

## **Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meeting**

**Monday, May 17, 2021**

- (1) **Call to Order:** The board of Mayor and Aldermen convened for their regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021 in the Dyersburg Municipal Court Room at 7:00pm. Mayor John Holden presided. The meeting opened with a prayer by Alderman Willie Cole. All members of the board were in attendance.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Holden called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 meeting. Alderman James Baltimore made a motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Willie Cole seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- (3) **Unfinished Business:** None.
- (4) **New Business:**

- A. **2020 Fire Department Annual Report – Chief Brett Sipes**

Chief Sipes began by giving a review of the 2020 Dyersburg Fire Department annual report.

“Everybody knows that 2020 was a very challenging year. We were fortunate to get through it with a minimal disruption of service,” said Sipes. “We had 17 firefighters in 2020 that had COVID and this year we’ve had 4 in 2021. So far, we’ve had 42 percent of our department vaccinated.”

In 2020, Dyersburg Fire Department made a total of 678 fire calls, an increase from the 661 in 2019, and a total of 2,533 EMS response calls, a drop from 2019 (2,673 total).

Speaking on the drop in EMS calls, Chief Sipes stated, “Most of that was due to COVID. People didn’t want us in their houses and didn’t want to go to the hospital.”

Sipes also noted the DFD improved its ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating from a Class 3 to Class 2, meaning the City is now in the 4.7 percent of the 41,177 communities surveyed in the U.S. and in the top 4.5 percent in the state. Nationwide, Dyersburg is one of only 1,597 communities surveyed who received a Class 2 rating.

He added the department logged over 5,950 hours of training in 2020 and over 1,800 inspections. As of May 13, Sipes said the department has a certified remote pilot through the FAA for a drone.

Additionally, Sipes recognized firefighter Doug DeSpain. DeSpain was announced as Dyersburg Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year for 2020 and was recently named the Tennessee Firemen's Association Firefighter of the Year last month.

"I'm proud of Doug and the fire department to have one of our own selected for this prestigious award," said Chief Sipes. "He has enthusiasm for the job, and you see that every day. He's always willing to help with any task and is always wanting to train."

"There are tons of guys over there at the fire department that could be standing right here right now," said DeSpain. "I can't name one that couldn't be here. It's a bunch of good guys, and they are here for the citizens. They will go to the end of the world for them."

DeSpain received a standing ovation from the full board.

## **B. Dyersburg Police**

DPD Chief Isbell then recognized several officers within the department – Officer Alex McCommon and Officer Dustin Holley (Police Life-Saving Ribbon), as well as Sgt. Logan Abbott, Field Training Officer Thomas Pollock, and Field Training Officer Mason Hammond (Police Merit Ribbon).

Officers McCommon and Holley responded to a call of an overdose. Upon arrival, Officer McCommon located a victim in the floor gasping for air and not responsive to officers. McCommon was informed the victim had an opioid addiction and administered NARCAN. Officer Holley arrived and also administered NARCAN due to the victim not showing signs of consciousness. Officers continued to take vitals on the victim and attempted to wake up the victim until EMS arrived. Shortly after their arrival, the victim regained consciousness. When officers arrived, the victims showed signs of lack of oxygen, and the victim was turning pale and his lips were turning blue.

"The actions by officers McCommon and Holley prolonged and saved the life of a victim overdosing on heroin. There's no doubt officers McCommon and Holley saved the life of the victim," Isbell stated.

Abbott, Pollock, and Hammond responded to the tunnel on Kist Ave. to a vehicle submerged in floodwaters. The caller, who was not the owner, was not sure if anyone was trapped inside the vehicle. The officers entered into the floodwaters for a possible water rescue, while rain continued to fall causing the tunnel and vehicle to fill with water.

Officers waded through hip- and chest-deep water to reach the submerged vehicle. They then had to break the window of the vehicle and move items around to perform a hand sweep to ensure no one was trapped inside or drowning. It was discovered the vehicle was abandoned.

“Officers arrived on the scene and did not hesitate to enter the water regardless of the risks they faced. These officers had not been trained on water rescues, yet, acted without hesitation,” stated Isbell.

The officers also received a standing ovation from the board members.

Isbell also recognized the entire department, noting the difficulties over the past year.

Additionally, Isbell noted last week was National Law Enforcement Memorial Week. He recognized former Dyersburg Investigator Frank Maynard as well as Lauderdale County Deputy Sheriff Kevin Maurice Ward, who lost their lives in the line of duty. Two of Deputy Ward’s children serve as members of the Dyersburg Police Department.

Chief Isbell ended his time at the podium reading a poem entitled ‘Final Inspection’.

**C. Attorney Invoice**

The board approved the attorney bill from March for the amount of \$2,429.75.

**D. Bids**

Also, board members reviewed a list of approved bids. The bid sheet, prepared by Purchasing Agent Greg Williams, listed the following:

- 2 ten-ton HVC air conditioners to replace failed units at the YMCA weight room

According to Williams, the item was budgeted under repair and maintenance. Notification was given through the State Gazette and direct to 3 vendors. Two responses were received with bids in the amounts of \$24,500 and \$27,984. The bid was awarded to Billy Rogers Plumbing of Dyersburg in the amount of \$24,500.

- 6 six cubic yard dumpsters and 5 eight cubic yard dumpsters for solid waste.

The item was budgeted under operating supplies. Notification was not given, however, the City used Sourcewell. The bid was awarded to Wastequip of Eagleville, Tenn. for \$12,415.

### **Report from Aldermen and Alderwomen:**

**James Baltimore:** Alderman Baltimore asked when the next Street Committee meeting would occur.

“Real soon,” replied Alderwoman Hopper.

**Edward Burks:** Alderman Burks remarked that it was good to meet in person again.

**Willie Cole:** Alderman Cole said he has had conversations with individuals in his Ward who are concerned about substandard housing on McClain and Central.

“They are subpar and need to be torn down. That’s their biggest concern,” said Cole.

Mayor Holden said the City is bringing in 30-35 individuals into court every week on property maintenance violations and added the courts opened back up last month.

“We’ve had a backlog of folks come to court, but we do that on Wednesdays,” said the Mayor. “We’re placing liens on properties, and if there is a specific house or area, please let us know and let Thomas [Mullins] and Kevin [Joslin] know.”

**Meaghan Gilbert:** No report

**Ricky Hammond:** Alderman Hammond asked if the board could revisit the mobile vendor ordinance and have a public hearing in the near future.

“Sure, we’d be more than happy to do that,” replied Mayor Holden.

**Mary Claire Hopper:** Alderwoman Hopper thanked Mullins and Joslin for responding to code enforcement calls pertaining to Concord Cove and Forcum.

**Dennis Moody:** Alderman Moody thanked Public Works for cleaning the debris from the recent storms.

**Vanessa Webb:** Alderwoman Webb thanked both the fire and police departments for their efforts and professionalism when responding to a recent automobile accident.

**Communications from the Mayor:**

Mayor Holden mentioned this week is National Public Works Week, and the City will hold a luncheon in recognition for public works employees Friday at the PDC.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Holden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

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**John Holden, Mayor**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Ball". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

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**Scott Ball, City Recorder**