

REGULAR MEETING
GOODLETTSVILLE CITY COMMISSION

Date: May 28, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: City Hall

Present: John Finch, Gary Manning, Jerry Garrett, John Coombs, Dan Bloodworth

Also Present: Jim Thomas, Joe Haynes, Claudia Davis, Tim Ellis, Julie High, Tom Tucker, Larry DiOrio, Richard Pope, Jack Tompkins, Dawn Freeman, Charlie Morrow, Harry Bell, Walter Williams, Phillip Gibson, Susan Rotkiewicz, Jane Birdwell, Denver Schimming, Daryl Blank, Douglas Richardson, Gela Craig, Margaret Fykes, Carolyn Edwards, Ruby Buchanan, Jean Lafferty, Michele Seay, Cathy Jennings, Tamara Head, Monica Escue, Billy & Jewel Marlin

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Finch. Rev. Daryl Blank offered prayer. Mayor Finch led the chambers in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Consider approval of the minutes of the April 23, 2009 regular commission meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bloodworth and passed unanimously 5-0.

Cathy Jennings, 425 Janette Avenue, Carolyn Edwards, 417 Janette Avenue, Tamara Head, 449 Janette Avenue, Monica Escue, 420 Janette Avenue, Billy and Jewell Marlin, 455 Janette Avenue, Mr. Hamilton, 459 Janette Avenue, and Douglas Richardson, 105 Memorial Drive, all addressed the Commission during citizen's comments concerning the flood event on May 9, 2009. Following are the responses from the Commissioners to their concerns and questions:

The weir at I-65 and Dickerson Road at Dry Creek is a Metro Nashville facility. There is a small opening in the bottom of the weir that allows water to flow out at a controlled rate. During this rain event, the water was so high that it was flowing over the top of the weir. The accumulation of information on flood damages is continuing and will be submitted to the Office of Emergency Management upon completion. The City of Goodlettsville and several Metro and Davidson County agencies will begin a major cleanup of Dry Creek on June 4, 2009, followed by another clean up by volunteers with Hands on Nashville. Vegetative debris will be chipped and hauled away. Non-vegetative debris will be removed and taken to the landfill. The City did not receive any information from any agency that indicated there was going to be any action that would create flooding at Dry Creek, nor is there any indication that any dam release occurred.. Had the City had any knowledge of what was going to happen, the cost would have been no object to inform and assist these residents. Due to the heavy spring rains, six days of rain prior to the May 9 extreme 3 1/2" rainfall, there was no place for the water to go. As the flows occurred, large debris entered the stream which caused the water to rise even further, resulting in the flash flood. The Red Cross, a volunteer organization, was made aware of the incident and communicated with Mayor Finch by cell phone throughout the day, and they were on site at the First Baptist Church in Goodlettsville by noon. They serve a couple of victims and then remained there until 3:00 p.m. and then kept their mobile unit there for some time afterward. The Delmas Long Community Center was also available to victims of the flood. There are homes on the south side of Janette Avenue that are in the 100 year floodplain. Dry Creek Farms development includes drainage detention pond

structures so that their development does not impact runoff downstream. Residents were informed that calling 911 reaches the Metro Nashville dispatch, who makes a determination of whether the call will be sent to Goodlettsville. Citizens were encouraged to call 859-3405 which reaches the City of Goodlettsville dispatch directly during an emergency. Concerning flooding on Memorial Drive, Douglas Richardson suggested the difference in this flood from prior years may be due to the fact that a 15' x 6' opening by the bridge had been replaced by a 6' x 6' opening. Gateway residents indicated they believe there was something different about this flood event that had never happened in the past.

City Manager Jim Thomas described a wellness initiative program for employees to change the focus of the employee group medical plan from paying for healing and curing to one of wellness. This program will allow employees to receive credits toward their insurance premiums based on them meeting certain basic wellness criteria.

Finance Director Julie High gave a summary of the financial status of the City through April 2009. While revenues continue to be slightly below projection, expenditures have continued to also be below projection, resulting in a projected variance of plus \$300,000 in the current budget.

