

**JOURNAL AND PROCEEDINGS  
MURFREESBORO CITY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Murfreesboro City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting Monday, August 14, 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. All council members were present.

The minutes from the Regular Meeting held on July 11, 2023, and minutes from the Special Meeting held on July 26, 2023, were presented to the Council. Member Barnes made a motion to accept the minutes as given and Member Gills made the second. The roll call vote approved the minutes unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Council. Member Gills made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Member Stone 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 of the mailing of letters by the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding violations of city ordinances. Zoning Officer Ricky Branch spoke regarding how many letters were originally mailed, how many people responded or made improvements, and how many were getting second letters regarding their property.

After being tabled at the last meeting, the council was presented with an invoice from the 9<sup>th</sup> West JD Drug Task Force for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Money for this expense was not appropriated in the 2023 Budget. The invoice reflected a \$1000 increase from the 2022 appropriation. The increase was due to a county dropping out of the program and the cost being redistributed among the remaining areas covered. Chief Randy Lamb spoke in favor of remaining with the Drug Task Force for another year due to planned changes within the organization. Member Gills made a motion to pay the invoice. Member Fugitt made the second. The motion passed with Member Barnes abstaining from the vote.

Laurie Westfall, owner of the Feed Bin Café, was next on the agenda. She spoke regarding the use of the City Service Building for a visitor information center and public bathroom. After discussion, Member Stone made a motion to allow the Tourism department to use the building as a tourist information center but to table the discussion on bathrooms. Member Lewis made the second. The motion passed unanimously. Member Stone and Member Barnes are both on the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission and will be discussing the issue of bathrooms at their next regular meeting and then report back to the council.

Mayor O'Neal next spoke about the appointment of Lance Bridgeman to the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission to replace Jean Floyd who recently resigned from the

position. This is the at large position which the Mayor and Council appoint. Mr. Bridgeman would serve the remainder of the term ending June 30, 2025. Member O'Neal made a motion to accept the appointment. Member Barnes made the second. The motion passed 5 – 1 with Member Fugitt casting a dissenting vote.

Mayor O'Neal presented an updated version of the Personnel Handbook for city employees. Changes to the handbook includes updating to reflect the verbiage recommended by the Arkansas Municipal League, adding 1 week of vacation after nine (9) years of employment, adding Good Friday, Juneteenth, Columbus Day, and employee birthdays to the list of paid holidays and amending the sick leave for non-uniformed employees to add six (6) days and the carryover of a maximum of seven (7) sick days to the next calendar year. Recorder/Treasurer Lamb read Resolution 2023-5 entitled: A Resolution Seeking to Update the Personnel Handbook for the City of Murfreesboro. Member Barnes made the motion to approve the Resolution. Member Bachmann made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

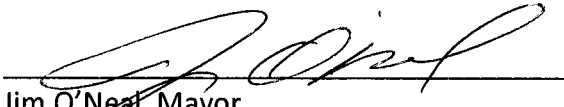
Ordinance 2023-5 entitled: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2019-2 (Entitled: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 229, requiring premises to be kept free from weeds, rank grass, garbage, rubbish, damaged or disabled vehicles and other unsightly and unsanitary articles; requiring property owners to eliminate, fill up or remove stagnant pools of water or any other unsanitary things, place or condition which might become a breeding place for mosquitoes, flies and germs harmful to the health of the community; prescribing a procedure to be followed in such cases; declaring an emergency; and for other purposes.) was presented to the council. The purpose of the Amendment is to further define Section 3 which contains penalties and fines. Member Lewis made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-5. Member Bachmann made the second. The motion passed unanimously. Member Bachmann made a motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2023-5. Member Lewis made the second. The motion passed unanimously. Member Lewis made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-5. Member Bachmann made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

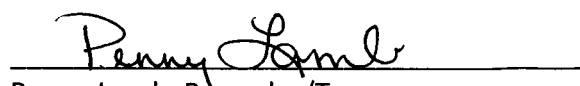
During the Round Table discussion, Mayor O'Neal informed the council that the replacement of the roof had begun. The light poles are up at the park baseball field. We are waiting for the electrician to finish wiring. Trey Foster reported to the mayor that the 90% approval documents had been sent to ARDOT for comment for the sidewalk project. The city's backhoe had to have repairs that cost over \$8,000. The mayor's spending limit is only \$5,000. After discussion, the council approved the expenditure and agreed to raise the spending limit of the mayor to \$10,000.

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

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

Date approved: 9/11/23

  
Jim O'Neal, Mayor

  
Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer