

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 8, 2024

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Henderson, Tennessee met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the City of Henderson City Hall. Present and presiding was Mayor Robert W. (Bobby) King. City Recorder Jim E. Garland called the roll with the following being present:

Aldermen: Mark A. Barber, Donna R. Butler, Buel Maness, Jason Rhodes, and
Keith Smith.
Absent: Michael Phelps.

Also present at the meeting were: City Recorder Jim E. Garland, City Attorney Jerry Spore, Police Captain Ricky Hardy, Building Official Brent Beshires, Public Works Director Carter Scales, Fire Chief Doug Acred, Utility Director Darryl Green, and Asst CMFO Alicia Holder.

Mayor King called the meeting to order at the appointed time. Alderman Maness gave the invocation, and Alderman Butler led the Pledge to the Flag. The following proceedings were entered here-to-wit:

The minutes of the previous regular meeting were presented for approval. Recorder Garland stated that he had clarification in some wording for the January minutes on page A3 regarding the absent voting and presented his update to the board members. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to accept the minutes with Recorder Garland's clarification, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried.

The accumulated accounts were presented for informational purposes. Ald. Smith referred to page B2, line item #50, a payment to Jackson Madison County General Hospital of \$54.00 for a new hire physical and stated that he thought we did these in town. Recorder Garland stated that the physicals are completed at Prime Care which is now owned by JMCGH, so the billing looks different.

Ald. Butler asked if there was more conversation regarding the gas main at Clover Creek (B2, #71) and UD Green stated it was a budgeted item and was done on a miscellaneous contract.

There being no further questions on the accounts, the meeting continued.

The first item on the agenda was a call for delegations to address the board.

1. Project Graduation: Several members of the senior class were in attendance. Senior Class President Daisy McManus addressed the board stating that graduation was on May 13th and Project Graduation will be held the same night. She is asking the board for a donation to help provide a safe, drug-free night of fun for the graduating class. Mayor King stated that they budget \$500.00 each year for this cause and typically the police

department will match the \$500.00. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Barber to approve the \$500.00 donation for project graduation from the city with an additional \$500.00 from the police department, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried. The total amount to be donated to Project Graduation for 2024 is \$1000.00 (\$500.00 each from the city and the police department).

There being no further delegations, the meeting continued.

The next item on the agenda was to consider an ordinance on the final reading amending the Personnel Policy to reflect the elimination of the TCRS six-month probationary period. Recorder Garland stated that our new employees must wait six months before they are enrolled in TCRS at a mandatory 5% withholding. An employee would have to ‘buy back’ the first six months to get that credit before retiring. We recently had new team members who are in TCRS from another job that according to TCRS means we would ‘waive’ the six-month wait period and get them enrolled effective day one of employment. Recorder Garland stated that Ordinance #567 amends the personnel policy section stating the change that was made the previous month. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Smith to adopt Ordinance #567 that amends the personnel policy TCRS change, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes on the final reading. Upon a roll call vote, the following was cast on the final reading:

Ayes: Mark A. Barber, Donna R. Butler, Buel Maness, Jason Rhodes and Keith Smith.
Absent and not voting: Michael Phelps
Noes: None.

Mayor King declared Ordinance #567, as approved on the final reading.

The next item on the agenda was to consider bids received on the TDEC ARP North Ave Water Line Replacement Project. UD Green stated that this project starts at Fourth Street on North Avenue and goes down to Seventh Street. This project includes abandoning the cast iron lines down North Avenue, moving everyone to new lines, moving the fire hydrants to new lines, and milling North Avenue. This is paid for with the ARP Grant and the city matching funds. He is looking for work to start in approximately one month after approval from the ARP funding Agency. There were two bids received. R. Jones Underground, Inc. was the low bid at \$588,281.50. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Smith to accept the low bid from R. Jones Underground, upon state approval of the funding, duly 2nd, by Ald. Barber. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to consider bids on the mowing of the City Cemeteries for the 2024 season. Recorder Garland stated that there were three bids received – two of them being local. The low bid is from Bob’s Landscaping located in Henderson. Recorder Garland did not know anything about them so he did a follow-up phone call and found that the company is owned by Jared Cupples, he has been in business for four years, has four employees, and mows the Riverside Cemetery in Jackson. Recorder Garland asked for references, a list of his equipment, a business license, liability insurance, and proof of worker’s compensation insurance – which Mr. Cupples is working on getting. Recorder Garland asked the board to give the Mayor, PWD Scales, and himself authorization to accept the low bid. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ald. Barber to allow Mayor King, Recorder Garland, and PWD Scales to accept the low bid once the references are checked and additional information is received, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to hear a report from Fire Chief Doug Acred on plans to apply for AFG Grants as well as an update on the existing CDBG Fire Truck Grant and the Volunteer FD Equipment Grant. Chief Acred stated the AFG Grant is now open and the plan is to apply for a micro-grant for \$75,000.00 with a 5% city match to purchase radios. He also stated that they have an opportunity to apply for a ladder truck through an AFG Grant.

