

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF
SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE WAS HELD
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.

INVOCATION BY: REV. JACKIE PENNEY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY:
MAYOR EVERETT

MEMBERS PRESENT:
MAYOR EVERETT
VICE-MAYOR COLEMAN
COMMISSIONER KEITH
COMMISSIONER PENNEY
COMMISSIONER SHIPLEY
CITY MANAGER JOHNSON
ASSISTANT RECORDER DOLBERRY

MEMBER ABSENT:
CITY ATTORNEY ELLIOTT

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:
SEE ATTACHED COPY OF SIGN IN SHEET

State Representative Patsy Hazlewood presented two House Joint Resolutions passed by both the State House and State Senate. She said they are signed by the speaker of the house Chairman Sexton, the Lt. Governor Randy McNally, Governor Bill Lee and myself. She said the first resolution is honoring a late Soddy-Daisy citizen who had an impact on the City, George Franklin Wright. Patti Wright, spouse, and family came forward to receive the Resolution. Representative Hazlewood read the Resolution. She said the assembly wanted to honor George Wright for his contribution to the City as a business owner and his community involvement. Mayor Everett proclaimed November 16, 2023 as George Wright Day. She said the Resolution is a part of Tennessee history and will be preserved in the archives at the State Capitol. She expressed her sympathy for the loss.

State Representative Hazlewood presented a Resolution in honor of the memory of Malcolm “Max” Luther Orr of Soddy-Daisy. Sherrill and James Card, Mr. Orr’s daughter and son-in-law and other family members came forward. Representative Hazlewood read the Resolution. She said the members of this General Assembly were saddened to learn of the passing of Malcolm “Max” Orr. She said the Resolution is to honor Malcolm “Max” Orr for being an exemplary public servant and constant professional. She said he worked fastidiously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities. She said he was an alumni of Soddy-Daisy High School, the First Mayor of Soddy-Daisy and a foundational member of this community, a WWII veteran, served on the Soddy-Daisy Municipal Planning Commission for 17 years acting as chairman for 14 of those years, Charter Member of the local fire department and Lions Club President. She said the General Assembly wanted to honor Max Orr for his bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being. She expressed their sympathy and condolences to the family of Mr. Orr. She said again, this is a Resolution and not a proclamation, and is a part of Tennessee history that will be preserved in the archives at the State Capitol. She thanked the family for sharing such an exemplary man with them.

The minutes of the regular meeting held June 6, 2024 were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Manager Johnson requested approval for camping at the lake for the July 4th holiday. He asked the Commission which days they wanted to allow the camping. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve camping from Thursday, July 4, 2024 through Sunday, July 7, 2024.

1st - Vice-Mayor Coleman
2nd - Commissioner Shipley
Ayes - Unanimous

Mayor Everett requested that the next regular meeting scheduled for July 4th be cancelled due to the holiday.

1st - Vice-Mayor Coleman
2nd - Commissioner Penney
Ayes - Unanimous

City Manager Johnson and Police Chief Petty requested approval to purchase Power DMS Software. He said this is a budgeted item and is requesting approval so the software can be obtained on July 1. Police Chief Petty said this would be used to train policy and training can be added continuously. He further stated that this is a requirement for accreditation to meet the requirements for federal funds.

1st - Commissioner Keith
2nd - Commissioner Shipley
Ayes - Unanimous

City Manager Johnson said that bids were received for construction of the new police department and court building. He said the lowest bid received was in the amount of \$3.675 million. He said this is \$1.3 million more than anticipated. He said 6–8 companies attended the pre-bid conference, but only 2-3 submitted bids. He said the estimated construction time was cited as the reason other bids were not made. He said the plans are being adjusted to reduce the cost but with items that will not be noticeable for a savings of approximately \$200,000.00. He recommended rejecting the bids and to re-bid the project at a later time. City Manager Johnson said \$2.5 million is currently budgeted and if the bids are \$3.5 million the City will need loan.

1st - Vice-Mayor Coleman to reject the bids received and to re-bid the project
2nd - Commissioner Penney
Ayes - Unanimous

Citizens Participation:

Curtis Cecil, Kelcort Foundation, 9619 Dayton Pike, expressed his appreciation to City Manager Johnson and the Public Works Department for removing the brush that was cleared at the Community Garden. He said over 35 volunteers assisted with the clean-up. He announced

the 5th Annual Trunk or Treat scheduled for October 26th, Keeping Kids Warm Coat Project with preparations to begin June 27th. He said the Keeping Kids Warm Project provides new socks, hats and coats to children in the area and was created by Commissioner Keith. He said items will be collected at the Fall Festival on September 30th.

Mr. Cecil said that the Community Garden is the sixth agricultural center and the seventh is located behind the Soddy-Daisy Speed Shop. He said they have donated to the Food Bank. He said they have four food programs at the Library. He said they provide breakfast at the wrestling arena, lunch and snacks for kids during the summer and they have a program at the Library on Mondays where they teach kids to how to prepare food. He said they serve 40 – 80 meals per day. He said Fridays are free book day and 223 books were given out last Friday. Commissioner Penney asked if the Summer Celebration would be held this year. Mr. Cecil said no, last year was the end.

Dale Lovelady, bus driver, said an officer is needed at Soddy-Daisy High School and Sequoyah Road every day to direct traffic as buses are sometimes sitting 15 minutes or more before being able to pull out. He said with the upcoming school year police are needed at the intersection.

James Berry, 8921 Springfield Road, said that his son utilizes Veterans Park often and he expressed his appreciation to the Commission for the improvements that have been made to the park.

