

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN (BMA)  
MINUTES FOR  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Tullahoma, Coffee and Franklin Counties, Tennessee assembled at the Municipal Building, in Tullahoma, for a meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Ray Knowis presiding and the following named members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen: Jenna Amacher, Daniel Berry, Rupa Blackwell, Jimmy Blanks, Robin Dunn and Sernobia McGee. All Board Members were present.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will conduct its essential business by electronic means rather than being required to gather a quorum of the members physically present in the same location because it is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans. This meeting is in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 71.

Jennifer Moody, City Administrator; Stephen M. Worsham, City Attorney and Rosemary Golden, City Recorder were present at the meeting.

The invocation was said by Rev. Jim Norman and he led us in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**COMMENDATIONS AND CERTIFICATES: - NONE -**

**PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION: - NONE -**

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:**

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, said that at the last meeting she had missed an email from Ms. Kimberly Harris. However, Ms. Moody said that the email would be included in the official minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting. In the email, Ms. Harris was calling for Alderman Amacher to resign.

Ms. Jennifer Moody, City Administrator, said she had received an email from Mr. Bryan and Christy Hayes. The email will become part of the official minutes of tonight's meeting. The Hayes' are in support of the City purchasing the 2.03 acre property at the "Y" intersection of Riley Creek and Ovoca Road. They said this purchase will allow the City to address the serious traffic safety concerns at the "Y" intersection that has and continues to plague the citizens in this area.

Mayor Ray Knowis stated he also received three (3) emails in support of the City attempting to purchase the 2.03 acre tract at the "Y" intersection of Riley Creek and Ovoca Road.

## **REPORTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

**MAYOR PRO TEM BLANKS** - Dr. Blanks stated he had attended a Duck River Utility Commission meeting. He said, "Thanks" to the TUA linemen for getting the power back on so quickly to the Tullahoma residents during the recent ice storm. He said, "Shop Tullahoma".

**ALDERMAN BERRY** - Mr. Berry stated he attended the fourth and final zoom class for the Elected Officials Academy. He attended a Coffee County Consolidated Communications Commission meeting where they fired the 911 director. He thanked all of the workers who helped with the ice storm damage.

**ALDERMAN AMACHER** - Ms. Amacher said both the Tree Board and the Tourism Council meeting have been rescheduled. The South Central Tourism Commission is trying to get a substantial grant. Ms. Amacher gave a small business "Shout Out" to: the Appliance Barn located at 207 North Anderson Street. The owners are Daniel and Kim Logan.

**ALDERMAN MCGEE** - Ms. McGee said she apologizes to Girl Scout Troop 2163 because she forgot to mention their troop number at our last meeting. She thanked the "First Responders" (Linemen, Police, Fire and TUA) for their effort during and after the recent winter storm. Ms. McGee attended a "We Care" committee meeting via zoom. Alderman McGee is planning an "Easter Egg Hunt" for the Community.

**ALDERMAN DUNN** - Ms. Dunn said she attended a virtual zoom meeting for the "We Care Committee" and it should be re-playing on Lighttube very soon. The "Go Green" committee is in the process of making a carbon footprint of where they are and where they can improve. She has asked if the Board would be willing to invite Mr. Jim Patterson (an Environmental Engineer) to do a study session on Storm Water Management. Alderman Dunn said the Farmer's Market will be giving away rain barrels on April 19.

**ALDERMAN BLACKWELL** - Ms. Blackwell said she attended several meeting and events including: a Planning Commission meeting; an Elected Officials Academy meeting and her Queso and Communication meeting. She thanked the TUA, Police, Fire and Public Works employees for all of their effort to keep us all safe during the bad weather recently. Ms. Blackwell said there will be an up-coming forum sponsored by the Community Council on Diversity and Inclusion regarding COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparity.

**MAYOR RAY KNOWIS** - Mr. Knowis stated he had attended both an Airport Authority meeting and a Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Knowis wanted to refer back to the last board meeting. He said he owed Alderman Amacher the opportunity to respond back to comments made about her. She declined. Mayor Knowis stated that tonight on television the “American Pickers” show would be featuring local residents, the Couch’s.

**CITY ATTORNEY** - Mr. Stephen M. Worsham stated he is working on several items for the City.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR** – Ms. Jennifer Moody thanked the employees and especially the Public Works, Fire and Police Departments for clearing approximately 30 trees off the roadway due to the ice and snow storm. The City used approximately 150 tons of salt for this storm. The Tullahoma Utility Authority also helped out. She asked the citizens to be patience with all of the brush cleanup that will happen over the next several weeks. Ms. Moody said the State Legislation is still in session. Governor Lee has proposed another one-time capital project grant to be given to Municipalities. There is an agenda item on tonight’s meeting regarding setting the date for the next City election, however the City has submitted a request to change our Private Act Charter to only have even year elections. She will keep us posted on the process. Ms. Moody said she misspoke at the last meeting; Ms. Shelia Ricco in the Recreation Department has received her Executive Certification.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**ITEM NO. 21-21– MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

**ITEM NO. 21-22 – ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,752, FROM THE TVA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT PROGRAM, TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA’S GO GREEN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

**ITEM NO. 21-23 – APPROVE ONE-YEAR RENEWAL OF A MUNICIPAL ADVISOR AGREEMENT WITH STEPHENS INC.**

**ITEM NO. 21-24 – ACKNOWLEDGE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITY OF TULLAHOMA’S DEBT POLICY, IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE INSTRUCTIONS.**

**ITEM NO. 21-25 – SET A DATE OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 FOR TULLAHOMA CITY ELECTIONS**

Mayor Knowis read the captions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and seconded by Alderman Blackwell to approve the items listed above on the consent agenda.

Alderman Dunn wanted it noted that for Agenda Item No. 21-22; the \$4,752 is a 100% grant and the funds do not need to be matched.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

**OLD BUSINESS: - NONE -**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM NO. 21-26 – APPROVE A PROJECT BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CITY WEBSITE, IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$40,000, AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE WITH CIVICPLUS**

Mayor Ray Knowis read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-26 and said the background information could be found starting on page 52 of the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanks and was seconded by Alderman Blackwell to approve a project budget for year one at an estimated amount of \$42,000 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Statement of Work and Contract with CivicPlus.

City Administrator, Ms. Jennifer Moody, said an attachment was sent out to the Board Members with the updated estimated amount at \$42,000.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

There were some technical difficulties with Mayor Ray Knowis' video and speakers. He remained on the conference call, however he asked Mayor Pro-Tem Blanks to conduct the rest of the meeting.

**ITEM NO. 21-27 – CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF 2.03 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY AT THE INTERSECTION OF OVOCA ROAD AND RILEY CREEK ROAD (COFFEE COUNTY TAX MAP 109, PARCEL 053.12)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Blanks read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-27 and he gave some background information.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and it was seconded by Alderman McGee to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate towards the acquisition of real property at the intersection of Ovoca Road and Riley Creek Road.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

**ITEM NO. 21-28 – CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR \$9,500 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TULLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL**

Mayor Pro-Tem read the caption for Agenda Item No. 21-28.

A motion was made by Alderman Blackwell and seconded by Alderman Berry to authorize the City Administrator to draft a budget amendment to amend the FY 2021 budget to provide an increase to the expenditure budget for the Arts Council of Tullahoma.

Mayor Pro-Tem Blanks gave the detailed background information and he gave some examples of what they intend to use the money towards.

A discussion ensued.

On roll call all members present voted aye and it was so ordered.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at this time, the Board Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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**CITY RECORDER**

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**MAYOR**