

Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting

Monday, March 1, 2021

Meeting held pursuant to Executive Order No. 16 issued by Governor Bill Lee permitting local governing bodies to conduct meetings electronically and extended by Executive Order Nos. 34, 51, 60, 65, 71, and 78 until April 28, 2021.

- (1) **Call to Order:** The Board of Mayor and Aldermen convened for their regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021 via phone conference at 7:00 p.m. Mayor John Holden presided. The meeting opened with a prayer by Alderwoman Vanedda Webb. All members of the board were in attendance. Dyersburg Mayor John Holden noted under the Governor's Executive Order, all action must be recorded via a roll call vote.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Holden called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 meeting. Alderwoman Mary Claire Hopper made a motion to approve the minutes. Alderman James Baltimore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- (3) **Unfinished Business:** None.
- (4) **New Business:**
 - A. Recreation Committee Minutes – February 12, 2021 – Alderman and Committee chairman Ricky Hammond reviewed the committee meeting minutes from February 12, 2021.

The committee met with Dyersburg Rotary Club President Dr. Troy Kerber and Vice President Curtis Colbert. The club requested to work with the City to construct pickleball courts, 2 permanent and 2 with retractable nets, on the eastern-most basketball courts at Okeena Park.

Dr. Kerber noted the club held a fundraiser with the funds going toward a pickleball court project in the City. He added he had received a quote in the amount of \$9,500 for the four courts to be painted on the existing surface at Okeena Park.

Mayor Holden mentioned the current budget is more than half completed in the current fiscal year, but any funds from the City would need to be discussed in upcoming budget discussions in April and May. He added the City would need a firm number to go by.

Mayor Holden motioned to pursue the effort as presented, second by Ricky Hammond, motion passed by the committee. This also allows the local Rotary Club to apply for Rotary International grants.

On Monday, March 1, 2021, Alderman James Baltimore made a motion to pursue the effort and Alderman Willie Cole seconded the motion. By a roll call vote board members voted to approve the request, with only Alderwoman Meghan Gilbert voting in opposition.

Alderwoman Gilbert, who at the committee meeting asked if any other locations were considered, explained her decision to vote against the request. "After some reflection, I think we should look into other locations, so I'm going to say no," she stated.

B. Public Hearing – Beer Permit – Dyersburg Moose Lodge
395 Country Club Road
Dyersburg, TN 38024

A public hearing was held for an on-premises beer permit for Dyersburg Moose Lodge located at 395 Country Club Road. Dyersburg Police Chief Steve Isbell said the background investigation was completed and upon review he found no reason to deny the applicant the permit as all requirements had been met. Background information noted the request was submitted due to a change in management. Mayor Holden asked if there were any comments from the public, hearing none.

A motion to approve the permit was made by Alderman Ricky Hammond with a second from Alderman Willie Cole. The motion passed by roll call vote with all voting yes.

Public Hearing – Beer Permit – The Hard Axe
1130 Hwy 51 Bypass W, Suite 23
Dyersburg, TN 38024

A public hearing was held for an on-premises beer permit for The Hard Axe located at 1130 Hwy 51 Bypass W, Suite 23. Dyersburg Police Chief Steve Isbell said the background investigation was completed and upon review he found no reason to deny the applicant the permit as all requirements had been met. Background information noted the request was submitted because The Hard Axe is a new business. Mayor Holden asked if there were any comments from the public, hearing none.

A motion to approve the permit was made by Alderwoman Mary Claire Hopper with a second from Alderwoman Vanedda Webb. The motion passed by roll call vote with all voting yes.

- C. Attorney Invoice – Mayor John Holden presented the Attorney Invoice for the month of January 2021 in the amount of \$11,056.80 (which was the total of January’s bill \$8,227.25 plus a previous balance of \$2,829.65). A motion to approve the Attorney invoice was made by Alderman James Baltimore and seconded by Alderman Edward Burks. The Board approved the January 2021 attorney invoice unanimously by roll call vote.

- D. Bids – Greg Williams –

Board members also reviewed a bid sheet prepared by City Purchasing Agent Greg Williams with one bid to review – the expansion cost of Fairview Cemetery. Throughout budget discussions held last summer, aldermen were made aware of the need to expand. When the board approved the current year’s budget on August 28, 2020, it contained \$200,000 for the expansion.

According to Williams’ bid sheet, notification for bids to perform the work were given through the State Gazette and two plan rooms. Only two bids were received, both of which were over budget - \$303,843.23 from Ford Construction and \$251,148.01 from Bennett’s Excavation.

Referring to the bid sheet, Dyersburg Mayor John Holden said two line items, fencing and landscaping, were removed to reduce project cost, lowering the base bid to \$191,889.01 with design costs of \$19,222.59 (all pricing for the Bennett’s bid; \$211,111.60 total.)

With the City only budgeting \$200,000, the additional \$11,111.59 would come from other areas within the cemetery account. Also, the bid would need board approval due to it being over budget.

Alderwoman Meghan Gilbert, chair of the Cemetery Committee, asked if Cemetery Supervisor David Fowlkes had been involved with discussions and made aware the additional funding would come from his department’s account.

City Recorder Scott Ball confirmed Fowlkes has been made aware throughout the entire process.

A motion to approve the \$191,889.01 base bid from Bennett’s and the \$11,111.59 in additional funding from the cemetery account for the expansion cost was made by Alderman Dennis Moody and seconded by Alderman Willie Cole. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Report from Aldermen and Alderwomen:

Alderman James Baltimore: Alderman Baltimore asked board members to be in prayer for protection from COVID-19 and also asked for healing within the nation. Additionally, Baltimore encouraged citizens to take the COVID-19 vaccine and thanked all City employees for a job well done during the recent winter weather

Alderman Edward Burks: No report

Alderman Willie Cole: No report

Alderwoman Meghan Gilbert: No report

Alderman Ricky Hammond: No report

Alderwoman Mary Claire Hopper: Alderwoman Hopper stated she will try to reschedule the Street and Sanitation Committee meeting, which was canceled on February 17, 2021 due to the winter weather, for March 18.

Alderman Dennis Moody: Alderman Moody also thanked City employees for clearing the streets during the most recent round of winter weather and also the Water and Sewer departments for repairing broken water mains in below-freezing temperatures. Moody also praised the Dyer County Health Department and those involved in the vaccination process at the Dyer County Fairgrounds. He also encouraged citizens to take the COVID-19 vaccine

Alderwoman Vanedda Webb: Alderwoman Webb thanked City employees for the job done during the recent winter weather, and she also thanked Mayor Holden for getting out and checking on citizens.

Communications from the Mayor

In closing, Mayor Holden also thanked City employees for clearing roads and repairing broken water mains. He extended his thanks to Alderwoman Webb for her assistance in helping citizens complete surveys as part of the CDBG grant requirements.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



John Holden, Mayor



Scott Ball, City Recorder