

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2020

The Jackson, Tennessee, City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the George A. Smith Meeting Room at City Hall with Mayor Scott Conger and Councilmembers Harvey Buchanan, David Cisco, Johnny Dodd; Russ McKelvey; Gary Pickens; Ross Priddy; Paul Taylor; and Marda Wallace present. Councilmember Ernest Brooks II was absent. Also present was Sharon Smith and Sandy Maxwell, who recorded the minutes.

Councilman Russ McKelvey gave the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PROCLAMATIONS:

There were no proclamations today, but a couple of recognitions. The Mayor presented Ms. Winnie Ingram with a key to the City of all of her personal and educational perseverance. The Mayor thanked Ms. Ingram for all of the inspiration that she has proved to all of us. The second recognition was for the newly formed Youth Council. The Mayor introduced each member and then swore in the Mayor's Youth Council.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Mayor gave an invitation for public comment of items on the first reading items.

FIRST READINGS:

The first reading item is the proposed budget amendment – Arts Access Grant. The Mayor called on Mr. Bobby Arnold to present. Mr. Arnold stated that it is the first reading on a proposed budget amendment to recognition a grant award that the City has received for the Art Access Award. The grant would be for \$4,500 with an in-kind match for \$4,500 that will be met with currently budgeted funds so that a total expenditure will be \$9,000. Mayor asked for questions from the Council. Councilman Priddy stated that it was his understanding that we moved some of the early retirement funds over to cover this. Mr. Arnold stated that the in-kind match would be met with

a budgeted fund that was budgeted from the salary line previously, that is no longer needed because of the early retirement. Councilman Priddy commented that he was concerned with the transfer of money for the retirement account might be setting a precedence for others to move at the ending of a budget line. Mr. Arnold answered that he did not view this as setting precedence; this is a case by case decision. The Mayor reminded Council that in the past, these grants have gone under budget amendments just as a single vote. Because they are required to have two reading, they are increasing the total amount of the budget. We have in past them in a two reading, and that's why it is in a different spot then it usually is; this is not the first time this Council has approved these grants. They have been approved in several years prior. Councilman Paul Taylor asked what the grants are used for? Mr. Arnold called on Tony Black to answer the question. He said the TN Art Council, pass-through grant; this is grant is to offsite any cost for entertainment. This grant is for the International Festival. Mayor asked for any other discussion from the Council or the public. There was none. On the motion, Councilman Cisco, seconded by Councilman Dodd. The motion carried with a unanimous vote on the first reading.

This was the time and place advertised for Consideration of an Ordinance to amend the text of the City Zoning Ordinance, ARTICLE V, SPECIAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS, Section 18. F-H (SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD) DISTRICT. Stan Pilant from City Planning presented the amendment. He explained that from time to time, FEMA would request that we make changes to our flood regulations, which they (FEMA) mandate as a part of the flood insurance program; that we have to adopt flood regulations. That is what we are doing today. They have changed a few items. Under regulation one, they have changed the agencies that are part of the state coordinating agencies and also a change to the administrator. It was the building official, but planning has been managing it for years. The third item is a request that when submitting a certificate of elevation, meaning that the finished floor will be one foot above elevation during construction. After construction is complete, the Mayor asked for any further discussion. On the

motion of Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SECOND READINGS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of a Resolution to urge the Tennessee General Assembly to enact a Private Act modifying Private Act of 180, Chapter 324, as modified by Private Act of 1985, Chapter 34 and Private Act of 2005, Chapter 65. Attorney Lewis Cobb explained that the Private Act and this resolution is to re-work the financial distribution of hotel/motel taxes to support the Great Wolf Lodge. The City Council will have to pass it by a two-thirds majority. This is merely a request to start the process, not the final step to approve the change. The Mayor asked for any further discussion. On the motion of Councilmember Dodd, seconded by Councilmember Wallace, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the Transfer of Lincoln Elementary Property. The Mayor called on Attorney Lewis Cobb and Attorney Richard Donnell. Attorney Donnell presented the support of the resolution to transfer of Lincoln Elementary School to Lane College. He read a direct quote from the overview proposal for the public information as to Lane College's position of the transfer.

"Lane College endeavors to implement a strategic plan that calls for the development of this ten-block initiative. It envisions the creation of the college's educational corridor; that we call it the Miracle Mile. It will encompass the geographical area along Lane Avenue, beginning and end at Highland Avenue on the west and Whitehall Street on the east. The possibility of the inclusion of the former Lincoln Elementary school building into our vision is critical to the completion of our overall strategy. The use of the building fits perfectly with our desire to have an edifice that can be used to train our student-teachers once the state approves our certification. As well as serve our students and in our East Jackson community in an array of cultural enrichment, and intellectual programs that we plan to establish. The college desires to take possession of the former school building to increase its instructional classroom space, recreational facilities, extend the impact of the ten-blocks initiative and create a multi-purpose Community Center for the Lane College and East Jackson community and neighborhood. Upon acquisition of the building, the college will immediately utilize the recreational space to support intramural sports teams, practices, and other college-related activities; the classrooms will be utilized for instructional purposes, as well as for our faculty offices and conference rooms. The college's ten-block initiative aims to positively impact the lives of children who live within ten blocks of Lane College. Through the initiative, our STEM student regularly engages children who attended the former Lincoln Elementary School. We do that now. We envision that the college will continue to deliver such programs for neighborhood children in the building. Particularly one of the aspects that we're most excited about is the use of the building as a Computer Center-Computer Access Center for

low income and high achieving students who live in the area." Quite often, the only access that these children have to a computer is in their school. Once they go home, all access to the Internet is lost. And as we know, a lot of educational matters are determined by the use of the Internet. So this is one particular aspect of the endeavor that we particularly look forward to. "I will state, however, that Lane College cannot do this alone. Please know that to make the above vision become a reality. "Lane College will need partners to make various projects viable. These anticipated partners will include the City of Jackson, Madison County, the Jackson-Madison County School System, community organizations, neighborhood organizations, fraternities, sororities, etc. We want to make it very, very clear that Lane College is not selfish in the use of this building for itself. We will reach out to the community, nonprofit organizations to allow the building to be used for their purposes as well. We've already reached out to SAACA, the Society for African American Cultural Awareness. We're reaching out to Jackson African American Chamber of Commerce, as well as other nonprofit organizations, because we want to be inclusive of the use of this building, and not exclusively use it for Lane College itself. So with that said, I'll be glad to answer any questions that the Council might have.

The Mayor asked if anyone that any questions for Attorney Donnell. Councilman Buchanan asked to speak about the excellent presentation from Lane College, and this is a significant step in reinventing and stabilizing our neighborhood. Councilman Paul Taylor asked Mr. Donnell, has Lane had an opportunity to review the facility in its current state. Mr. Donnell answered, Yes. Mr. Donnell answered, yes sir, we have gone through the building, and by looked at every aspect of the building to see the exact state it is now, and we are aware.

On the motion of Councilman Buchanan, seconded by Councilman Dodd, Councilman Paul Taylor asked Attorney Donnell if he was aware of the condition of the building. The Mayor asked for any further discussion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Consideration of invoices over \$10,000.00, motion by Councilman Cisco, seconded by Councilmember Buchanan, the Mayor asked for any further discussion, motion carried with a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



SCOTT CONGER, MAYOR