

A WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE WAS HELD
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

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

Police Chief Sneed provided the Board with a handout showing the cost of body cameras and car cameras less savings through returned cameras, GHSO grant and pistol budget savings. He stated that plans are to use the recording system used by Hamilton County Emergency 911. He said he and City Manager Johnson had a meeting with John Stuermer, Hamilton County E-911, to discuss this. He said as presented the cost would exceed the available funds by \$2,700.00. Discussion was held. Commissioner Everett stated he felt this is a need for the department. Chief Sneed stated that if purchased from Digital Allied Group there would be a 2 day turnaround time for camera replacement. Further discussion was held on the uses of the new system. City Manager Johnson stated that the body cameras have never been a budgeted item. They were never requested during a budget workshop, but in-car cameras are a budgeted item. Vice-Mayor Cothran agreed with Commissioner Everett that this is a need for the department. Chief Sneed stated that the initial cost could be absorbed in the current budget. Police Chief Sneed stated that one extra camera would be kept for emergency purposes and he felt this was adequate with a two day turnaround time. City Manager Johnson informed the Board that this purchase could be made on GSA.

Chief Sneed stated that he has budgeted to purchase 10 rifles. He said the first nine surplus rifles sold for an average of \$680.00 each and were purchased for \$500.00 each 15 years ago. He said the new rifles with optical scopes will cost approximately \$1,100.00.

Fire Chief Guffey and Deput Chief Morgan explained that the federal government is narrowing the bandwidth of the current radios used by their department. Chief Guffey said the department is being forced to go from VHF (analog) to 800 (digital). Chief Guffey stated that this change could be made gradually, but needs to start now as in 2-5 years the current radio system will not work. They suggested buying dual band radios so that they can be used now and when the change is made, but dual band are approximately double the cost of single band. A lengthy discussion was held. Commissioner Everett questioned if budgeted could the purchase be pushed into capital outlay later. He asked City Manager Johnson to prepare a forecasting model. City Manager Johnson stated he would need the number to be purchased as well as the cost. Chief Guffey noted that the Harris brand is less expensive than Motorola. Commissioner Everett asked if these needed to be purchased now or preparation made for future purchase. Chief Guffey stated future purchase. He said that changes to the tower would also need to be made. It was noted that dual band provides more options and 22 dual band have already been purchased. Vice-Mayor Cothran suggested that the City look into paying off the loan for the fire department renovation and then if needed a new loan could be applied for to purchase the radios in the future.

City Manager Johnson said that the City has not yet had a draw on the loan for the fire department, but the next draw will hit the loan. He asked Public Works Director Grant for a final cost on the fire hall renovation.

Commissioner Shipley questioned if the 22 dual band radios purchased by the fire department would work in the future when the change to 800 is made. Chief Guffey stated yes. Deputy Chief Morgan said the department is not giving up the VHF as the City owns it. Deputy Chief Morgan suggested purchasing 8 mobile radios for the trucks that are used regularly. Vice-Mayor Cothran asked for a cost sheet to be prepared. Fire Chief Guffey said this was just to inform the Board of the upcoming change and more detail would be provided later. City Manager Johnson asked if this would need to be included in the 2021-22 budget year. Deputy Chief Morgan stated yes. Mayor Nunley questioned if the “old” radios could be sold.

Commissioner Everett questioned what the VHF radios could be used for. Public Works Director Grant stated paging.

Commissioner Everett asked if there are signal issues, would Hamilton County work with us on using their tower on the mountain. Fire Chief Guffey stated he is working on this. He said the cost of installing an antenna is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars. He said this could help everyone in the county. Captain Petty said that if the radio system goes out, no one can talk. We are in a region where the 800 is being federally mandated. Mayor Nunley said we should have learned something from the AT & T bombing in Nashville. Commissioner Everett clarified approximately \$53,694 next year. City Manager Johnson said yes.

Fire Chief Guffey gave an update on the fire hall stated that the slick coat had been applied to the block and roof trusses have been set, but could not provide a completion date at this time. Public Works Director Grant stated that the public works department employees would be stopping their work on the fire department as mowing season is beginning.

Discussion was held concerning Bill Layne's request to be de-annexed. It was noted that annexation now requires a referendum. City Manager Johnson noted that when de-annexing properties the Board needs to consider what is unique to the property to be de-annexed that does not apply to other properties in the City. Commissioner Everett suggested a check box list be created to determine this and to determine if de-annexation could be considered. He suggested the Board could come up with a plan to let the residents know they are listening and to give them consideration.

Public Works Director Grant reported that volunteers had picked up trash along the roadway from Charlies Lounge south to Hilltop on Sunday. He said they picked up 1800 pounds of trash. City Manager Johnson noted that he would post a thank you on facebook to Nate Sanden and the volunteers.

Commissioner Everett asked if he sees bulk items on the side of the road can he call this into City Hall in case the individual does not know to call. Public Works Director Grant said yes.

Public Works Director Grant stated that \$37,000 has been spent to date on the fire hall. He said the cost of lumber has doubled.

Public Works Director Grant reported that FEMA is changing the base flood again, due to the October floods in the south end. He said they are proposing a 2-4 foot difference in flood elevations. He asked if you can lower the base flood because there was a flood and claims were made. He stated he does not feel this can be argued. He said the area may have been above the flood in 2002, but now it is not.

