

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE, WAS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR JIM ADAMS  
VICE-MAYOR JANICE CAGLE  
COMMISSIONER SHANE HARMON  
COMMISSIONER GENE SHIPLEY  
CITY MANAGER HARDIE STULCE  
CITY ATTORNEY SAM ELLIOTT  
CITY RECORDER BURT JOHNSON

MEMBERS ABSENT:

COMMISSIONER RICK NUNLEY

Mayor Adams said the Board had the pleasure to recognize some outstanding achievements by students at Soddy-Daisy High School. He commended all the coaches for the outstanding programs that they have built. Mayor Adams said they have brought positive attention to the City. The Board recognized the wrestling, softball and clay target teams for having won State Titles.

Police Chief Phillip Hamrick stated a few years ago the police department had a significant amount of drug money seized and awarded to the City. Due to this, the Board of Commissioners starting looking into constructing an investigations building. He said the police department side of the Municipal Building was over crowded and had five offices to accommodate 25 to 30 officers. Police Chief Hamrick said the new building was funded primarily with drug funds. He said for the first time they have a real evidence room and a garage to secure a seized vehicle. Police Chief Hamrick presented the Board with a plaque dedicating the building in their honor.

Mayor Adams announced that the City is dedicating the 911 Communications Center to 4 former employees. He asked City Manager Hardie Stulce to elaborate. City Manager Stulce

said communications equipment is very expensive and everyone who has a phone pays an additional charge on their phone bill every month for “911”. He said the Chairman of the 911 Board, Don Allen, was in attendance. Mr. Allen helped the City, for the first time, obtain all new equipment for the 911 Communication Center. He asked Mr. Allen to explain. Mr. Allen congratulated the City on their new “Center”. He said it is “second to none” for a City of Soddy-Daisy’s size. Mr. Allen said dispatchers were the true first responders. He said their jobs are very important and if not done correctly, the call stands a chance of failing which would affect the ones who are in need of emergency services. Mr. Allen said there are not enough words said day in and day out about these first responders. He said they are unsung heroes because they are behind the scene. City Manager Stulce introduced Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger and asked him to say a few words. Mayor Coppinger congratulated the 4 honorees who will be recognized for their commitment. He said he comes from a background in public safety in the fire service. Mayor Coppinger stated dispatchers are extremely important and are not recognized very often because they do their work behind the scene. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be part of this dedication and thanked the 4 honorees for their service. City Manger Stulce introduced former Chattanooga Police Chief Mark Rawlston and informed everyone that he started out as a dispatcher for the City of Soddy-Daisy. Mr. Rawlston read a newspaper article from the Chattanooga Times published Friday, February 10, 1989 that was written about the 4 honorees. The article mentioned that the ladies had been employed by the City for many years, described the job that they performed and also spoke of how they were like mothers to a lot of the officers. After reading the article Mr. Rawlston congratulated the honorees and their families and said it was an honor to have worked with these 4 women. City Manager Stulce asked Sylvia Lovelady, Jean Wilson and the families of Flora Branum and Jewel

Brown to come up to the podium. He stated “this is what public service is about.” City Manager Stulce said “these women set the standard that our town has followed.” Mayor Adams gave each of them a plaque dedicating the 911 Communications Center in their honor. Jean Wilson said everyday it was a joy to work for the City of Soddy-Daisy. Sylvia Lovelady said the good times out weighed the bad and thanked the City and the Officials. Allen Branum spoke on behalf of his deceased mother and thanked everyone on behalf of his family. Jewel Brown’s son, Gary Brown, spoke on behalf of his deceased mother and said she loved Soddy-Daisy and the people she worked with. Commissioner Shipley stated that he was fortunate to have worked with all of these ladies. Max Orr, the first mayor of Soddy-Daisy, said these are great ladies and he loved each of them.

Police Chief Phillip Hamrick said the Board has put forth an effort to strengthen the law enforcement in Soddy-Daisy. He said due to this, there has been a 28.29% decrease in reported crimes in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. He said drug and narcotics arrests have increased 5.66% and DUI arrests which have increased 45.45%. Police Chief Hamrick thanked the Board for their support.

John Bridger, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Agency (RPA), came before the Board to discuss a fee proposal for the use of the RPA’s services. He distributed some information to the Board concerning major subdivision, minor subdivision and zoning cases that they help the City of Soddy-Daisy with. Mr. Bridger explained some of the cases the RPA has handled for Soddy-Daisy and the related cost. He proposed that the City enter into a 3 year agreement for \$6,393 a year. Mayor Adams stated with the growth of Soddy-Daisy, the City could not go forward without the use of a planning agency. City Manager Stulce said the timing of this proposal could not be worse since the City has already adopted a budget for the fiscal year

2012-2013. He said Mr. Bridger suggested that the City pass some of this cost to the people who need their services such as developers and those who need site plans. There was discussion between Board members about adjusting the City's fee structure. Commissioner Shipley made a motion to enter into a 3 year contract for \$6,393 per year, seconded by Commissioner Harmon and the ayes were unanimous. Commissioner Shipley also asked the City Manager to develop a fee schedule to recoup some this money.