City Manager Johnson said at the last meeting Commissioner Keith had requested that citizens who have expressed concerns or requests at the meeting be listed on the next agenda with the update of their request. City Manager Johnson asked if the Commission would be in agreement to this not being on the agenda, but a part of his report and he would report back to them as to what was done. Commissioner Keith said he would be fine with this. It was the

consensus of the Commission to let the City Manager report back and not to place the items on the agenda. Commissioner Keith if there was an update on the dog leash request. City Manager Johnson said not at the time.

Commissioner Keith questioned what had been done to address shipping containers. City Manager Johnson said he would have Planner Jones to research this and provide some suggestions for the Commission.

Vice-Mayor Coleman said that he was glad to be in attendance that his wife spent three weeks in the hospital due to illness. He questioned the status of a dilapidated house at Loop Road and Hallett Street. He also questioned a house on Old Dayton Pike. City Manager Johnson said he thought this house was condemned. He said that he would ask Building Inspector Grant for an update on Monday.

Commissioner Shipley said that his time on the Commission is nearing its end. He said October 6th would be his last meeting. He said that he currently serves as the City's representative on the WWTa Board. He stated that he has asked Commissioner Penney to take his place and he has agreed. He said that he will attend meetings with Commissioner Penney for awhile to show him the ropes. He asked for the consensus of the Board to approve this. City Manager Johnson asked if a letter needed to be sent to WWTa appointing Commissioner Penney as the City's representative. Commissioner Shipley said that would be good. City Manager Johnson said he would have the letter at the next meeting.

Commissioner Shipley said that State Representative Patsy Hazlewood has been around a long time. He said she really cares about the community and its citizens. He said she can be contacted and has always been a helper. He asked the citizens to vote and keep her in office.

Commissioner Penney clarified that he is not taking Commissioner Shipley's place that no one could do that. He said he is proud to represent Soddy-Daisy on the WWTa Board.

Commissioner Penney asked the status of the paving at the Wrestling Arena.

Commissioner Shipley said he is not sure why this has not yet been completed. He said he will get an update tomorrow. He said the County has allotted \$250,000 for the project.

Commissioner Penney asked if the City would share in the cost. City Manager Johnson said he was not sure, but if so, the City's share would be \$20,000.

Commissioner Penney questioned if patrol could be increased in the Gulf and the Pocket Wilderness to reduce criminal activity. Police Chief Petty said a ranger was hired to patrol. He said that resources are limited, but he has asked second shift to be present when time allows. City Manager Johnson clarified that the Pocket Wilderness is Hamilton County's jurisdiction and not the City's.

Commissioner Penney questioned if speed readers could be posted and what is the cost? Police Chief Petty said he would research this. He said Sargeant Wright is working on a THSO grant and he needs to discuss this further with City Manager Johnson. He said he believe the cost is \$3,500.00 each. Commissioner Keith said they do not work to reduce speeding most of the time. Police Chief Petty said either people care or they don't. He said often people report speeding on the street, but it is not an issue. He said while sitting on your porch cars appear to be traveling faster than they actually are. Vice-Mayor Coleman said they are needed at the lake. Mayor Everett said he lives on Walden Street and they do help and are effective. Police Chief Petty said the City is reaching a point where there is so much traffic and traffic is using side streets and speed humps may be needed in some neighborhoods. He said the department cannot police every area. City Manager Johnson said Knox County has installed speed humps that will not damage your car. City Manager Johnson said an engineer could be hired to review the need and determine areas of greatest need, but the cost would be considerable.

Commissioner Shipley said that Soddy-Daisy High School is two weeks away from a turf field. He said Soddy-Daisy High School stadium will be the number one stadium in the County.

Mayor Everett thanked Representative Hazlewood for all she does. He asked if she is still on the finance committee and she replied yes, she is the chair. Mayor Everett said she attends community events and listens to citizens. He said today is an example of two individuals giving back to the community and being recognized. He said other families that have been involved in community are the Shipleys and Jenkins. He said Vice-Mayor Coleman has volunteered in the Soddy-Daisy Fire Department for 50 years. He said at a local and state level there is no better person than Max Orr and George Wright. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said it is not easy to put your name on the ballot. He said the City is blessed to have employees that do more with less. He said Reverend Jackie Penney has a son-in-law that is a retired Soddy-Daisy Police Officer and his daughter works for Hamilton County. He said we have deep roots in this town. He said he is thankful for Soddy-Daisy.

Vice-Mayor Coleman said at the last firehall breakfast he spoke with Judge Starnes. He said Judge Starnes gave him Chief Williams telephone number on Signal Mountain and suggested I call him. Vice-Mayor Coleman said he contacted Chief Williams and he said that he would be happy to discuss having court cases heard downtown with City Manager Johnson. He said that Signal Mountain has saved over \$100,000 already with this change. He said that Signal Mountain only hears minor cases and traffic cases now. Vice-Mayor Coleman said that Judge Starnes commented that the officers get top priority on their cases. He said that Judge Starnes has sat as the City's Judge when our Judge is out. He said Chief Williams told him they do not get any money from cases heard downtown, but they are saving on overtime and other court costs. Vice-Mayor Coleman said he told him Soddy-Daisy is the same way and we are just trying to stop our free bleeding. He said sometime after July 1 he would like to contact them and discuss this in depth.

Dede Shipley wished her husband, Commissioner Gene Shipley, a Happy 69th Birthday.

Adjourned 7:50 P.M.

Burt Johnson