

**OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Hybrid Meeting

March 8, 2021

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee convened at 7:00 p.m. on March 8, 2021 with Mayor Warren Gooch presiding. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and under the authority of Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order Nos. 16, 34, 51, 60, 65, and 71 and 78, the meeting was hybrid with members and the public having the option to participate by audio or video conferencing.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Darrell Cook, Oak Ridge Police Department Chaplain.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Derrick Hammond.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call the following Councilmembers were present: Councilmember Kelly Callison; Mayor Pro Tem Rick Chinn, Jr.; Councilmember Jim Dodson; Mayor Warren Gooch; Councilmember Derrick Hammond; and Councilmember Charles J. Hope, Jr. and Councilmember Ellen Smith. All Councilmembers attended the meeting in person.

Also present were Mark S. Watson, City Manager; Tammy Dunn, City Attorney; Janice McGinnis, Finance Director; and Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PUBLIC RECOGNITIONS**

*Presentation by Dr. Thomas Zacharia, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director, and Jeff Smith, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.*

Dr. Zacharia and Mr. Smith presented the City of Oak Ridge with a check for \$500,000 toward the airport project.

*Presentation and Swearing-In of Jack Suggs as Deputy City Manager by City Manager Mark Watson*

City Manager Mark Watson introduced Electric Department Director Jack Suggs as the new Deputy City Manager and administered his oath of office.

*Introduction of Fire Marshal Eric Rackard and Battalion Chief Ray Burney – City Manager Mark Watson and Fire Chief Travis Solomon*

Dr. Watson and Fire Chief Solomon introduced new Fire Marshal Eric Rackard and new Battalion Chief Ray Burney.

*Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Achievement Awards Presentation*

Brad Spears, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, presented achievement awards to community volunteer Joe Mason, former Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Member Ray Garrett, and the Recreation and Parks Department.

*A proclamation designating March 12, 2021 as Arbor Day*

Councilmember Smith moved for approval of the proclamation, and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

*A proclamation designating April 11, 2021 as Holocaust Remembrance Day*

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the proclamation, and Councilmember Callison seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

*A proclamation paying tribute to David Mason*

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the proclamation, and Councilmember Callison seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

*A proclamation paying tribute to James Cox, Founder of Little Ponderosa Zoo and Rescue*

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for approval of the proclamation, and Mayor Gooch seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

*A proclamation recognizing Megan Lingerfelt for Painting of the Mural on the Oak Ridge Rowing Association Boathouse*

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the proclamation, and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

*A proclamation designating April 4-10, 2021 as National Library Week*

Councilmember Hammond moved for approval of the proclamation, and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn seconded. The proclamation was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

a. Transmittal of the Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Years 2022-2027 – Stephen Whitson, Chair, Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission  
Planning Commission Chair Stephen Whitson presented the Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal Years 2022-2027 for official transmittal to City Council. The report was received for the record.

b. FY2020 Audit Report – Conor O'Donoghue and Julie Hayes, Coulter & Justus  
Conor O'Donoghue and Julie Hayes with Coulter & Justus presented the FY2020 Audit Report to Council virtually. Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved to accept the report, and Councilmember Callison seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Hope requested that the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH PIPER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO THE OAK RIDGE CORRIDOR VIDEO PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00.

Councilmember Hammond requested that the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE UPDATED BYLAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE OAK RIDGE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the Consent Agenda as amended, and Councilmember Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Approval of the February 8, 2021 City Council regular meeting minutes

**Resolution No. 3-22-2021**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, THREE GRANTS FROM PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS (PEP) IN THE TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$12,000.00; SAID GRANTS EACH REQUIRING A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) LOCAL MATCH.

**Resolution No. 3-23-2021**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCESS TO OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE (STATE ROUTE 95) FOR THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FACILITY TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT 3067 OAK RIDGE TURNPIKE.

**Resolution No. 3-24-2021**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOULFUL CUP, LLC, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, TO LEASE SPACE OWNED BY THE CITY AND TO PERFORM CONCESSION SERVICES AT TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL GOLF CORSE IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR PERCENT (4%) OF GROSS MONTHLY CONCESSION REVENUE OR \$500.00, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

**Resolution No. 3-25-2021**

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY CODE §5-404 TO SOUTHERN SALES COMPANY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR SERVICES FOR A CLARIFIER AT THE TURTLE PARK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,000.00.

The two items that were removed from the Consent Agenda were taken up next.

**Resolution No. 3-26-2021**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH PIPER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO THE OAK RIDGE CORRIDOR VIDEO PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Dodson seconded. Senior Communications Specialist Lauren Gray provided an overview of the resolution and answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved unanimously by roll call vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE UPDATED BYLAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE OAK RIDGE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. Community Development Director Wayne Blasius provided an overview of the resolution and answered questions from Council.