The minutes of the regular meeting held June 7, 2012 were approved as presented.

Old Business:

### **Consideration of Garbage Services Proposal/Bid**

City Manager Stulce stated that the City received proposals for residential garbage service. He said the request for proposals (RFPs) was prepared by the City Attorney. City Manager Stulce stated there were a couple of changes made to the request for proposals in order to be more competitive and less restrictive. He said at the last commission meeting there was some discussion about this but no action was taken due to the City Attorney not being present. City Attorney Elliott stated there was an issue raised in the last meeting about the low bidder wanting to negotiate the terms on a 5 year contract. He stated that to his knowledge it is not the recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director to enter into a 5 year contract. City Attorney Elliott said the single issue is whether to except the low bid or not. He stated that he felt the Board was in a position of being required to except the low bid. Commissioner Harmon said he is not a proponent of spending the City's money unwisely but is a proponent of allowing people in the City to speak on the issue before the Board makes a decision. Trey Harris and Sean Sims approached the Board on behalf of Priority Waste. Mr. Harris stated that he disagreed with the City Attorney's statement that it is required to except the lowest bid. He said it is required to

except the lowest and best bid. Mr. Harris said at the last meeting there were efforts by Waste Connection of Tennessee to meet with the City Manager and Finance Director. He asked since then has Waste Connections of Tennessee tried to contact anyone? City Manager Stulce stated that since the last meeting he has spoken with no one except Mr. Sims from Priority Waste. Finance Director Burt Johnson stated that he was contacted and he informed Doug McGill from Waste Connections that a meeting would not be necessary. Mr. Harris said that Priority Waste had an issue with another bidder trying to contact employees of the City outside the bid process. He said this was an attempt to influence and felt the Board should consider re-opening the bid for the sole purpose of making sure there was no appearance of impropriety. City Manager Stulce stated that he considered it an insult that Mr. Harris accused him and Finance Director Johnson of improprieties. He said the City followed the "letter of the law" and did not waiver from it. He said the he and Finance Director Johnson speak with Waste Connection of Tennessee throughout the year due to them being the current contractor of residential garbage service for the City. City Manager Stulce stated that all the City is allowed by law to do is honor what is on the written proposal. He said he wanted to go "on record" for everyone to know that "we" followed the proper procedures of the City and the State of Tennessee on how the bid process was handled. Mayor Adams asked City Attorney Elliott if there was any appearance of impropriety. City Attorney Elliott said he had been in constant contact with Finance Director Johnson and advised him to not except any meeting with any of the bidders and no such meeting took place. He said the City followed the appropriate procedures and there is no evidence of improprieties. Allen Hixson, 9585 Daisy Dallas Road, stated he is a resident and business owner in Soddy-Daisy. He asked if Waste Connections of Tennessee had a business license to operate in the City of Soddy-Daisy. City Manager Stulce stated that he assumed they did but would have to look into it to be

absolutely sure. Mr. Hixson said the money generated from a business outside the city limits is not being spent in Soddy-Daisy as it would be if a local company was awarded the contract. Commissioner Harmon said if it was up to him, he would like for any company that did work for the City to reside in the city limits of Soddy-Daisy but he had to look at what is best for the City as well. Commissioner Shipley stated that he would have liked to see Priority Waste get the contract because they are a local company. He said he had an obligation to the taxpayers to do what is right. Vice-Mayor Cagle asked Finance Director Johnson for his recommendation. Finance Director Johnson said it was his recommendation to go with the low bid and enter into a 3 year contract. He said he thought it was healthy to re-bid the service after 3 years because it helped the City save money. He stated that the City will save \$40,000 in the first year of the contract compared to what the City is currently paying. Vice-Mayor Cagle said she would have liked to see a local person get the contract as well. She said if the difference between bids was just a few thousand dollars, the Board could justify not accepting the low bid due to that company not spending their money locally. She stated she could not justify spending \$40,000 of taxpayer's money in order to award the contract to a local person.

