

A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF
SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE WAS HELD
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

INVOCATION BY: 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

The minutes of the regular meeting held February 2, 2023 were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SODDY-DAISY, TENNESSEE,
AMENDING THE SODDY-DAISY MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 5, CHAPTER 5,
SECTIONS 5-501(1) AND 5-502(2) TO REVISE PURCHASING LIMITS.
PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING.**

City Manager Johnson said the purpose of the amendment is to increase the bid limit from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00. He said that increasing the limit will save the City time and money. He said that purchases over \$10,000.00 will still require City Commission approval. There was no opposition.

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

Ayes - Unanimous

Citizen's Participation:

Allen Branum, 628 Neighbors Drive, came before the Board requesting permission for Christ Family Church to host a community egg hunt at the Veterans Park on April 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. He said that he had contacted City Hall and the date is available.

1st - Commissioner Shipley to approve

2nd - Commissioner Penney

Ayes - Unanimous

Jim Stewart, Emerald Bay, updated the Commission on upcoming events planned by Keep Soddy-Daisy Beautiful. He said that Arbor Day will be March 4th at Veterans Park. He said that it was originally planned for Soddy Lake, but there were delays in getting TVA approvals. He said they will be planting 35 trees and the City's Public Works Department will dig the holes. He said that donations are coming in and the volunteer list is growing. Mayor Everett questioned if they would be working with TVA in the future. City Manager Johnson stated yes we are still pursuing the approvals.

Nate Sanden, 10773 Loop Road and Keep Soddy-Daisy Beautiful, announced the next cleanup scheduled for February 25th on Hotwater Road. He said there are hundreds of tires that have been dumped in this area. He also announced the next Community Cleanup Challenge scheduled for April 17th. He said that details will be posted on the website in the next few days. Mr. Sanden expressed his appreciation for the recent improvements at Veterans Park.

City Manager Johnson said bids were recently taken for lumber for several projects which include the pier, the bridge in the Gulf, a storage shed and batting cages. He said there were 3 bids. Public Works Director Grant stated 84 Lumber was the lowest bid. He said bids

were received for treated lumber as well as Trex with bids ranging from \$9,000 to \$16,000. He said the treated lumber would need to be treated yearly to extend the life, the previous lumber lasted approximately 9 years. Commissioner Shipley questioned if the group developing the townhomes were planning to donate money toward the lumber cost. Public Works Director Grant said that he had spoken with them earlier in the day and was not sure if they would donate money. Commissioner Penney said that he would speak with Jennifer Lively, realtor for the townhomes, to determine what they are willing to donate toward the repair of the pier.

Commissioner Keith stated that if a substantial donation is made, he would prefer that the Trex be purchased due to its lifespan. City Manager Johnson stated that the Board can approve awarding the bid to multiple bidders and up to a certain amount. He said there is approximately a \$12,000 difference between lumber and Trex. Commissioner Shipley questioned the hardware for the Trex. Public Works Director Grant said he believes it is included. Commissioner Keith questioned the expiration of the bid. Public Works Director Grant said 30 days. City Manager Johnson said the Board could approve up to \$53,500 to allow leeway should donations be received.

- 1st - Vice-Mayor Coleman to approve up to \$53,500 and to approve both bidders
- 2nd - Commissioner Shipley
- Ayes - Unanimous

City Manager Johnson stated that the City would not spend over the lowest bid price.

City Manager Johnson noted that an invitation to Sequoyah High School's grand opening of the welding program on February 21st at 1:00 p.m. is in the packets.

Commissioner Keith questioned what is being done to address the condition of 11237 Dayton Pike. He said the home burned several months ago and people may be living on the

property in storage sheds and cars. Codes Enforcement Grant stated that a condemnation notice had been sent as well as a letter to address people living in the shed and cars.

Commissioner Keith asked what could be done to address trash cans and garbage on the street at 11209 Dayton Pike. He said there are several duplexes on the hill that bring their trash down to Dayton Pike. He said there are 15 trash cans there now. He asked if the City can require the landlord to place a dumpster at the top of the hill for the residents to use. Public Works Director Grant stated this has been an on-going issue at this location with several letters sent. He said they could be cited to court. He further stated that trash cans are to be removed from the right-of-way within 24 hours of the scheduled trash pickup. City Manager Johnson said he would discuss this issue with the City Attorney to see if a dumpster can be required. City Manager Johnson said that trash is an issue throughout the City with citizens placing bags on the right-of-way and not using cans.

Vice-Mayor Coleman thanked the Public Works Department for cleaning the ditch on Old Dayton Pike. He said EPB had left a tree in the ditch which caused a drainage issue. He also said he had been contacted again as to the timeline for installing the lights at the pickle ball court. Public Works Director Grant said the lights in the State Park were repaired by EPB today and the lights at the Lake would be repaired as soon as the ground is dry enough for a vehicle. City Manager Johnson said that he has discussed lighting of the pickle ball courts with the City of Collegedale. He said that Collegedale has an ongoing issue with their citizens destroying the lights. He said they have to repair/replace them weekly. He said there may be a solution to keep this from happening in our City and he would discuss this with Public Works Director Grant.

Commissioner Shipley said that he would like to discuss the proposed pay increase for

the fire and police departments at the next meeting. He said for years Soddy-Daisy was the lead in pay, but that is not the case now. He said there will be a workshop held next week to discuss this further. He said that Fire Chief Morgan has expressed the need to hire 3 additional firefighters. Commissioner Shipley said this is not the time for a tax increase, but something has to be done to retain employees and to be able to attract new hires. He said it is getting harder to hire fire and police personnel.

Commissioner Penney commended the Police Department. He said there was a nice article on the Chattanooga about Officer Odas Smith. It was noted that Officer Smith had also been a member of the City's Fire Department and Public Works Department before becoming a police officer.

Commissioner Penney expressed his concern with trains blocking the crossing at Cox Lane. He said this has been an ongoing issue. He said with the aging community he feels this will become an even greater issue and would like for a solution to be found. He said that at one time there was a citizen who owned property next to the First Baptist Church who was willing to create an emergency exit across their property. He said a gate would be locked to prevent daily access but could be accessed in an emergency. It was noted that the Church resisted this option in the past. City Manager Johnson said this could be revisited. Public Works Director Grant stated that the Cornerstone Subdivision parcel that was previously offered is being sold. He said he does not know if the new owner would be open to the idea. Commissioner Shipley noted that 15 years ago, City representatives including him met with the Railroad to discuss another option. He said the City built a roadway to Walden Street. He said it was constructed as required by the Railroad. He said the next railroad group out of Virginia said it would not work

as it would damage the viaduct and it was not completed. Commissioner Penney said an alternate solution must be found.

Mayor Everett said that he would like the City to post upcoming projects and their timeline on the website. He said this could potentially answer a lot of questions that the citizens have as to what is being done in the City. He said citizens have expressed their concerns with monies being spent on park improvements and not on paving because they do not know what is in the planning stages or when additional projects are planned. He said that he would like to see the public informed on upcoming grants, etc. City manger Johnson said he could address the money side tomorrow, but would need to get a commitment from the Dayton Pike Contractor as to when the project will begin.

Mayor Everett said the City has been fortunate to have exceptional employees. He said there is a need to compete to keep employees and to be able to attract new hires. He said that \$8,000 is spent on a new police officer before they can be put on the road. He said in the past year the City has hired 11 new officers. He said he would like to schedule a workshop on Friday, February 24th. It was the consensus of the Commission to have the workshop on February 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned 7:43 p.m.

Recorder Burt Johnson