

**City of Dyersburg**  
**Board of Mayor and Aldermen**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021**

1. **Call to Order:** The Board of Mayor and Aldermen convened for their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Dyersburg Municipal Court Room. Mayor John Holden presided. All members were present. The meeting opened with a prayer by Alderman Ricky Hammond.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mayor John Holden called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting. Alderman Baltimore made a motion to approve the minutes and Alderman Cole seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. **Unfinished Business:** None
4. **New Business:**

**A. Attorney Invoice:**

Mayor Holden also presented the attorney bill for the month of September in the amount of \$6,954.50. Alderman Baltimore motioned to approve the invoice with a second from Alderman Ricky Hammond. All were in favor.

**B. Street/Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2021 –  
Chairwoman Mary Claire Hopper**

Minutes from the Local Government and Street/Sanitation committee meetings, held on October 21, were read aloud by Alderwoman and committee chair Mary Claire Hopper.

In regard to the Street/Sanitation Committee meeting, the committee did not take any action, however, the majority of the meeting consisted of discussion pertaining to the curbside pick-up proposal from River City.

The proposal was initially brought before the committee on July 29 by River City representatives Jamie McCoy and David Schweitzer. McCoy proposed the City use 2 Heil automated trucks, which he mentioned could serve 1,600 homes per day, every household receiving a cart, and there be 2 City employees per truck. He also told the committee the annual savings would be \$423,6000 annually.

The committee did not vote on the proposal, however, Dyersburg Mayor John Holden said he would reach out to other mayors in municipalities who use River City's automated pick-up services.

When the committee reconvened on October 21, Mayor Holden said he had spoken with other cities, such as Bolivar, Lexington, and Jackson.

Greg Wilson, Sanitation Department Director, stressed if the City was interested in moving forward with the automated pick-up services, now would be the time to begin the process. Mayor Holden, who said he is not opposed to the service, shared a few concerns, such as the recent bankruptcy of Red River Waste and needing to ask the opinion of those in the community.

Mayor Holden recommended the River City reps, along with Wilson and City Treasurer Steve Anderson get together to hash out all of the numbers. The committee agreed with his recommendation.

On Monday, following the review of the minutes, Alderman Edward Burks noted he had received calls about the proposed service and asked, "The City of Dyersburg would pick up trash, we would just be leasing the trucks, correct?"

"Yes," replied Mary Claire Hopper. "They would just be the facilitators and bring the equipment to the City."

Alderman Ricky Hammond added if the City did move to the automated service the sanitation employees who would be cut from the department would be moved to other departments within the City.

Hopper added the meeting with the River City representatives, Anderson, Wilson, and herself was held earlier in the day Monday to hash out the initial costs, savings, etc.

Alderwoman Meghan Gilbert asked, "If this is something that we were going to pursue, what action would need to be taken sooner rather than later?"

"We actually need to have a Sanitation Committee meeting immediately, like tomorrow [Tuesday] or the first part of next week," Hopper said. "If this were to pass, in order to get this before the budget, basically July, we would need to get this passed before December. That is according to River City employees and Steve Anderson. That would be up to the committee."

Mayor Holden said the committee could hold a meeting; however proper notice (48 hours) would have to be given.

"Would that give us time to get some input?" asked Hammond.

"We've been talking about it for a month, and I've only gotten one phone call," replied Mayor Holden. "I don't know how many you all have got, but obviously this would be a big change in our community, so again, I would encourage folks to let your elected officials know your feelings on it."

**C. Local Government Committee Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2021 –  
Chairwoman Mary Claire Hopper**

Referring to the Local Government Committee minutes, the committee voted to make Juneteenth a paid holiday beginning in 2022 for City employees. The recommendation was presented before the full board.

Alderman James Baltimore motioned to observe Juneteenth as a holiday with a second from Alderwoman Mary Claire Hopper. All were in favor.

**D. Bids – Greg Williams**

There were no bids to discuss.

**REPORT FROM ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN**

**James Baltimore:** Alderman Baltimore commended Dyersburg Police Chief Steve Isbell and the entire department for their work and investigations regarding the recent shooting incidents.

**Edward Burks:** Alderman Burks said he is glad to see the road work being conducted on Parr Ave. He also noted several street lights were out around the court square. Burks asked if Dyersburg Electric is planning on replacing any of the lights.

Mayor Holden said the City has talked with and approved LED lighting to be installed by Dyersburg Electric downtown.

“That’s the next item on the agenda for Dyersburg Electric,” said Holden.

**Willie Cole:** Alderman Cole asked Hopper when the Street Department meets could they discuss the spraying of ditches when mowing resumes next spring.

**Meghan Gilbert:** Alderwoman Gilbert said she would like to schedule a Cemetery Committee meeting to discuss the updates regarding the expansion project at Fairview Cemetery.

**Ricky Hammond:** Alderman Hammond commented on the recent shooting incidents within the City.

“I don’t want to get on a soapbox, but we are putting resources in place to help combat some of this. Our biggest resource is not being used. Willie, it’s no secret that mine and your districts are the two biggest crime areas. You [Cole] said you have had people calling you about ditches. I have people calling me about ditches and potholes, and I do the same. We

should. Why are we not calling the police and not helping the police when there are crimes being committed? I don't get it. I'm going to ask the citizens, I'm going to ask the people in my district, and I'm going to ask this board to ask everybody in their district to please help. I guarantee these guys [police department] are doing everything they can do, but the biggest resource we have out there is ourselves."

Cole added, "Don't think that we don't talk in the community. The older people in the community are stressing out trying to get people to talk. We've been talking to people. There isn't a day that goes by that I do not communicate with people in my community about the need, the urgency [to talk]. We're fighting a lost generation, and if we don't do something there is going to be another lost generation. Do not think that we're not out there beating the bushes for you because we are."

**Mary Claire Hopper:** Alderwoman Hopper said she would like to finalize a date for a Street/Sanitation Committee meeting.

**Dennis Moody:** Alderman Moody, referring to Alderman Cole's concerns about spraying ditches, said the City had to suspend the spraying due to mandates by the state and federal governments.


"We used to do that and kept them in good shape, but you can't do that anymore because of the water runoff," said Moody.

**Vanedda Webb:** No report

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

In closing, Mayor Holden said loose-leaf pick-up will begin on Nov. 8.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.



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John Holden, Mayor



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Scott Ball, City Recorder