

**JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS
MURFREESBORO CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 13, 2023**

The Murfreesboro City Council met in a regular scheduled meeting Monday, March 13, 2023, at the Murfreesboro City Hall. Mayor Jim O'Neal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor O'Neal led the council in prayer.

Recorder/Treasurer Lamb called the roll. Member Barnes was absent. All other council members were present after Member Bachmann arrived a few minutes after the meeting start time.

The minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 13, 2022, were presented to the Council. Member Gills made a motion to accept the minutes as given and Member Stone made the second. The roll call vote approved the minutes.

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Council. Member O'Neal made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Member Gills made the second. The roll call vote approved the motion unanimously.

Financial, written, and/or verbal reports were given for the Parks Commission, Waterworks Commission, Advertising & Tourism Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission and Animal Control.

Mayor O'Neal informed the council that the poles and lights for the baseball field at the Murfreesboro City Park should be delivered during the week of March 20, 2023. South Pike County schools had applied for a grant to help with the lighting expense, but it was not awarded to them.

Mayor O'Neal presented quotes for security cameras from Call Mark Communications (Mark Pack) and Hot Springs Network DR Inc. (Shawn Flaherty). Member Bachmann made a motion to accept the quote from Hot Springs Network DR Inc. in the amount of \$6044.94. Member Gills made the second. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor O'Neal gave an update on the ongoing grant projects for the city. The survey for the sidewalk project is complete. Trey Foster, engineer for the sidewalk project, has submitted a 30% plan to ARDOT. They must approve the plan before proceeding to the next phase.

Mayor O'Neal spoke about the plan to provide public restrooms on the square. Contractor Ricky Branch drew a design of adding bathrooms to the existing pavilion at the City Service Building. Mr. Branch also provided a building materials list describing what would be placed in the bathrooms. The mayor asked for approval to take bids on the project. An alternative the bathrooms would be mobile bathrooms. Member Fugitt made the motion to take bids and to explore the option of mobile bathrooms. Member O'Neal made the second. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor O'Neal gave an update on the post office. On March 3, 2023, Jessi Solley, Field Representative for U.S. Senator John Boozman, came to Murfreesboro to visit the post office regarding the ongoing issue of bat infestation. Representatives of the post office told Ms. Solley and Mayor O'Neal that there were complications regarding the cleanup efforts. The ceiling tiles have yet to be removed and replaced because possible evidence of a rodent infestation has been discovered. When asked about the difference between bat and rat droppings, an explanation could not be given. No rodents have been captured in traps which have been set.

The lights for the Murfreesboro City Park baseball field were ordered from GeoSport Lighting Systems, LLC through TIPS contract #21120301 Sports Facility Lighting. The amount of the contract is \$81,900. The city has appropriated \$65,000 from funds formerly known as ARPA funds. Mayor O'Neal requested permission for the Murfreesboro City Park to get bids for and obtain a loan if necessary to cover the remaining \$16,900 cost of the baseball field lighting. Member Lewis made a motion to take bids from local banks and obtain a loan to cover the excess costs. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor O'Neal informed the council that Tommy Stuard has resigned from the Park Commission and the terms of Chris Terrell, Beth Perrin and Matt Hickey have expired. Ms. Perrin and Mr. Hickey have expressed a desire to remain on the commission. Mr. Terrell has asked to be replaced due to a change in family obligations. The mayor asked to appoint Brandon Wofford to replace Tommy Stuard for a one year term and Tesla Gills to replace Chris Terrell for a three year term. Member O'Neal made the motion to accept the appointments. Member Gills made the second. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Ordinance 2023-1 entitled An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2022-6 (Entitled: An Ordinance Adopted Pursuant to Act 1112 of 2017, Approving the Application of Telinga's Mex LLC for a Private Club to be Located at 100 E. 13th St., Murfreesboro, AR 71958) was introduced to the council. The purpose of the amendment was to change the application name to Childers Corner Social Club Inc. d/b/a Telinga's Mex Restaurant. A motion to introduce was made by Member Gills. Member Fugitt made the second. Members O'Neal, Bachmann, Fugitt and Gills voted in favor. Member Stone voted against. The motion passed 4-0. Member Gills made a motion to suspend the 2nd and 3rd reading of Ordinance No. 2023-1. Member Fugitt made the second. Members O'Neal, Bachmann, Fugitt and Gills voted in favor. Member Stone voted against. The motion passed 4-0. Member Gills made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-1. Member O'Neal made the second. Members O'Neal, Bachmann, Fugitt and Gills voted in favor. Member Stone voted against. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor O'Neal reminded the council about the Harvest Food Mobile Pantry on March 15, 2023, at 9:00 am. He also informed them of a meeting with a representative of the state broadband commission on March 15, 2023 at 1:00 pm. Member Fugitt spoke about a meeting with State Senator Steve Crowell on March 10, 2023 about the Gem trail and Glen Campbell trail which was spearheaded by the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission. He informed those present that the trails could not be considered "scenic" trails because of highway signage issues. Those present agreed to go ahead with the legislation without the "scenic" designation. Mr. Crowell will reword the legislation and get it introduced as a bill.


There were no other items to be brought to the attention of Mayor O'Neal or the council.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Date approved: 4-10-23



Jim O'Neal, Mayor



Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer