamber of Commerce will be on Thursday, March 24th. That is the regular scheduled date for a Commission meeting. The Commission agreed unanimously to hold the meeting on March 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Regarding discussion on Police Department "take home" vehicles, Commissioner Birdwell stated that even though her son is a City police officer, she does not have a conflict of interest regarding any discussion or decision. She added that there is no gain and no conflict on their part.

Commissioner Bloodworth stated that this matter should be discussed in the upcoming budget work sessions for consideration with the hundreds of other pending items that the City needs to fund. While he totally supports officers taking home the City's patrol cars, it must be funded and that involves studying the financial impact and making an equitable decision for the taxpayers.

Police Chief Pope stated that prior to July 2008, officers were allowed to take their assigned patrol cars home, up to fifteen miles outside the corporate city limits. The community and the Police Department benefit by more security and a more rapid response in an emergency status. The officer benefits by having the vehicle to drive to and from work and having their equipment with them all the time. There is also a perception of increased police presence. There is an increase in the level of enforcement on duty inside the city limits when they are coming to work and going home. This also increases back up potential. There is a security issue with having all the cars in one location and the risk of losing the fleet in the event of a catastrophe. At approximately 3,000 additional miles per year on a vehicle, the concern of insurance, gas and depreciation are minimal.

City Manager Thomas reported that the dollar value is very hard to determine on the list of advantages and disadvantages. If the Board gives staff a direction to re-establish the policy, we can have recommendations of how this will be done.

Commissioner Birdwell stated this is a safety issue and asked what a human life is worth. This is the officer's office. She recommended that the Commission should look beyond the cost of this policy versus the need for rapid response.

Commissioner Bloodworth stated he made the same comments when he became a Commissioner. He agrees that this needs to be done. It is cheap insurance for our City, our citizens and our businesses. However, this is a budget issue because dollars are involved. Those dollars are not in our current budget. There are many issues facing this Commission and the time to consider funding this is along with considering reinstating funds to all the City's personnel and the hundreds of other funding needs in the upcoming budget, not singling out the issue when it is a matter of weeks that the budget reviews will begin.

Commissioner Coombs agreed that there is a good case on either side of this issue. The decision in 2008 to dispense with take home police vehicles was a budgetary decision. We have a responsibility to our citizens to keep our services at the best level with the budgetary constraints we have. He stated the citizens would be best served to further review and consider this issue and address it in the upcoming budget process. He added that the employee should have the value of the personal time applied to their income as a wise and fair balance.

Commissioner Birdwell stated the Police Officers are underpaid and questioned why they should be further penalized. She does not believe they should be charged additionally. This is a critical issue that we have put off too long. She charged the Commission to not look at the dollar amount all the time.

Commissioner Finch expressed that he does not think this is as tough as it has been presented. He responded to Commissioner Birdwell about the passion that she has spoken with on this topic and that there is a conflict of interest. This is an equity issue. It has aggravated him for over two years that we have all these cars sitting in the parking lot. He has urged that we ought to have them parked in shopping center parking lots. He is in favor of reinstating a policy on take home police cars tonight, but with provisions. He does not buy the comments that this is a safety issue and he feels this is a slippery slope given that Public Works, the Fire Department and other staff members must also respond during major events. Allowing officers who live inside the city limits encourages them to live in our city. If they live outside the city he believes they should expect to pay some marginal fee that represents the use of the vehicle outside the city.

Mayor Manning agreed with Commissioner Finch, noting that insurance companies typically require the user to repay employers for vehicle use outside the city limits. There is a federal mandated mileage rate. He would like City Manager Thomas and Police Chief Pope to come back to the Commission with a guideline of what our policy is going to be as their recommendation. He feels this is of great benefit inside the city limits, but not out of the city.

Commissioner Birdwell stated that she is passionate but that passion is neither a crime nor a conflict. She added that conflict of interest must be proven to her and that she will not recuse herself from a decision on this matter.

Chief Pope inquired if the Commission would consider allowing the five officers living inside the City to take their vehicles home. A motion was made by Commissioner Finch to allow officers living inside the city limits to take home their vehicles immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bloodworth and passed unanimously 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.


City Recorder


Mayor

REGULAR MEETING
GOODLETTSVILLE CITY COMMISSION

Date: March 24, 2011

Time: 4:00 PM

Place: City Hall

Present: Gary Manning, John Coombs, John Finch, Dan Bloodworth, Jane Birdwell

Also Present: Joe Haynes, Jim Thomas, Tim Ellis, Julie High, Richard Pope, Claudia Davis, Phillip Gibson, Jack Tompkins, Harry Bell, Tom Tucker, Jennifer Hancock, Amy Mitchell, Dawn Freeman, Bill Brasier, Ken Jenkins, Robert McCain, Tim Stutler, Denver Schimming, Susan Rotkiewicz

Mayor Manning called the meeting to order. Rev. Tim Stutler offered prayer. Mayor Manning led the chambers in the pledge of allegiance.