

Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting

Monday, April 5, 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, April 5, 2021 via phone conference at 7:00 p.m. Mayor John Holden presided. The meeting opened with a prayer by Alderman James Baltimore. 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 March 1, 2021 meeting. Alderman Willie Cole made a motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Edwards Burks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- (3) **Unfinished Business:** None.

- (4) **New Business:**
 - A. Street/Sanitation Committee Minutes – March 25, 2021 – Alderwoman and Committee Chair Mary Claire Hopper reviewed the committee meeting minutes from March 25, 2021. The only action taken by the committee was to take the next step in the traffic-calming study, prepared by MTAS, for Westlake Street. Traffic-calming devises are similar to speed bumps.

On Monday, Hopper motioned to approve the committee's recommendation, to take the next step in the MTAS study including conducting a traffic count, with a second from Alderman Ricky Hammond. In a roll call vote, the motion passed with Alderman and committee member James Baltimore electing to pass on the vote.

 - B. Attorney Invoice – Mayor John Holden presented the Attorney Invoice for the month of February 2021 in the amount of \$2,074.50. A motion to approve the Attorney invoice was made by Alderman James Baltimore and seconded by Alderman Willie Cole. The Board approved the February 2021 attorney invoice unanimously by roll call vote.

C. Bids – Greg Williams –

Board members also reviewed a bid sheet prepared by City Purchasing Agent Greg Williams with one bid to review – a new landfill office for the solid waste department.

According to the bid sheet, \$55,000 was budgeted for the office building; however, the two bids received were over budget for a smaller building.

Williams recommended awarding the bid to Vanguard Modular Building Systems of Smyrna, Tennessee in the amount of \$59,066.

Alderman Edward Burks asked if the extra funds would come from the Solid Waste budget.

“This is a Capital Outlay project, and with the solid waste fund – as the water or gas funds – those projects don’t affect the budget like the General Fund. That would just come out of the Solid Waste fund,” replied Williams.

Board approval was needed since the total exceeded the budgeted amount.

A motion to approve the \$59,066 bid was made by Alderman Dennis Moody and seconded by Alderman Ricky Hammond. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Report from Aldermen and Alderwomen:

Alderman James Baltimore: Alderman Baltimore asked for everyone to be in prayer for the police officer killed in Washington, D.C. as well as all officers.

Alderman Edward Burks: Alderman Burks asked the status of completing the paving of Mall Blvd.

Scott Ball, City Recorder, said the City is waiting on the state to allow them to put the project out for bid.

Additionally, Burks asked if the City would be able to recover court costs from the pension plan trial, which the District Court of Appeals upheld Judge Lee Moore’s ruling in favor of the City.

“The City has had to pay, according to my calculations, over \$28,000 in attorney’s fees in the past 12 months to defend the appeal – of course we had no choice,” said Burks. “Does the City have any chance in recovering any of our legal fees?”

Mayor Holden said he has asked the City attorneys the same question, and John Lannom is looking into it.

Also, noting Gov. Bill Lee's executive order permitting electronic meetings is currently set to expire on April 28, Burks said the City needs to consider meeting in person.

"Regardless of whether he extends it past the 28th, I think we need to consider meeting in person again," Burks stated. "We've only had one in-person meeting since March 2 of last year. The COVID numbers are down, and the vaccine, I think, is available to all adults now. The County Commission is meeting in person. Our local businesses have been open in order to survive, and I think they should expect us to be open and meet in person."

Alderman Willie Cole: Alderman Cole shared his concerns about the ditch banks being overgrown with vegetation as the weather is beginning to get warmer.

"I believe last year we sprayed some. Is there any way we can look at spraying some of the big ditches that are growing?" Cole asked.

Mayor Holden said if a list of the ditches could be given to the City, they would look into it. He added some ditches belong to the City, while others do not.

Cole shared there are residents on the east side of town have reached out to him about houses needing to be demolished. He asked how the City could handle those issues.

"One of the issues is that the courts have been closed because of COVID and the order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Courts have just reopened recently," stated the mayor. "We have a backlog of cases that are going to court, and some of that involves houses that are scheduled for demolition."

He also shared he had spoken with Street and Water/Sewer Superintendent Mike McCulloch about receiving phone calls pertaining to a ditch not draining on Kist.

Alderwoman Meghan Gilbert: No report

Alderman Ricky Hammond: Alderman Hammond said recreation leagues did not occur in the fall due to COVID-19, however, he said there would be spring and summer sports.

"Registration has started at all of our recreation centers, and it's my understanding from talking with some of the directors that the numbers are still down," Hammond stated. "I just want to encourage people to get out and sign up."

Alderwoman Mary Claire Hopper: Alderwoman Hopper, referring to the court cases pertaining to property maintenance codes, asked if there was a date for when the courts would open.

Mayor Holden said he believed courts opened a couple weeks ago, and the City has 33 individuals cited to court on Wednesday for various property maintenance code violations.

Alderman Dennis Moody: Alderman Moody said he has received calls from citizens trying to clean up their yards to have others go through their bags and leave the contents out in the open.

“Is there anything we can do – if they can get a license number or something like that – and have those people in court?” Moody asked.

“We would have to witness some of that, as far as a police standpoint, but any information they can give us we can run it down and look into it,” replied Mayor Holden.

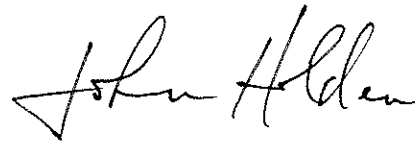
Alderwoman Vanedda Webb: No report

Communications from the Mayor

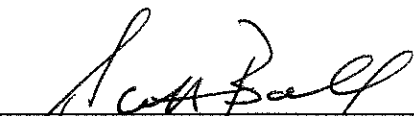
In closing, Mayor Holden, noting the recent bad weather, said the City has a community alert system, which alerts citizens to any community emergency that may occur. The service is free, and citizens can enroll by texting 38024 to 888777.

Additionally, the City of Dyersburg Spring Clean Up kicked off on Apr. 3 at Okeena Park, with the remaining dates being Apr. 10 (Dyersburg Activity Center), Apr. 17 (Bruce Community Center), and Apr. 24 (Future City Recreation Center).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



John Holden, Mayor



Scott Ball, City Recorder