

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007, 8:30 A.M.
MEETING ROOM A, CITY HALL COMPLEX**

Present were Mayor Whaley, Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Sexton, Commissioner Reagan, Commissioner Brackins, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, Public Works Director Miller, Community Development Director Jagger, and interested parties.

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Proposed ordinance establishing refuse collection fees** - City Manager Teaster said this had been discussed in the prior year but had never adopted. The establishment of fees would enable the City to offset some of its costs that has an annual operating budget of over 2 million dollars.

Mayor Whaley asked how much revenue dollars this could generate. City Recorder Clabo stated that revenue was currently projected based on pick ups now at approximately one million dollars. Mayor Whaley asked about the installation of locks. Sanitation Supervisor McCarter stated that locks cost between \$40 and \$60 and that it would help businesses control what was placed in their dumpsters. Public Works Director Miller stated that currently junk would be included as part of the collection fee. Vice Mayor McClure asked to include a comment that a business would be limited to the amount of times it could change the amount of weekly pick ups to approximately four.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on next regularly scheduled council meeting for first reading.

2. **Proposed ordinance establishing a Municipal Code of Ethics as required by new Tennessee law** – City Attorney Gass spoke on the new ethics law and discussed how all municipalities in the state had to adopt the law. Commissioner Reagan stated that he wanted sentence in section 9 removed that stated no officer or employee may serve in a volunteer public safety position in any department or agency partially or wholly funded by the City, including but not limited to volunteer EMS, auxiliary police or volunteer firefighter. He stated that he did not think this was a conflict. City Attorney Gass stated that this sentence could be removed entirely and instead the last sentence in section 3 could be changed from an official may recuse himself from voting on the measure to the official shall recuse himself from voting on the measure. Mayor Whaley stated that he did not see volunteering as a conflict of interest. Vice Mayor McClure asked how many city employees were volunteer firefighters.

City Recorder Clabo stated that there were currently five city employees on the roster. City Recorder Clabo stated that the only person that could have a conflict would be a commissioner since he/she has voting authority. However, language in section 3 would allow the commissioner to disclose any interest and potentially recuse themselves from the vote. He further stated that not allowing employees to volunteer could impact part-time help of the fire department in the future. Vice Mayor McClure said that he did not think volunteering for a public safety position was a problem.

Following general discussion of ethics ordinance, council generally agreed to put on next regularly scheduled council meeting and to remove sentence in section 9 dealing with volunteer for a public safety position and to replace the word may to shall in the last sentence in section 3.

3. **Discussion of wastewater plant options and proposed line to French Broad** – Steve Lane and Sam Harrison were in attendance from SSR to discuss the City's options as it relates to wastewater. Mr. Lane stated that in 2003 the firm was hired to look at the plant for possible growth needs and options for the growth. Mr. Harrison stated that there were three routes that were considered for a line that would possibly have to be run to the French Broad River. Mr. Harrison further stated that one of the routes had been chosen. The line would be approximately fifty-five thousand feet in length and at least four pieces of property would require and easement. The force main would be approximately a forty-two inch line.

Mr. Harrison stated that there were three options to handle the growth in the City. The first option would be to expand the existing plant. It was noted that if this option was chosen, this would be the last time the plant could be expanded. In addition, a plant would have to be built at the current site, the old one would then be torn down and then rebuilt which would add to the total cost and take significantly longer to complete. The second option would be to locate an alternate site which would lower the cost of construction by not having to remodel but a cost for the land would have to be included. Relocating the plant to another site would also free up existing plant space for other expansion in the City.

Steve Lane said that an interlocal agreement is a high priority in order to meet a 2010 deadline. In addition, choosing a location either off site or expanding the current location was also an important decision.

City Manager Teaster recommended entering into an agreement with SSR to start design work on the pump station and force main to the French Broad River.

Council generally agreed to put engineering agreement on next regularly scheduled council meeting as requested by City Manager Teaster.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER