

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE, WAS
HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

The Board presented Sergeant Davy Philpott with a plaque recognizing his 25 years of service with the Soddy-Daisy Police Department. Mayor Adams said it is due to people like Sergeant Philpott that make Soddy-Daisy a great place to live. The Board thanked Sergeant Philpott and his wife, Lisa.

Bill Carney, 9218 W. Ridge Trail Road, spoke to the Board in regards to Poe's Tavern. He informed the Board that the exterior of the Tavern is approximately 90% complete. Mr. Carney requested that the City proceed to contract with a mason to build the chimney. He stated he would like to have the Tavern finished by spring. Mr. Carney said the City has been wonderful and complimented the Public Works Department in particular. He said the Public Works Department has the most competent and talented people in one place than any other place he has ever seen. He commented that Soddy-Daisy has talented people working for it throughout the City. Mr. Carney stated that he thinks the City is well run and a lot is accomplished with little resources. He said he has given the Mayor a quote from Teddy Jenkins who is a mason, stating he felt it was a fair quote. Mr. Carney said limestone will also be needed for the chimney to give it the original appearance. He said he has located some stone in the Chattanooga area and will use volunteers and students to lay the stone. Mr. Carney informed the Board that he plans to

donate two dozen white pines to the City to do with as they see fit. Mr. Carney stated he would need some help in moving the trees. It will take approximately 2 hours and require the use of a back hoe. Mayor Adams said the proposal from Teddy Jenkins is for \$5,977 which includes labor and materials. He said the agreement with Mr. Carney states the City will underwrite the Tavern up to \$50,000. He said so far \$32,500 has been raised to go toward the \$50,000. Mayor Adams asked Mr. Carney if he would like for the Board to go ahead and award the masonry work for the chimney so the he can proceed in finishing the tavern. Mr. Carney stated that he would. City Attorney Elliott stated that there could be a legal issue with buying the stone and labor with out bidding it out. City Manager Stulce suggested that the City contract for the labor and buy the stone separate. City Attorney Elliot asked the City's auditor Brian Wright, if that would be ok. City Manger Stulce said the labor would be under \$5,000 therefore 3 quotes would not be needed. Mr. Wright stated it would be ok as long as City Manager Stulce was sure the labor would be under \$5,000. Commissioner Shipley remarked that brick pavers have been sold to help fund the project and it is the City's plan to use the money left over to help fund the cost of the chimney. Commissioner Shipley made a motion to contract with Teddy Jenkins for the labor on the chimney, seconded by Commissioner Harmon and the ayes were unanimous.

Brian Wright, auditor with the CPA firm Johnson, Murphey and Wright, presented the City's 2010-2011 Fiscal Year audit report. He summarized the report and said one finding was the same as previous years where the City must have on staff someone that can perform the audit. He said this finding should be satisfied soon since Finance Director Burt Johnson is attending the certified municipal finance officer training. Mr. Wright stated that once Finance Director Johnson completes the program it will satisfy the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). He said everything was in great shape as usual and the City's staff did a great job. Mr. Wright said if the Board had any specific questions to feel free to contact him or ask

Finance Director Johnson. Mayor Adams thanked the City's staff for their integrity. Mr. Wright thanked the Board for the opportunity to perform the audit.

The minutes of the meeting held November 17, 2011 were approved as presented.

Old Business:

2011-2012 ORDINANCE NO. ____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,
ABANDONING RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF DAYTON PIKE,
FROM HEMLOCK STREET SOUTH TO 8328 DAYTON PIKE. SECOND AND FINAL
READING.**

There was no discussion.

1st - Commissioner Harmon
2nd - Commissioner Nunley
Ayes - Unanimous

2011-2012 ORDINANCE NO. ____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,
ACCEPTING HOOD ROAD AS A PUBLICLY DEDICATED CITY STREET
AND RENAMING IT ERNEST LAYNE DRIVE. SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

Commissioner Shipley stated there is a large tract of land that did not show access to this road on the drawing that was provided to the Board. He said land is currently being surveyed and he would like to defer action on this ordinance until the survey is completed. Commissioner Shipley made a motion to defer action until the first commission meeting in January, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cagle and the ayes were unanimous.

New Business:

2011-2012 RESOLUTION NO. ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,

**TO ESTABLISH A DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
TENNESSEE STATE FUNDING BOARD DIRECTIVE.**

Mayor Adams asked City Manager Stulce if he had anything to add and he deferred to Finance Director Johnson. Finance Director Johnson stated that the City received a letter from the State Comptroller's Office in June requiring all municipalities to have a Debt Management Policy in place by December 31, 2011. He said the State informed the City that no further loans would be approved until a policy was established. Vice-Mayor Cagle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Harmon and the ayes were unanimous.

Citizens Participation:

James Casto, 9044 & 9048 Daisy Dallas Road, told the Board there are several motorists speeding past his residence. He said there have been several accidents in this area and wanted to know if the City would install a flashing light and reduce the speed limit. City Manager Stulce asked City Attorney Elliott what the City could do to alleviate the issue. City Attorney Elliott stated the City's traffic engineer would need to give a recommendation. Public Works Director Steve Grant said he has witnessed in person the vehicles speeding in this area and told the Board it would be up to them to lower the speed limit and have a flashing light installed. He informed the Board the cost would be over \$3,000. Mayor Adams suggested the police department run some radar in that area to get motorists to slow down. He told Mr. Casto the Board would take his concerns under consideration and see what could be done to alleviate the issue.

Robert Cothran, 10175 Dallas Hollow Road, gave the Board an update on the Christmas Parade. He said currently there are 200 vehicles, 75-90 horses, 27 floats, 2 boats, the Soddy-Daisy High School band, the Sale Creek High School band, the JROTC from Soddy-Daisy, Sale Creek and Sequoyah High Schools set to participate. He said Lt. Jeff Gann's "Special Forces" kids will be the Grand Marshall this year.