The update on the existing CDBG Grant request for a new fire truck is that we are still in a holding pattern while waiting for the state to issue the grant contract..

Lastly, the Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Grand is a grant from the State Fire Marshall office. He applied and was awarded \$48,270.00. There is no city match required. This is to start on March 1, 2024, and will be used to purchase supply hoses and three thermal imaging cameras.

The next item on the agenda was Utility Director Darryl Green will update board members of the recent repairs made to the Water Plant Generator. UD Green stated that this was a very large generator that is needed for back-up. It runs high-service pumps for water to the community for extended power outages and also supplies power to one of our wells. Even though it has been properly maintained, over time it has become unreliable in the event of an extended outage. This is not only essential for the community it is essential for fire protection. He had Thompson Power remove the radiator and hoses. They did an extensive amount of work on the generator and all the parts and hoses. This was a significant repair and the cost was \$11,202.28. Mayor King approved the repair due to it being an emergency. He is bringing it to the board for review and asking them to approve his decision. A motion was made by Ald. Butler to approve Mayor King's decision to spend the money for the repairs as presented, duly 2nd by Ald. Smith. Motion carried.

Any other Business:

1. Set a date/time for a Work Session to kick off the 24-25 budget discussions. Recorder Garland stated that he was looking for some time to start looking at budgets. This is earlier than normal. He has tentative dates of Tuesday, February 27th, or Thursday, February 29th. It was decided by members in attendance to meet on Tuesday, February 27th at 5:30. Mayor King stated that they are looking at revenues now compared to before COVID and wants to be sure everyone is on the same page.
2. Mayor King stated that the board awarded the Carl Perkins Center \$40,000.00 last year but as of the end of January, they had not asked for the funds. He reached out to them to submit a letter for the approved amount. The director sent the letter on February 6, 2024. A motion was made by Ald. Barber to award the \$40,000 donation to the Carl Perkins Center based on the letter received, duly 2nd by Ald. Smith. Motion carried.

Police Captain Hardy stated they were still short-staffed.

UD Green stated that they had the compliance evaluation inspection for the North Lagoon completed with only a few things that are in the budget with the ARPA money. He also wanted to comment on the amount of gas purchased and sold during the extreme cold weather and stated that we faired very well in comparison to surrounding cities.

Ald. Smith referred to the P&L report and was happy that the water, gas, and sewer rates were all positive. UD Green stated that the cost per BTU was down and that helped.

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Ald. Smith then stated that he was surprised about the annual cell tower income payment of \$66,000.00 and asked for the details. Recorder Garland stated that former UD Roy Hayley signed this agreement 20 years ago with a utility service company based out of Perry GA. They lease water towers for cell company towers. There is a lease on the East tank. There have been questions about the contract for years. Recorder Garland will find the contract and get with Attorney Spore to review it. A motion was made by Ald. Smith to find the contract and have it reviewed by the city attorney, duly 2nd by Ald. Butler. Motion carried.

Mayor King thanked the Public Works, Utility, Fire, and Police Departments for their hard work during the snow, frigid temperature event in January. He was proud that the city did not close.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ald. Butler to adjourn, duly 2nd by Ald. Rhodes. Motion carried.

Signed: Robert W. King
APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

Signed: Jim E. Garland
ATTEST: _____, CITY RECORDER