

## REGULAR SESSION

August 24, 2021

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of McMinnville, Tennessee, met in regular session August 24, 2021, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Adequate public notice of the agenda was given by notices posted at City Hall, articles in the Southern Standard newspaper, notices posted on the City's website and news reports on the local radio stations.

Present were: Mayor Ryle Chastain; Vice Mayor Everett Brock, Aldermen Sally Brock, Steve Harvey, Rachel Kirby, and Zach Sutton. Absent: Alderman Stacey Harvey. Others present: Nolan Ming, City Administrator; Shirley Durham, City Recorder; Tim Pirtle, City Attorney, and members of the news media and press.

The meeting was presided over by the Honorable Mayor Ryle Chastain, with Shirley Durham, City Recorder, recording the action taken at the meeting.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mayor Chastain stated that written copies of the minutes of the regular session of August 10, 2021, had been sent to each member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen previously. He asked if any member of the Board wished to make any corrections, additions, or modifications to the minutes.

Motion was made by Sally Brock to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as written. The motion was seconded by Everett Brock and carried.

### RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Several visitors were present and spoke on the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the vaccine, and wearing masks.

Dale Humphrey, President and CEO of St. Thomas River Park Hospital, gave a report on the current condition of the hospital. The Delta variant is rampant in our community and across Tennessee. He gave state statistics and local statistics. They have been unable to transfer patients to other hospitals. The St. Thomas hospitals, Vanderbilt, and Centennial are all full. He wanted everyone to know they needed to do everything they can to prevent the spread of the virus.

Dr. Dan Glover, a local physician, stated to be careful where you get your information. Talk to someone you trust. There is a huge amount of false information out there. Do everything you can to prevent the spread of the virus.

Some local hospital and home health nurses expressed concern about the false information and stressed the need to be sure to get correct information and everyone to do their part to prevent the spread of the virus.

Stacy Lee talked about her rights and citizens rights under the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions and the Board took an oath to support the Constitutions. She wanted no masks, no vaccines, and no mandates.

Deanna Tucker also spoke against a mandate requiring vaccines and masks.

Mayor Chastain stated the City of McMinnville has no authority to mandate citizens to wear masks. The City does have the authority to require City employees to wear masks while working or inside City buildings. The City has no authority to mandate vaccines. The City has no authority over private businesses, and their policies.

Mayor Chastain recognized Keri Morton, a small business owner, who was forced to close down last year because of COVID. Small businesses are important to the City of McMinnville. She asked when it becomes time to spend the American Rescue Plan Grant money to talk to the local small businesses, find out what kind of losses they have had and come up with a good plan to help them.

#### RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES

Mayor Chastain recognized Police Chief Nichole Mosley who introduced Lt. Mark Mara and police officers Fred Lee and Toby Lewis. On August 20, 2021, they attended the Tennessee Highway Safety Officers Lifesavers Convention in Franklin.

Lt. Mara submitted the application for the McMinnville Police Department to compete in the Tennessee Lifesavers and Law Enforcement Challenge on how we are promoting traffic safety. The department won three first place state awards: Impaired Driving, Tennessee 2021 26-45 Officers category, and working together with the Warren County Sherriff Department and the McMinnville Fire Department the Outstanding Child Passenger Safety Fitting Station award.

Scott McCord introduced Kevin Roberts and Jennifer Pedigo, employees of the Park Theater, who due to loss of revenue during the COVID shutdown, applied for the Shattered Venue Operators Grant and were awarded \$42,057.45.

Fire Chief Kendall Mayfield introduced Joey Kennamer who was recently promoted to Fire Captain. He has been with the department for 24 ½ years.

Alderman Zach Sutton recognized and thanked Public Works Director Franklin Southard for getting the sign on Roosevelt Street installed and the speed limit child safety sign up.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications addressed to the Board.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Chastain declared the meeting open for a public hearing to hear comments regarding amending the Zoning Ordinance to rezone 623 and 625 N. Spring Street from R-2 Medium Density Residential to R-3 High Density Residential. He invited anyone present to address the Board and speak either for or against the rezoning.

Christine Hernandez, the wife of Jose Hernandez, who operates the barber shop at this location, thanked the Board for considering this rezoning.

When no one else expressed a desire to address the Board, Mayor Chastain declared the Public Hearing closed.

#### PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Chastain stated that at the last meeting, in an effort to boost vaccination rates and protect our employees, it was suggested the possibility of giving employees an incentive of one or two days off if they chose to get the vaccine. Other communities are giving employees incentives but after getting cost figures from Human Resources on the estimated cost he could not ask the taxpayers to pay for this.