City Manager Stulce informed everyone that the audit report is public record and will be put on the City's website. He said the auditors asked him to give a report on the current conditions affecting future years. He read the following:

“With the downturn of the national economy, the City experienced a drop in revenue from the previous year. However, local sales tax remained steady and is expected to continue the next fiscal year. There are various commercial sites available around the City, hopefully these properties will develop and broaden the City's tax base.

However, demands on the police department due to an increase in population as well as other factors require more funds to handle the additional call volume on a daily basis. Our city court system continues to generate a negative fund balance and must be tax subsidized to maintain its present level of service.

The fire department continues to provide service with an all volunteer staff. Recruitment and retention of suitable personnel continues to be very difficult and expensive considering the ever increasing state and federal mandates placed on the fire department in general.

The City's infrastructure continues to deteriorate although we have an excellent staff. Available funds are never adequate to do much more than “patch-a-patch.” Examples: city hall, parks and recreation centers, fire stations, traffic signals, paving, guardrails, vehicles for police and general government, heavy equipment for public works and apparatus for the fire department. The City increased the property tax rate from \$.686 to \$1.00 for fiscal year 2011-2012, which will allow for some much needed replacement of police vehicles and public works heavy equipment.

In my opinion as City Manager, the needs of the City along with the wants of the general public coupled with the desires and vision of the elected officials still far exceeds our present tax structure both residential and commercial.”

City Manager Stulce said the City is better off than last year but not where it needs to be yet. He stated the City operates off of sales tax revenue and encouraged everyone to make purchases in Soddy-Daisy when ever possible.

City Manager Stulce said he has received bids for vehicles for the Police Department. He said he has met with Police Chief Phillip Hamrick and supports his recommendation. City Manager Stulce asked Police Chief Hamrick to explain to the Board his recommendation. Police Chief Hamrick said the City budgeted \$170,000 for five (5) patrol vehicles. He said the police department recently lost one of “our” newer vehicles and received \$4,500 in insurance proceeds.

He stated the bids came in a couple of thousand dollars under state contract price. He said Marshall Mize Ford had the lowest bid for six (6) vehicles at a cost of \$163,110. Police Chief Hamrick said the equipment packages were bid out separate and Truckers Light House had the lowest bid of approximately \$17,000. He said in order to remain under the \$170,000, he recommended to use the \$4,500 in insurance proceeds and to take \$5,898 from the Drug Fund to pay for the K-9 equipment. He noted this would help the City obtain six (6) vehicles and stay under the \$170,000 budget. Police Chief Hamrick informed the Board that at the current time the Police Department is eleven cars behind on replacing vehicles. Commissioner Shipley made a motion to approve the purchase of the vehicles and equipment, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cagle and the ayes were unanimous.

City Manager Stulce said he has received bids on a new backhoe for the Public Works Department and only one met the specifications and another was close. He stated the Public Works Director and Public Works Supervisor were present to answer any questions from the Board. City Manger Stulce said the Caterpillar backhoe from Stowers Caterpillar met the specifications at a cost of \$84,776. Commissioner Harmon said he spoke with Public Works Director Steve Grant and Public Works Supervisor Paul Miller. He said they would like to save the City as much money as possible and they have done a good job researching the equipment. He said when looking at the backhoes side by side, you can see a difference in the quality. He stated the Caterpillar's axle can hold 50,000 pounds and the next best backhoe can only hold 26,000 pounds. Commissioner Harmon noted the City has had its current Caterpillar backhoe for 12 years. Public Works Director Grant stated the Caterpillar and John Deere backhoes were far above the other backhoes the City received bids for and the Caterpillar was the only one that met the specifications 100 percent. Commissioner Harmon made a motion to purchase the Caterpillar backhoe, seconded by Commissioner Nunley and the ayes were unanimous.

Commissioner Shipley said the City is having a problem with different organizations making street cuts and not fixing them back properly. He said this has been a problem for a long time. He suggested the City adopt a new policy similar to what has been adopted by the City of Chattanooga. He said they are requiring the use of flowable fill when making street cuts and this would eliminate the use of gravel and dirt. Commissioner Shipley said he plans to supply the Board with copies of the City of Chattanooga's ordinance for them to review. He said if everyone is interested in adopting something similar, City Manager Stulce could have an ordinance drafted for the first meeting in January.

Commissioner Shipley said he wanted to discuss taking in an additional part of Brumlow Hollow Road and making it a City street. He said many years ago it was a city street according to his research. He stated that the City used to maintain this road until one of the past City Managers ordered it not to be maintained. Commissioner Shipley said the residents on this road pay City taxes and would like for it to be designated as a City street once again. City Manager Stulce said the property owners would need to deed the property to the City just like they did when the City accepted Weathersby Road as a City street. Vice-Mayor Cagle stated the City needed to be consistent when accepting roads as City streets and do it by deed. Commissioner Shipley said they would need to get a copy of everyone's deeds over the next few weeks and go from there. Vice-Mayor Cagle said the right-of-ways would need to be determined and have the property owners sign off on it.

Commissioner Shipley said he wanted to reiterate what City Manager Stulce said earlier in the meeting and encouraged everyone to buy local. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Adams announced that the City has been awarded a \$340,000 CDBG Grant to extend the sewer on Durham Street.

Mayor Adams said there will be no commission meeting on December 15th and on that day he will be attending a meeting called by the Hamilton County Mayor to listen to the City of Chattanooga's proposal on annexation of surrounding areas.

ADJOURNMENT 8:16 P.M.

RECORDER JOHNSON