Public Works Director Grant stated that the 4th of July fireworks purchased last year were

not used as the celebration was cancelled due to COVID-19. He said \$9,500 was budgeted. He asked the Board if they wanted to purchase additional fireworks for this year or only use what has already been purchased. It was the consensus of the Board to use what is already been purchased.

Public Works Director Grant reported that the south park ballfield fence has been ordered, but no time line has been given as to installation.

Public Works Director Grant informed the Board that the cost of ballfield lights would be between \$275,000 & \$300,000.00. This would include full rewiring. He said this year they would focus on bulb replacement. Commissioner Everett questioned if grant money could be used for this. City Manager Johnson said he would check to see if the guidelines have changed.

Discussion was held concerning tiles/culverts that are being removed from the north park and how they would be disposed of. Vice-Mayor Cothran suggested checking with Major Redlin at the High School to see if he could use a few of them for JROTC training. Public Works Director Grant suggested using them in the drainage ditch in the dog park to potentially reduce flooding.

Commissioner Shipley asked Public Works Director Grant if he needed to hire additional personnel for the public works department as he knows they are pushed to the limit. Public Works Director Grant stated part-time, seasonal help may be needed during mowing season, but stated that if full-time operators were hired, additional equipment would also have to be purchased. It was noted that the pay scale in the public works department also needed to be reviewed. Commissioner Coleman suggested using 2 employees to maintain the ballfields.

Public Works Director Grant stated that Chad Crowe is the primary caretaker of the ballfields in the summer. Public Works Director Grant stated that he has contacted Mike Vaughn regarding prepping the fields once and then Mr. Crowe maintaining them after that. He said this would be at an approximate cost of \$6,000 per field in the north end and \$10,000 per field in the south end as they are in worse shape. This should be a one time cost and then yearly maintenance after that. This cost would be substantially less than hiring an additional employee.

Commissioner Shipley said a tournament is being held at the north end the weekend of April 4. He said that due to criticism during the last tournament the tournament organizers did not want to use our fields. He asked that the fields be prepped and immaculate for this tournament. He would like to overcome the criticism.

Discussion was held concerning the Coca-Cola scoreboard. Captain Petty stated he is working on this. The contract with Coke needs to be signed.

City Manager Johnson informed the Board that the closing on the purchase of the Depot Street property is scheduled for Friday. He stated that the budget workshop is being scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on April 5 and asked if any of the Board members had a conflict with this date and time. The Board members indicated that they would be in attendance.

City Manager Johnson informed the Board that he has scheduled a meeting with the owners of Mountain Shade Mobile Home Park and Hidden Hills Mobile Home Park on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. He has yet to hear from the other park owners as to their attendance.

Commissioner Coleman discussed the complaints received from mothers concerning the girls ballfields. Mayor Nunley stated that the families need to take ownership in the fields and

assist with keeping them clean. Captain Petty stated that opening day for the Kids Club is April 9, 10 & 11, 2021. He said they are partnering with wood carving and the food bank on this weekend. He invited the Board to attend and stated it would begin at 9:00 a.m.

Vice-Mayor Cothran stated that the 4th of July Car Show will be held from 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. as always. Vice-Mayor Cothran stated that vendors will be on both sides of the tract this year. He said they would like to increase the number of vendors. He said the 4th is a fundraiser for the Vietnam Veterans. Commissioner Shipley stated that the cost for holding the 4th of July Celebration is approximately \$20,000. He said it needs to be good to justify the money spent. Discussion was held concerning golf carts and beer sales in the park. It was noted that beer sales would be discussed for future celebrations. Vice-Mayor Cothran said he would like to see the day when the streets are shut down all day for the car show followed by vendors and bands. Further discussion was held on extending power and water for future events, but this year there is not adequate time to address expansion.

Vice-Mayor Cothran informed the Board that the Wall of Honor ceremony will be held on the first Saturday in May, which is May 1st at 10:00 a.m. He said this year will be different and shorter due to COVID.

Commissioner Everett stated that he will be undergoing major surgery on April 7th and will be out approximately 4-6 weeks. He asked the Board to follow up on a flood mitigation committee to assist in holding the State accountable. He said the center of the creek is mounded and there has to be something that can be done to address this. City Manager Johnson stated that he and Public Works Director Grant have met with Ned Rich who owns property in the industrial park concerning the creek issue. Mr. Rich has indicated that he is willing to remove rock from

the creek at a cost of \$0 if the City can get approval to do so. He can use the rock at his business which is Custom Stone Handlers. He said Mr. Rich is contacting TDEC to arrange a meeting to discuss this. He has a plan and is willing to spend \$500,000 on engineering and channel work if TDEC will allow it. City Manger Johnson stated that Angie Markum, Director of Ivy Academy, has a contact at TDEC and is assisting Mr. Rich with his meeting.

Mayor Nunley stated that bus drivers have witnessed trash blowing out of garbage trucks onto the City's rights-of-way with the most recent being from a garbage truck with Reliable.

Discussion was held concerning the shoulder that is sliding on Mountain Road. Public Works Director Grant stated he has requested three recommendations from Geotech, but has only received one. He said he is currently holding their bill until they fulfill the request. He further stated that he has discussed gabion baskets with Barry Higgins as a possible solution as well.

City Manager Johnson gave the Board a sketch of a proposed addition to City Hall. He said that George Wright Construction can be contacted for an estimated cost.

ADJOURNED 11:00 a.m.

RECORDER JOHNSON