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Vice-Mayor Cagle made a motion to enter into a 3 year contract with the low bidder, Waste Connections of Tennessee.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Commissioner Shipley
- Ayes - Mayor Adams, Vice-Mayor Cagle, Commissioner Shipley
- Abstained - Commissioner Harmon

New Business:

**2011-2012 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,  
AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN  
APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDS (LPRF) GRANT.**

City Manager Stulce said this is a grant application to help obtain funds to further develop Holly Park. He said the City has formed a Parks and Recreation Board and they had their first meeting was held last week. He said in this meeting Bryan Farlow, Southeast Tennessee Development District, gave a presentation showing the enhancements that would be done to Holly Park if these funds were awarded to the City. Mr. Farlow stated the Resolution in front of the Board is to approve the application for a Local Parks and Recreation Funds Grant for the City. He stated the 20% match will come from in-kind and cash funds. Mr. Farlow explained in detail some of the development that would be done to Holly Park if the City was awarded the grant.

1<sup>st</sup> - Commissioner Shipley  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Vice-Mayor Cagle  
Ayes - Unanimous

**2011-2012 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,  
ACCEPTING A 10 YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN.**

City Manager Stulce said to be eligible to receive Federal and State funds for various requests, you have to have a master plan for the entire City. He said the development of a master plan began over a year ago and has now involved the Parks and Recreation Board. City Manager Stulce said that Mr. Farlow is responsible for the majority of the vision and preparation of the plan. Commissioner Harmon said he attended the Parks and Recreation Board meeting and was very impressed with the work Mr. Farlow has done in preparing the 10 Year Master Plan. Mayor Adams stated that the City of Soddy-Daisy has several natural resources and this is a plan to develop those areas. Mr. Farlow said he has encouraged the Parks and Recreation Board to do

some community surveys to gain input on what other needs the City may have. The Board thanked Mr. Farlow for the work he has accomplished for the City.

1<sup>st</sup> - Commissioner Shipley  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Commissioner Harmon  
Ayes - Unanimous

Citizens Participation:

None.

City Manager Stulce asked the Board if the regularly scheduled commission meeting would be held on July 5<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion between Board members if there was any business that would need to be handled. Mayor Adams mentioned that there was some previous discussion whether or not the Board was going to help fund the construction of a blacksmith shop next to Poe's Tavern. Commissioner Shipley stated that he felt the City should complete the construction of Poe's Tavern and the pavilions and should not under take any more projects at this time. Commissioner Harmon agreed with Commissioner Shipley and said the issue should remain tabled. Commissioner Shipley made a motion to cancel the July 5<sup>th</sup> commission meeting, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cagle and the ayes were unanimous.

City Manager Stulce said in the budget workshops the Board was presented with a Supplemental Bridge Plan solely for public safety employees. He said the police department would forgo a portion of their raise to fund the plan. City Manager Stulce said that Finance Director Johnson called and spoke with a field representative from Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System and requested that they send someone to meet with the staff but they informed him that they do not send representatives in the field. He said they did however send a 3 page FAQ by e-mail. Commissioner Shipley asked if this would cost the City any additional money. Police Chief Hamrick informed him that it would not. Commissioner Shipley asked if

one employee could participate or if it had to be the whole department. Police Chief Hamrick stated that it would have to be the whole department and that he has only found 3 employees who were not in favor. Police Chief Hamrick explained some of the advantages of the plan to the Board. Mayor Adams said he was concerned that the whole department was not in favor of implementing the bridge plan. Police Chief Hamrick said he sent an e-mail to the police department asking anyone with concerns to see him. He said he did not have any employees come to him with concerns. There was discussion between Board members whether all employees should agree to be part of the plan before they vote to adopt it. It was the consensus of the Board that it would be difficult to get over 30 employees to agree on the same thing. Commissioner Harmon made a motion to approve the Supplemental Bridge Plan, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cagle and the ayes were unanimous.

City Manager Stulce said the City received a letter from the State of Tennessee denying the application for Recreational Trails Funds that the City applied for several months ago. He said the City will continue to seek funds through the grant process.

City Manger Stulce said the environmental work is complete on the Montlake Road resurfacing project as well as the replacement of traffic signals at 2 locations on Sequoyah Road. He said the City is now waiting on clearance from the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

City Manager Stulce informed the Board that Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger is working with the City of Soddy-Daisy to get approval of the proposed railroad overpass on Harrison Lane.

City Manger Stulce said the police department has put in a lot of work corresponding with other agencies developing a plan for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration to keep it safe. He said a complete listing of the agencies involved was included in the packets.

Commissioner Harmon said camping along the lake would be allowed Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Shipley announced that Commissioner Nunley was not present at the meeting due to the birth of his first grandchild.

Mayor Adams announced July 2<sup>nd</sup> is Soddy-Daisy Night at the Lookouts game and encouraged everyone to attend. He said 400 tickets have been purchased and given to the kids who signed up to play softball or baseball for the Kid's Club.

ADJOURNMENT 8:44 P.M.

RECORDER JOHNSON