Police Chief Richard Pope responded to comments from citizens regarding their response during the flood event. He stated that during his 37 years on the police force that a flash flood event had never occurred like the one on May 9th. He had two officers responding to a call on Madison Creek prior to the flood, who became trapped by the water, along with others on Willis Branch Road. His force was responding to flooded roads and trapped vehicles throughout the city. Mayor Finch who was on site in the Gateway flooded area most of the day on May 9th and 10th, commended the City of Goodlettsville Police and Firemen for their constant empathy and compassion to the flood victims and that he was very proud of their representation of the City. Fire Chief Phillip Gibson added that whenever there is a potential mass casualty incident, their purpose is to protect and serve people, not property. Parks Director Tim Ellis added that the police and firemen could not have done any more or conducted themselves any more professionally than they did on this incident. Commissioner Coombs praised Ellis' cooperative spirit and leadership that day, acting in Jim Thomas' absence.

Commissioner Coombs reported on results of a neighborhood watch group on Draper Circle. Police patrol has been increased in the area and Bill Brasier and staff will consider "no through traffic" signs at each entrance of Draper Circle and possibly trimming trees away from the street lights.

Mayor Finch also echoed Commissioner Coombs accolades for Tim Ellis and thanked Jim Thomas for preparing him for that role. He also thanked Commissioner Coombs for being on site all day at the flood event in Gateway. He recognized the Fire Department and Fire Chief Phillip Gibson for receiving the Star of Life Award for Region 5 and also the overall award for the entire state, for the rescue of Eric Jackson.

Mayor Finch reported on his trip with Tom Tucker to the International Shopping Center Convention in Las Vegas last week and commended Tom for the excellent job he has done to put our city on the radar screen for future economic development.

Mayor Finch reported that the Tennessee state senate has passed the bill which authorizes stimulus dollars to be given out to municipalities. This legislation will be before the house next week.

Mayor Finch reported that legislation has also passed which allows for a funding mechanism for regional mass transit.

Mayor Finch announced that the first Mayor's breakfast public forum will be held at Shoney's on Long Hollow Pike on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. He invited the Commissioners and encouraged the public to attend.

Consider Ordinance No. 09-728 on first reading, an ordinance to adopt a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. City Manager Jim Thomas stated that draft #1 for a total budget of \$34,233,878 is the published ordinance. Since that publication and after a budget work session by the Commission, draft #2 reflects a total budget amount of \$27,555,606. A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett to approve Ordinance No. 09-728 draft #2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coombs. The adjustments in the two drafts include from the general fund, removing Commissioner's salaries, increasing capital of drainage improvements and miscellaneous clerical corrections, and from the sewer fund, decreases in sewage treatment, capital and debt service. Mayor Finch noted that this budget does not fund any pay increases for employees or match to the employee retirement accounts. Vice Mayor Manning recommended a 3% pay increase to employees, using half of the cost from reserves and half from a reduction in the OPED payment. After discussion, Commissioner Garrett called for question. There was no second to his call for question, which failed. Vice Mayor Manning made a motion to amend the motion to approve Ordinance No. 09-728 on first reading to fund a 3% employee pay increase, funded 50% from reserves and 50% from OPED funding. The motion to amend was seconded by Commissioner Coombs. Mayor Finch challenged City Manager Thomas and his staff to continue to be the good stewards they have displayed in the past and to strive to save the amount of this increase through their management in the upcoming fiscal year. The City Recorder called roll for the amendment to the motion: Mayor Finch aye, Vice Mayor Manning aye, Commissioner Garrett aye, Commissioner Coombs aye, and Commissioner Bloodworth aye. The City recorder called roll for the approval on Ordinance No. 09-728, as amended, on first reading: Mayor Finch aye, Vice Mayor Manning aye, Commissioner Garrett aye, Commissioner Coombs aye, and Commissioner Bloodworth aye. Ordinance No. 09-728, as amended, passed unanimously on first reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Claudia Davis, City Recorder

John Finch, Mayor