He felt it should be just a recommendation. Our employees should make their own informed decisions. Talk to their health care providers and make that decision for themselves. He recommended the Board take no action in terms of incentivizing the employees for getting the vaccine. No action was taken.

Mayor Chastain stated that last year the City operated under a tier plan based on the Governor's Executive Orders and CDC guidelines regarding the wearing of masks. We based the wearing of masks inside of City facilities when infections were 26 per 100,000 people. It is all about protecting our City employees so they can provide City services to our residents.

Following discussion, motion was made by Sally Brock and seconded by Everett Brock to require employees to wear masks based on the same threshold as last year. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Chastain referred a recommendation from Zach Sutton about the Park Theater becoming its own department separate from Parks and Recreation to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mayor Chastain stated he wanted to discuss dedicating American Rescue Plan money to small business recovery. This past Sunday there was a personal ad taken out in the Southern Standard.

The ad lacked certain context that he felt was somewhat misleading. It called on him, as the Mayor, to make that decision and dedicate 10% of the money to our local businesses, but he as the Mayor does not have that authority. That would have to be a Board decision.

Mayor Chastain stated he was for it and it was a great idea but the final guidelines on how the money can be spent are not out yet and once they are a plan will have to be developed on how it could work.

Public meetings and/or surveys will have to be conducted to get input from the general public on how they think the money should be spent. We should know more by mid-September.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2141, a Resolution to accept the proposal of Burris, Thompson & Associates (BT&A) to perform a Compensation and Performance Management Study and for the City of McMinnville, Tennessee to enter into contract with Burris, Thompson & Associates (BT&A) and for the Mayor to execute said contract and the Recorder to attest same; and to express the time the resolution becomes effective was introduced for adoption.

Motion was made by Everett Brock to adopt Resolution No. 2141. The motion was seconded by Steve Harvey and upon call of the roll Aldermen Everett Brock, Sally Brock, Steve Harvey, Rachel Kirby, Zach Sutton, and Mayor Chastain voted aye. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

## ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1819, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 1, Title 17 of the McMinnville Municipal Code by deleting subsections (2), (4) (1) and (4)(b) of Section 17-123. Fees for Solid Waste Collection in its entirety and replacing with new subsections (2), (4)(a) and (4)(b); to repeal any provision in the Code of Ordinances in conflict with this ordinance; to provide for a

severability clause; and to set the time for the ordinance to become effective was introduced for second and final reading.

Motion was made by Sally Brock and seconded by Rachel Kirby to pass Ordinance No. 1819 on second and final reading.

Upon call of the roll Aldermen Everett Brock, Sally Brock, Steve Harvey, Rachel Kirby, Zach Sutton, and Mayor Chastain voted aye. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1820, an Ordinance of the City of McMinnville to amend Chapter 5 of Title 14 of the Official Zoning Code of the City of McMinnville, Tennessee, which is the Official Zoning Code of the City of McMinnville, to add a provision for the use of beauty salons and barber shops in the High Density Residential District as special exception use; and to set the date that this ordinance shall become effective was introduced for first reading.

Motion was made by Rachel Kirby to pass Ordinance No. 1820 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Sally Brock and upon call of the roll Aldermen Everett Brock, Sally Brock, Steve Harvey, Rachel Kirby, Zach Sutton, and Mayor Chastain voted aye. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1821, an Ordinance of the City of McMinnville, Tennessee, to change the zoning classification of a property located at 623 & 625 North Spring St. from R-2 Medium Density Residential District to R-3 High Density Residential District; and to express the time for this ordinance to become effective was introduced for first reading.

Motion was made by Everett Brock and seconded by Rachel Kirby to pass Ordinance No. 1821 on first reading. Upon call of the roll Aldermen Everett Brock, Sally Brock, Rachel Kirby, and Mayor Chastain voted aye. Voting nay: Aldermen Steve Harvey and Zach Sutton. Motion carried.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Fire Chief Kendall Mayfield reported the Fire Department also received the Outstanding Child Passenger Safety Fitting Station state award for working with the Police and Sheriff Departments.

Scott McCord, Parks and Recreation Director, reported they had 380-390 sign up for fall soccer and 230 for fall ball.

Mr. Ming reported the Sparta Street railroad underpass bridge is scheduled to be raised in January or February. This will require road closure for about two weeks.

The Public Works Department employees have been working to remove the safe deposit boxes from the vault at City Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Chastain read a Proclamation declaring July 18<sup>th</sup> as “Parks and Recreation Day” across the City of McMinnville. This is the day the new Milner Recreation Center opened.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

---

City Recorder

---

Mayor