

REGULAR MEETING
LOUDON CITY COUNCIL
September 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Loudon City Council was held on September 21, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Meeting Room. Those present were: Mayor Jim Greenway, Councilmen Jeff Harris, Johnny James, Lynn Millsaps and Dennis Stewart. Also present were City Manager Lynn Mills, City Attorney Joe Ford and City Recorder Stephanie Putkonen. The press was not represented. Maureen Colvin video recorded the meeting for LCTV3. There were ten people present.

Mayor Greenway asked Councilman Harris to lead the invocation, as well as the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Greenway asked if council members had a chance to review the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 17, 2015. **A motion was made by Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman Stewart and unanimously passed to approve as written, the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 17, 2015.**

Council considered the administrative approval of the purchase of gasoline (\$1.736 per gallon) and diesel fuel (\$1.418 per gallon) on August 25, 2015 from Rogers Petroleum. **A motion was made by Councilman James seconded by Councilman Harris and unanimously passed to administratively approve the purchase from Rogers Petroleum of gasoline (\$1.736 per gallon) and diesel fuel (\$1.418 per gallon) on August 25, 2015.**

Mayor Greenway recognized the visitors. He asked if anyone had anything to bring before council that did not appear on the agenda. He recognized Mr. Clayton Pangle. Mr. Pangle introduced himself as the outgoing executive director of the Loudon County Visitors' Bureau. He introduced Ms. Rachel Baker as the new executive director.

Mayor Greenway welcomed them.

Mayor Greenway presented an ordinance for first reading to provide a handicap parking space on Wharf Street between Mulberry Street and Grove Street; and also to establish a limit of two (2) hour parking for two parking spaces in front of Annabelle's Emporium located at 304 Wharf Street. A motion was made by Councilman James, seconded by Councilman Stewart that the following ordinance be passed on first reading:

**REGULATING PARKING ON WHARF STREET BETWEEN
MULBERRY STREET AND GROVE STREET**

Upon a vote the AYES were: James, Stewart, Harris, Millsaps and Greenway. Mayor Greenway declared the ordinance passed on first reading. A public hearing was scheduled for 6:15 P.M. on October 19, 2015.

Mayor Greenway presented an ordinance for first reading to provide matching funds for low income elderly and disabled taxpayers, as well as disabled veterans who qualify for the State PropertyTax Relief Program. Councilman Millsaps recommended the match be twice the state amount not to exceed the total property tax due on the approved property. A motion was made by Councilman Millsaps, seconded by Councilman Stewart that the following ordinance with the recommended match of twice the state approved amount not to exceed the total tax due, be passed on first reading:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 5,
CHAPTER 2 TO APPROVE A PROPERTY TAX RELIEF MATCHING
PROGRAM PURSUANT TO TCA §67-5-701(j) (1) and (2) FOR
QUALIFIED ELDERLY LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS,
DISABLED HOMEOWNERS AND DISABLED VETERANS**

Upon a vote the AYES were: Millsaps, Stewart, Harris, James and Greenway. Mayor Greenway declared the ordinance passed on first reading. A public hearing was scheduled for 6:20 P.M. on October 19, 2015.

Mayor Greenway presented an ordinance to amend the 2015-2016 Budget to provide for the property tax relief match. It was recommended that the expenditure for Property Tax Relief be increased from the original proposed amount of \$17,000 to \$25,000 and the net expenditure be increased from \$10,000 to \$17,000. A motion was made by Councilman Millsaps, seconded by Councilman Stewart that the following ordinance be passed on first reading with the recommended changes:

AMENDING THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Upon a vote the AYES were: Millsaps, Stewart, Harris, James and Greenway. Mayor Greenway declared the ordinance passed on first reading. A public hearing was scheduled for 6:25 P.M. on October 19, 2015.

Mayor Greenway presented a resolution approving the purchase for the Fire Department of a 2015 Dodge Ram truck from Secret City Chrysler Dodge Jeep for the state bid price of \$25,621.50 plus additional equipment. A motion was made by Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman James that the following resolution be passed:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-40

**AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2015 DODGE RAM
1500 4X4 EXTENDED CAB TRUCK**

Upon a vote, the resolution unanimously passed.

Mayor Greenway presented a resolution to create a new position of Laborer – Special Events in the Recreation Department and provide the pay steps. After significant discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman James that the following resolution be passed:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-41

**AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-28 (AMENDING
THE PAY CLASSIFICATION PLAN) ADOPTED JUNE
15, 2015 TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSITION OF
LABORER-SPECIAL EVENTS**

Upon a vote, the AYES were: Harris, James and Millsaps. The NAYS were: Stewart and Greenway. Mayor Greenway declared the resolution passed.

