

# Special Call City Meeting Of February 20, 2024

Mayor Shaw called the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 9:05 a.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The meeting was held at City Hall.

## **Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Shaw, Alderman Harrison, Alderman Martin, Alderman Gregory, Vice Mayor Senft, Kelly Rider, City Recorder

Absent: Attorney Russell Freeman

## **Invocation**

Bro. Dan Russell offered invocation. Mayor Shaw led the pledge of allegiance.

## **Citizen Comments**

Brent Martin

*Board of Mayor and Alderman and the Comptroller's office for the purpose of discussing questions and concerns of the council*

Mayor Shaw noted that as everyone is aware the city on an annual basis goes through an extensive audit with Crosslin. Mayor Shaw asked the question of the comptroller's office if there were any signs of any improprieties, wrongdoing, malfeasance, corruption that had been reported to the comptroller's office. Mr. Steve Osborne responded he would not be privy to that information, but as elected staff if you know of that the law states you must report it. Mr. Osborne stated the two divisions as separate but if it is reported the auditor has a duty to look for this and to report if they see anything. He stated he couldn't speak for the auditor or the audit division, but he knew there were mechanisms in place if fraud or waste abuse were seen or reported.

Alderman Martin stated she had a letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury that was dated July that was addressed to the Mayor and Board of Alderman after the Comptroller Office received the financials. Alderman Martin stated she did not receive a copy and stated her comment is they should have all gotten a copy of it. Alderman Martin stated she does not have the expertise and does not have the knowledge to know if this is an issue, but there was a comment in there that did not sound good to her. She stated the letter was reported in the minutes, but it did not include the comment on what she believed to be an issue. She stated that none of the board as far as she could tell had any knowledge of this comment or whether or not it meant anything. She stated her point was that each of the board members should receive a copy of anything coming into the board of Mayor and Alderman, in her opinion. Kelly Rider confirmed and stated this is the letter that initiated the discussion between the city and MTAS concerning a gas rate study. Mayor Shaw stated this letter was distributed and was what initiated the need for the gas rate study.

Mr. Osborne stated the letter was the audit letter and actually came out under his signature. He stated the letter was not only to notify you of receipt of your budget but also of the recent law change that the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulations now oversees gas. He stated they have not overseen gas funds in the past. This was the first year, and there is a hold harmless period to let everyone know this is happening in your gas fund. It is showing a negative change in net assets to prevent you from being under the board in the future two years from now. He stated the city's action in this case is exactly what they are hoping for, to step back and take a look at the actions of the gas fund and make necessary changes. He stated a rate study is the perfect outcome. Mr. Osborne stated that every letter leaving his office is also on their website. Mr. Osborne stated the reaction to the budget letter was sufficient.

Mayor Shaw stated another question that has come up is that at city meetings we are not giving out all the appropriate documents/information. Mayor Shaw asked Mr. Osborne what is required to be given out. Mr. Osborne stated he is not speaking for open records council but per the law he is not aware of anything other than when they send a letter and ask for it to be given to Mayor and Board of Alderman.

Mr. Osborne stated he distributed some documentation on steps to a well-managed budget. He stated what they were seeing was a lot of budgets being overspent in the prior year audit. That is what caused them to write this document. What also came out of this was a lot of questions and they outlined frequently asked questions.

Alderman Martin stated she had been asked why you couldn't see specifically how much employees get paid and stated she is over streets and wondered how she could see what has been paid per street instead of being lumped into one. She asked Mr. Osborne if this is something we can do by breaking it out into a project. Mr. Osborne stated he wasn't aware of any law that stated you had to tell people salaries up front. He stated this is all an open record. He stated the state publishes all employees' salaries on their website, but he isn't aware of a need to do so. He stated he has looked at a lot of budgets and most cities give salaries on one line. Mr. Osborne stated breaking down a capital project would not happen in a financial statement or a budget report and to his knowledge does not have to.