After discussion, Councilmember Smith moved to send postpone action on the resolution and send the draft of the bylaws back to Planning Commission for additional review, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. The motion was approved by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, and Mayor Gooch voting "Aye" and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "No."

**PUBLIC HEARING OF RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 3-27-2021**

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN'S LAND USE PLAN MAP FOR PARCELS 002.01, 002.02, 002.10, 002.20, 002.21, 002.22, 002.23, 002.24, AND 002.25, ANDERSON COUNTY TAX MAP 106G, GROUP A, LOCATED AT SUMMIT DRIVE, FROM O, OFFICE, TO R, RESIDENTIAL.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Hope seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Hope seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Seeing not citizen who wished to address Council on this item, Councilmember Callison moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Hammond seconded.

Community Development Director Wayne Blasius provided an overview of the resolution and answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye," and Councilmember Smith voting "No."

**FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance No. 5-2021**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2, TITLED "THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE," BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP WHICH IS MADE A PART OF THE ORDINANCE BY CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS WHICH ARE ALL LOCATED ON SUMMIT DRIVE AND CONTAINED WITHIN ANDERSON COUNTY TAX MAP 106G, GROUP A: PARCELS 002.01, 002.21, 002.22, AND 002.23, APPROXIMATELY 11.95 ACRES, FROM O-2, OFFICE, TO R-4-C, MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; PARCELS 002.02, 002.10, AND 002.25, APPROXIMATELY 21.77 ACRES, FROM O-2, OFFICE, AND IND-2, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, TO R-4-C, MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; AND PARCELS 002.20 AND 002.24, APPROXIMATELY 48.99 ACRES, FROM IND-2, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, TO R-2, LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn moved for adoption of the ordinance, and Councilmember Dodson seconded.

The ordinance was adopted unanimously by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 3-28-2021**

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER SEVEN (7) CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTIES TO THE OAK RIDGE LAND BANK CORPORATION FOR DISPOSITION AS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION 11-108-2013.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded.

The resolution was approved unanimously by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**Resolution No. 3-29-2021**

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS CITY COUNCIL'S INTENT TO ACQUIRE THE REAL PROPERTIES ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OAK RIDGE GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PURSUE

**SAID ACQUISITION UTILIZING AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDS.**

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution and answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved unanimously by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**Resolution No. 3-30-2021**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF INTENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AND THE COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION OF EAST TENNESSEE (CROET) REGARDING ACQUISITION OF CROET-OWNED LAND AS PART OF THE OAK RIDGE GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT.**

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution and answered questions from Council.

The resolution was approved unanimously by board vote with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

**APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

David Kitzmiller, 144 Wellington Lane, Oak Ridge, addressed Council regarding the need for affordable single-family homes in the city.

Don Barkman, 120 Westview Lane, Oak Ridge, addressed Council virtually regarding various emails that he has been sending to Council pertaining to the motorsports park and various other issues. He asked if Councilmembers had any questions or feedback from him. Several Councilmembers stated that his emails have been very thought-provoking and informative.

Doug Colclaire, 103 Monticello Road, Oak Ridge, addressed Council virtually regarding the proposed motorsports park and referenced other possible uses for the Horizon Center property that would not be as invasive to the surrounding environment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING**

**Announcements**

Councilmember Dodson announced that there would be an event on March 11, 2021 at the Children's Museum where artwork and poems by various students commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of school desegregation would be on display.

Councilmember Smith stated that she would be attending the National League of Cities spring meeting online and was expecting some interesting news for local governments in President Biden's American Rescue Plan. She also gave a brief update on COVID-19, stating that infection levels are back down to what they were in October and vaccinations are proceeding with twenty percent of Anderson County residents over 15 having at least one shot.

Mayor Pro Tem Chinn stated that there are 217 new multifamily units being built on Tulane Avenue. He also reminded Council about the Arbor Day ceremony on Friday at 10:00 a.m. at Linden School.

**Scheduling**

**COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS OR FUTURE BRIEFINGS**

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Mark Watson stated that he was asking Fire Chief Travis Solomon to give a weekly summary as to who is getting the vaccines and who is not.

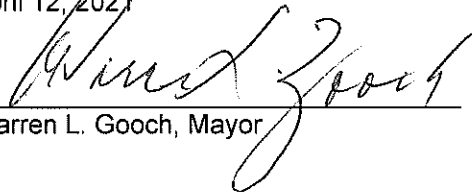
**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Tammy Dunn introduced Council to new Senior Staff Attorney Alex Cramer.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:04 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL  
April 12, 2021

  
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Warren L. Gooch, Mayor