Mayor Greenway presented a resolution to approve a twenty-five year lease of the Liberty Park softball field to the Loudon County Board of Education. Attorney Ford said that the attached map (Exhibit A) indicating the boundary of the agreement was incorrect. A motion was made by Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman Stewart that the following resolution be passed with the addition of the corrected Exhibit A:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-42

**AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR 25 YEARS (LIBERTY
BALLPARK) FOR ATHLETIC, RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES TO LOUDON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

Upon a vote, the resolution unanimously passed.

Mayor Greenway presented a Certificate of Compliance application from Carolyn James for 72 Wine & Spirits located at 12353 Highway 72 N. Councilman Johnny James stated that he had a conflict of interest and would abstain from voting. **A motion was made by Councilman Harris, seconded by Councilman Millsaps to approve the Certificate of Compliance for Carolyn James for 72 Wine & Spirits.** Upon a vote, all voted AYE except James who abstained.

Council discussed the construction of a restroom/concession stand and ticket booth at the Tate & Lyle Amphitheater. Recreation Director Mark Harrell went over concept drawings. **A motion was made by Councilman James, seconded by Councilman Stewart and unanimously passed to proceed with design and cost estimates of restrooms, concession stand and ticket booth facilities at Tate & Lyle Amphitheater.**

Manager Mills said that Councilman Millsaps has some ideas along the riverfront he would like council to consider. He would like to extend the existing walkway to the river and construct a fishing pier. He would also like to construct a walkway and fishing piers along the river's edge from the walkway at the bridge (crossing the Tennessee River) to the boat ramp on Ferry Street.

Councilman Millsaps explained that the projects would have to be engineered. He said the riverbank needed to be cleaned off to determine the feasibility of the projects. He said Courthouse Square funds could be used to pay for the projects.

After some discussion, Council concurred that Recreation Director Harrell should get estimates to clean off the river bank and obtain any permission necessary to do so.

Council considered declaring as surplus and removing sections of the fencing at Legion Park ballfield with the material to be sold as scrap. Councilman Stewart expressed concern about removing the fence on the Grove Street side. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Councilman Stewart, seconded by Councilman Harris and unanimously passed that sections of the fence at Legion Park ballfield (not including the Grove Street side from center field to right field) be considered surplus, removed and sold as scrap.**

Council considered declaring as surplus and donating old Liberty Park bleachers to Fort Loudoun Middle School. Manager Mills explained they had asked for them to use at their baseball/soccer complex. They said they wanted the building trades class to upgrade them before they used them. **A motion was made by Councilman James, seconded by Councilman Stewart and unanimously passed to surplus and donate old Liberty Park bleachers to the Fort Loudoun Middle School.**

Mayor Greenway asked if the city would have any liability. Attorney Ford responded that the city would not because they were a gift, and they promise to make them usable.

Councilman Stewart said a reason he ran for city council was his dislike of the city's current brush chipping policy. He said he was embarrassed by the way a man was treated by city workers pertaining to the policy. He said he thought the policy was unacceptable. He added that he understood not chipping brush cut by contractors, but a lot of people can't afford the cost.

Councilman Harris said that city council should look at the policy.

Manager Mills said it was an unfortunate situation. City workers were not aware that a pastor and two deacons were cutting a tree for the individual. Unless the homeowner calls and explains, the public works department does not know whether someone was paid for the tree trimming. The current policy was passed by the previous city council.

Public Works Director Bill Fagg said he did not know the situation until Thursday morning. When the property owner explained the situation, he apologized to the man and sent the workers out to pick up the brush.

Director Fagg explained that the operations superintendent had seen three men cutting the tree and laying it out by the road. He did not know who they were, but knew they were not the property owner.

Director Fagg said he tries to be honest and fair with everybody in carrying out this policy, but people get mad when they are told "no."

The property owner, Jerry Markowicz, took issue that the operations superintendent wasn't aware of the situation. He said two of the men were 65 years old. He said he was fine with the contractor rule, but some common sense should also be used. He added that in the past he also had a problem with the city refusing to pick up flooring because he had help taking it up.

Councilman Stewart said he was not blaming Director Fagg. He added that Director Fagg was doing what the policy says. He just wants city council to look at the policy.

Councilman James agreed. He said it should be on the workshop agenda.

Councilman Harris said that council had talked many times about run down houses in the city and how to deal with them. He said he would like to have a discussion about an Administrative Hearing Officer at the next workshop.

Manager Mills said this possibility had been brought to his attention, but due to his illness he hadn't had the time to look into it. He said the discussion may need to be put off until the November workshop.

Mayor Greenway read a letter of resignation from Gene Lambert. He resigned from the Utility Board effective September 30, 2015. He recommended Carlie McEachern to replace Gene Lambert effective October 1, 2015 (term expires 6/30/2016).

Councilman Stewart stated that he would abstain due to a potential appearance of a conflict of interest.

Upon a vote, all voted AYE except Stewart who abstained.

There being no further business, Mayor Greenway adjourned the meeting at 8:23 P.M.

Recorder

Mayor