Mayor Shaw asked what documents required by law should be presented to our citizens at our meetings. Mr. Osborne stated when issuing debt, you would have a resolution and should be published in the newspaper if a GO Bond or Revenue Bond. The Budget Public Notice must be published 10 days prior to adoption. Mr. Osborne explained that all funds must be reported in your Budget Ordinance.

Mayor Shaw stated that we want to be as open and upfront as we can at all times. We respond to open records requests when made. Mayor Shaw stated his main concern is honesty, integrity and we want to live by it. He stated that is the purpose of why we are here today because there have been inquiries that we are doing things wrong. He stated he is unaware of any but if there are things we are doing wrong he would like to know so they can be corrected. Mayor Shaw stated he firmly believes with our office staff, as tight as they are on rules and regulations, we are doing things the way we are supposed to do them. He stated we are here today to see what we can do to improve.

Alderman Martin asked why everything wasn't in the public packet. Mayor Shaw asked if it needs to be in the packet if we are reading the report during the meeting.

Kelly Rider stated she prepares a budget conservatively and does not inflate the revenues. Mr. Osborne stated they completely agree. He stated it is better to be a little surprised than a little upset at the end of the year. He stated you heard me tell stories of what happens when you don't take that mentality, you end up broke and we have a different conversation. Mr. Osborne stated he completely agrees with not overextending but being conservative.

Mayor Shaw stated we submit and get approval for budgets on an annual basis and have had no issues that he is aware of. He assumes the budget must be satisfactory for approval. Mr. Osborne stated he could expand on that and explained the three basic types of audits.

Alderman Harrison asked if they reviewed historical budgets. Mr. Lester stated he did not review our budget but did go back and familiarize himself with it, and he did not see anything concerning with the budget. He stated the only issue that was addressed was the gas fund with a -1% increase. He stated he believed that was the only thing keeping the city from the budget certificate which is like their gold star approval.

Vice Mayor Senft asked Mr. Osborne where the city fell in the three levels of approval. Mr. Osborne stated the city was at the top with approval. Mr. Osborne stated the city had approval of the one caveat of the gas department, and the city has taken the correct response by having a rate study.

Mayor Shaw stated he commends Kelly Rider and her staff as they bring things to the board's attention. Mr. Osborne stated that in their document they say please praise your finance staff for a job well done because it is sometimes a thankless position. He stated they get to know the finance staff across the state, and they are appreciative for what they do.

Mr. Osborne stated segregation of duties is one of the top audit finding. The office has recommendations if the city chooses to go that route.

Mayor Shaw thanked Mr. Osborne and Mr. Lester for their time.

There being no further business to come before the board, Alderman Harrison moved for adjournment. Mayor Shaw seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

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Mayor Shaw

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Kelly Rider, City Recorder

City Meeting  
Of  
February 20, 2024

Mayor Shaw called the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman to order at 6:35 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The meeting was held at City Hall.

**Invocation**

Bro. Dan Russell offered invocation. Mayor Shaw led the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Shaw, Alderman Gregory, Alderman Harrison, Alderman Martin, Vice Mayor Senft, Kelly Rider, City Recorder, Attorney Russell Freeman

Absent:

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 25, 2024 were presented for approval or corrections.

Motion made by: Alderman Gregory

Second: Vice Mayor Senft

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

**Citizens Comments**

No Citizen Comments

**Commissioners & Department Reports**

**Utilities:**

Mayor Shaw reported the gas department added a new service on Dyer Lane, repaired a gas valve on Greer Road and Highland Ave and Woodruff Ave and Hwy 41S, moved a gas valve on Shedden Road for Shedden Road Culvert Project, completed sixty-four locate tickets and 20 service orders.

Mayor Shaw reported the sewer department pumped 5 tanks due to bad pumps and/or high sludge levels, changed 6 pumps, completed sixty-four locate tickets, 29 service orders and added new service on Dyer Lane.

Mayor Shaw reported Christmas decorations have been taken down, power was added to the gate at city shop for the gate opener, banners were changed from Christmas to Trains and repair was made to the fuel trailer.

Finance:

Alderman Harrison stated the city received \$149,837 of property tax in January.

