

OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Virtual Meeting

February 8, 2021

Minutes

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 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, the meeting was held via electronic video-conferencing.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Bishop Donald Montieth, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Manager Mark Watson.

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.

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

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Elect one (1) Hotel Representative to the Convention and Visitors Bureau/Explore Oak Ridge Board of Directors.

Micaelyn Middleton was elected on the first ballot by acclamation.

Elect three (3) members to the Health and Educational Facilities Board.

Rhenda Asbell, Joshua Cunningham, and Richard Wallace were elected on the first ballot.

Richard Wallace was elected to serve the balance of an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2021. Joshua Cunningham was elected to serve the balance of an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2024. Rhenda Asbell was elected to serve the balance of an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2026.

Elect one (1) member to the Industrial Development Board.

J.R. Hertwig was elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) member to the Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission.

Greta Ownby was elected on the first ballot.

Elect one (1) representative to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Kelly McCampbell was elected on the first ballot.

Elect three (3) representatives to the Senior Advisory Board.

Steven Barker, Lindsey McElvy, and Brandy Sales were elected on the first ballot.

Elect a City Council Representative to the Oak Ridge Land Bank Corporation Board of Directors

Councilmember Hope moved that Councilmember Kelly Callison be elected as the City Council representative to the Land Bank, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments

Councilmember Callison moved to confirm the appointment of Richard Chinn and Thomas Tuck to the Anderson County Development Corporation Board of Directors and Todd Wilson to the Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission, and Councilmember Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

PROCLAMATIONS AND PUBLIC RECOGNITIONS

A proclamation recognizing the Oak Ridge Sportsmen's Association on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. 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."

SPECIAL REPORTS

(NONE)

Mayor Gooch recommended amending the agenda to call up the following items out of order for consideration:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MORE FORWARD WITH AN ESTIMATED \$7,400,000 ENERGY SAVINGS AND HVAC PROJECT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES WITH ENERGY SYSTEMS GROUP, LLC, SUBJECT TO CERETAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OAK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION SETTING FORTH THE SCHOOLS' ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT OBLIGATION TO THE CITY FOR AN ENERGY SAVINGS AND HVAC PROJECT WITH ENERGY SYSTEMS GROUP, LLC FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Councilmember Hope moved to amend the agenda to call up these two resolutions, and Councilmember Hammond seconded.

Resolution No. 2-11-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MORE FORWARD WITH AN ESTIMATED \$7,400,000 ENERGY SAVINGS AND HVAC PROJECT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES WITH ENERGY SYSTEMS GROUP, LLC, SUBJECT TO CERETAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET.

Mayor Gooch moved to bring up a substitute resolution, and Councilmember Hope seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution, and Russ Nelson with Energy Systems Group, LLC 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."

Resolution No. 2-12-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OAK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION SETTING FORTH THE SCHOOLS' ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT OBLIGATION TO THE CITY FOR AN ENERGY SAVINGS AND HVAC PROJECT WITH ENERGY SYSTEMS GROUP, LLC FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Councilmember Smith moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Hammond seconded. City Manager Mark Watson 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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gooch requested that the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

A RESOLUTION GIVING THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONCURRENCE TO THE OAK RIDGE LAND BANK CORPORATION TO BORROW FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$900,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN THE WILSON STREET CORRIDOR FOR RESALE.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the Consent Agenda as amended, and Councilmember Smith seconded.

Approval of the January 11, 2021 City Council regular meeting minutes and the January 19, 2021 City Council special meeting minutes.

Resolution No. 2-13-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, A TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC (TOP) GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00, WITH A LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT OF TWENTY PERCENT (20%) (MAXIMUM OF \$4,000.00).

Resolution No. 2-14-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$199,447.90, WITH A LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT OF \$19,944.79 FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF \$219,392.69.

Resolution No. 2-15-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.00 FOR COVID-19 RELATED WASTEWATER SAMPLING WITH SIREM, A DIVISION OF GEOSYNTEC.

Resolution No. 2-16-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, A HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FROM THE TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00.

Resolution No. 2-17-2021

A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE CITY'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, THE ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION, AND THE ANDERSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

WHICH EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2020, BY ONE YEAR FOR A NEW TERM ENDING DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2021.

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

Resolution No. 2-18-2021

A RESOLUTION GIVING THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONCURRENCE TO THE OAK RIDGE LAND BANK CORPORATION TO BORROW FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$900,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN THE WILSON STREET CORRIDOR FOR RESALE.

Councilmember Smith moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Callison seconded. City Manager Mark Watson provided an overview of the resolution and Charlie Jernigan, Chair of the Land Bank, 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."

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

Councilmember Dodson moved that, at the request of the City Manager and the City Attorney, the following item be removed from the agenda, and Councilmember Hammond seconded:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2, TITLED "THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE," BY CREATING A NEW SECTION 9.11, TITLED "SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT (SRD)"; AMENDING ARTICLE II, TITLED "DEFINITIONS," TO ADD A DEFINITION OF "MOTOR SPORTS PARK"; AMENDING SECTION 3.18, TITLED "TEMPORARY USE PERMITS," TO CREATE A NEW SUBSECTION (J) FOR OVERFLOW PARKING IN THE SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT; AMENDING SECTION 14.03, TITLED "MATRIX," TO ADD THE SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT; AMENDING SECTION 14.12, TITLED "SIGNS FOR COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICTS," SUBSECTION 1.(H), TITLED "DEVELOPMENT ENTRY SIGNS," TO ADD THE SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT AND TO CREATE A NEW SUBSECTION 1.(I), TITLED "RECREATION FACILITIES"; AMENDING SECTION 16.12, TITLED "USES REQUIRING PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL," SUBSECTION (A) TO ADD THE SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT; AND AMENDING ARTICLE XIII, TITLED "LANDSCAPING AND DESIGN STANDARDS," FIGURE 13.04(A-B) TO ADD THE SPECIAL RECREATION DISTRICT.

The motion to remove the item from the agenda was approved unanimously with Councilmembers Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting "Aye."

FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 3-2021

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE CROSSROADS AT WOLF CREEK SUBDIVISION FOR PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE BY THE CITY.

Councilmember Callison moved for adoption of the ordinance, and Councilmember Hammond seconded.

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

Ordinance No. 4-2021

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 ANDERSON COUNTY TAX MAP 100B, GROUP D, PARCEL 006.00, LOCATED AT 689 EMORY VALLEY ROAD, CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 0.83 ACRES, FROM O-1, OFFICE TO O-2, OFFICE.

Councilmember Dodson moved to approve the ordinance, and Councilmember Smith seconded.

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

The ordinance was approved unanimously by roll call vote, with Councilmember Callison, Dodson, Hammond, Hope, Smith, Mayor Gooch and Mayor Pro Tem Chinn voting “Aye.”

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2-19-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND RESIDENT OBSERVATION DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND TRANSMISSION MAIN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,877,507.00.

Mayor Gooch moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Smith seconded. Public Works Director Shira McWaters 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.”

Resolution No. 2-20-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LDA ENGINEERING, ALCOA, TENNESSEE, FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND RESIDENT OBSERVATION FOR THE CITY’S SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$195,000.00.

Councilmember Dodson moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Smith seconded. Public Works Director Shira McWaters 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.”

Resolution No. 2-21-2021

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WASTEWATER FACILITIES PROJECT, INCLUDING AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, AND MAKING CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND PLEDGES OF CERTAIN REVENUE IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH FINANCING.

Councilmember Callison moved for approval of the resolution, and Councilmember Smith seconded. Councilmember Kelly Callison, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, 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.”

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS

Willem Blokland, 120 Newell Lane, Oak Ridge, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

Don Barkman, 120 Westview Lane, Oak Ridge, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

Dr. Tanya Vargas, 117 Winchester Circle, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park,

Mitchell Ishmael, 170 N. Seneca Road, Oak Ridge, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

Robert Kennedy, 209 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, and Chair of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

Scott Keener, 129 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

Elane Streets, 205 Whippoorwill Drive, Oak Ridge, addressed Council in opposition to the proposed motorsports park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

(NONE)

Scheduling

City Manager Mark Watson stated that there would be a Work Session on February 16th and a Budget and Finance Committee on February 17th.

COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS OR FUTURE BRIEFINGS

Councilmember Hammond requested an update on efforts against COVID-19. City Manager Watson stated that based on action taken tonight, the City will continue to test, including testing for the UK variant. Senior Advisory Board member Dr. Elaine Bunick is working with Fire Chief Solomon to get folks living independently access to vaccines. Councilmember Smith stated that citizens are anxious about whether or not they are still on the list for vaccines. She contacted the state Health Commissioner's office and was told that they are working on getting software that would track the status of people who sign up online for vaccination appointments.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Watson stated that there are two public meetings coming up about the Gateway Sign Project – one on February 17th from 9:30-10:15 a.m. and one on February 18th from 3:00-3:45 p.m.

The City Manager also stated that the City has offered to use the senior center as a drive-thru facility.


CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

(NONE)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:43 p.m.


Mary Beth Hickman, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
March 8, 2021


Warren L. Gooch, Mayor