Alderman Harrison stated the Easter Eggs have been purchased for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the amount of \$596.

Alderman Harrison reported the city has received reimbursement from ARP in the amount of \$288,853.56.

Park:

Alderman Harrison reported the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with a rain out date of March 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Alderman Harrison reported the park board has a couple of people interested in joining the park board.

Streets:

Alderman Martin reported Rebekah Drive is scheduled to be repaired at the end of the month.

Alderman Martin stated there are stop signs needed at Old Springfield Hwy and Liebengood Rd. Mayor Shaw stated he believes Brian is planning to install this week.

Fire:

Alderman Gregory gave the fire report with a total of 39 calls.

Alderman Gregory reported the chili supper will be Saturday night from 4-7 p.m.

Planning and Zoning:

No Report.

**Business Reports:**

City Recorder:

Kelly Rider reported the bid advertisement for Shedden Road culvert is due in on March 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and Buck Hill Road is due on March 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Kelly Rider reported the utility worker position advertisement will run until February 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Kelly stated Tyler Hallman resigned as of February 1, 2024.

Attorney Freeman:

No Report

**Mayor Comments:**

No Comments

**Old Business:**

No Old Business

**New Business:**

*Release J.B. Gibbs & Son Construction Company, Inc. bond and set a one-year maintenance letter of credit*

Alderman Martin made the motion to set J.B. Gibbs & Son Construction Company, Inc. a one-year maintenance letter of credit in the amount of 20% of the project for the Lake Road Sewer Project. Vice Mayor Senft seconded. Alderman Martin made the motion to amend the motion to set J.B. Gibbs & Son Construction Company, Inc. a one-year maintenance letter of credit in the amount of \$80,000 for the Lake Road Sewer Project.

Alderman Harrison seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

Vice Mayor Senft made the motion to release the bond for J.B. Gibbs & Son Construction Company, Inc. for the Lake Road Sewer Project. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Approve Metro Wholesale Rates Agreement*

Vice Mayor Senft made the motion to approve the Metro Wholesale rate agreement.

Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Robertson County Board of Education and Elite Septic Billing Reimbursement and/or Claim*

Mayor Shaw reported he met with Dr. Weeks with the Robertson County Board of Education. Dr. Weeks made an offer to pay \$10,000 of the Elite Septic Bill for Reimbursement.

Alderman Martin made the motion to accept the offer from Dr. Weeks of \$10,000 for the reimbursement of the Elite Septic bill. Alderman Harrison seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Add items to agenda*

Mayor Shaw made a motion to add gate opener, windows for city hall, maintenance agreement for fire trucks, fire hall hot water heater, Linda Dozier sewer easement request and waive park rental fee for Ridgetop First Baptist for Ridgetop Station Park. Alderman Harrison seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Waive Park Rental Fee*

Alderman Harrison made the motion to waive the park rental fee for Ridgetop First Baptist for their Easter Service on the lawn. Vice Mayor Senft seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Linda Dozier Easement*

Vice Mayor Senft made the motion to accept the easement for the sanitary sewer line and improvements for Linda J. Dozier. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Maintenance Agreement Fire Trucks*

Alderman Harrison made the motion to accept Siddons Martin bid in the amount of \$2,995 per truck for maintenance of fire trucks. Alderman Gregory seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Fire Hall Water Heater*

Vice Mayor Senft made the motion to approve the installation of a tankless hot water heater at the firehall. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Windows for City Hall*

Alderman Harrison made the motion to accept the bid from Springfield Glass in the amount of \$4,895.08. Alderman Martin seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*Gate Opener*

Alderman Gregory made the motion to accept the bid from EZ Fix to install the gate opener at the city shop in the amount of \$5,691.91. Vice Mayor Senft seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

*City Workshop*

Mayor Shaw made the motion to schedule workshop for March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Alderman Harrison seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

There being no further business to come before the board, Alderman Harrison moved for adjournment. Mayor Shaw seconded.

Voting Aye: All

Voting No: None

**Motion Carried.**

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Mayor Tim Shaw

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Kelly Rider, City Recorder