

**TOWN OF DANDRIDGE, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting
9 July 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The Dandridge Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) met in a regular session in Dandridge, Tennessee on Tuesday, the 9th day of July 2024.
- B. Vice-Mayor TODD KESTERSON was present and presiding and called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

- A. A roll call of the BMA was conducted with the following members responding:
- Vice-Mayor TODD KESTERSON
 - Alderman JESSICA ELDER
 - Alderman MARIANNE REESE
 - Alderman MIKE CHAMBERS
 - Alderman MIKE NELSON
 - Alderman JEFF DEPEW

ABSENT: Mayor GEORGE GANTTE

- B. A quorum being present, the following business was conducted and entered on the record:

III. PUBLIC HEARING

IV. READING OF THE MINUTES

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to approve the Regular Session minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting as written.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

V. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS

Kim Ward (Garden Club President) – primary purpose is to clean up graveyard. Last year fixed costs were \$3,582. The board gave us \$3,000 last year and this upcoming year. Last year we spent \$1,200 on plants, flowers... We recently put out donation box and make crafts and sell at festivals. Sales this year are about half of last year's. Irrigation leak have raised costs for the year.

Alderman Depew – would like garden club funding be placed on the agenda for next month.

VI. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS

None Presented

VII. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR

Vice-Mayor Kesterson – Mayor Gantte will be having surgery tomorrow at Vanderbilt at 2:00 and asks for everyone to keep him in their prayers.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TOWN RECORDER

<u>Bank Balance:</u>	<u>BMA Acct:</u>	\$5,334,419.92	<u>DVFD Balance:</u>	\$ 205,548.
	<u>Drug Fund Balance:</u>	\$ 22,550.87	<u>DWMF Balance:</u>	\$3,953,252.36

IX. PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- **Resolution No. 24/25-01** A Resolution to Participate in the Public Entity Partners “Safety Partners” Matching Grant

Town Administrator Shockley – request to participate in Public Entity Partners Safety Conservation Matching Grant. Annual grant that is \$3,000 50/50 matching (\$1,500/\$1,500). Typically used for fire fighting equipment. Authorizes us to apply for grant

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, to accept Resolution No. 24/25-01.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- **First Reading of Ordinance 24/25-02** Adopting the Certified Tax Rate for the Town of Dandridge, Tennessee

Town Administrator Shockley – during the budget process we did not have a certified tax rate and we passed the budget without one with language that we would adopt the certified tax rate once the state accessed the value. .5813 is the state certified tax rate for the Town of Dandridge, lower than the current tax rate of .905.

It came on a motion by Alderman NELSON, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve Ordinance No. 24/25-02 on first reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- **First Reading of Ordinance 24/25-03** Revising the Levying of a Privilege Tax Upon the Occupancy In Any Hotel or Motel or Any Place in Which Rooms, Lodging, or Accommodations are Furnished to Transients For Consideration

Town Administrator Shockley – The state allows for 8% occupancy tax collection, with 4% going to the county. When the town voted for occupancy tax, there was a limit of 2% to be collected. We are eligible to collect the other 2% to make it 4% total collected.

It came on a motion by Alderman ELDER, seconded by Alderman DEPEW, to approve Ordinance No. 24/25-03 on first reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None Presented

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Document Management Services

Rolled to next month's meeting. Trying to obtain a 3rd competitive quote.

- Consideration of Roadblock Request (Lions Club at Intersection of Main St. and Gay St. on October 4, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman ELDER, to Approve the Roadblock Request.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Agreement with South Jefferson County Little League

***Town Administrator Shockley** – we instituted agreements a few years ago and recommend the same terms moving forward.*

***Jeff Batson** – wants more flexible communication with scheduling. Everything went well throughout the year and concluded with the huge world series that was a great success.*

It came on a motion by Alderman ELDER, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to Approve the Agreement with South Jefferson Little League.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Agreement with Dandridge Broncos

***Town Administrator Shockley** – we instituted agreements a few years ago and recommend the same terms moving forward. Attached is proposed budget and proof of insurance*

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to Approve the Agreement with Dandridge Broncos.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Town Administrator Contract

***Town Administrator Shockley** – supplemental packet includes Jefferson City salaries just passed. Every employee received a pay scale adjustment or 5% raise this budget cycle (whichever was larger)*

***Alderman Elder** – current agreement states TA will receive a 4% increase every year. Doesn't think its fair for TA to get 4% when all other employees got 5%.*

***Alderman Nelson** – wants to see it go to a 4-year contract. He has done a great job and should be compensated well.*

***Alderman Chambers** – Annual raise of 4% plus whatever % all other employees get.*

***Alderman Reese** – base pay of \$95,000*

It came on a motion by Alderman NELSON, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve Town Administrator Contract.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Library Relocation to Intersection of Academy Circle and Banner Street

Town Administrator Shockley – Bethany has the opportunity to apply for a 2.2-million-dollar grant. The original expansion called for purchasing property from Rebecca Slone, removing historic home, and grade work to level lot...2.2 million would not cover that cost. We have the piece of property on banner street beside the school loft development. Would the board be open to combining (meeting spaces for town) with the library and moving to this property.

Bethany Jones (Library) – Met with architects today and the opinion was it would be more cost effective to build a new building on the vacant lot instead of upgrading. Rough plan shows a 15,000 sq ft building that is 4 times the size of the current library...the proposed plan would cost 4.5 million. The grant is for 2 million with a 10% local match (local library) so we are asking the board for the additional cost.

Discussion about the size of the proposed building: Alderman Nelson – Questions whether they could get by with a 9,000 sq. ft library. Then consider building more when we get more money. Moving building opens up chance for us to utilize that waterfront acreage. **Bethany Jones** – state standards say a library should have half a square foot per capita and we serve a population of 21,000. This building would serve us for 20-30 years. We have to submit an architectural plan and budget for the grant. This is AARPA funding and we will probably never see a grant like this again. We can adjust plan but we can't do below 10,000 sq. ft. **Alderman Depew/Kesterson** – my biggest issue with this is that the City of Dandridge has a population of around 3,000 that will foot the bill for the 21,000 population the library serves. **Alderman Elder** – is it even possible to have this done by December of 2026 when the grant says the money has to be spent by? It took us a year to even get a contract for the new county building. **Vice-Mayor Kesterson** – what would be the cost of 9,000 sq. ft? Board comes up with around 3 million. **Bethany Jones** – need to have commitment for rest of funding before I can apply for grant if the budget is going to exceed 2.2 million. **Alderman Reese** – better off building a new building. **Attorney Greene** – it's not actually committing funds, it's committing to coming back and look at this if she gets the grant.

It came on a motion by Alderman REESE, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to Allow Library to Apply for Library Funding Grant and Will Support up to \$800,000 Depending on the Approval of the Grant and Discussion Afterwards.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Vice-Mayor KESTERSON	AYE	Alderman DEPEW	NO

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-1, and was so ordered.

- Discussion/Consideration of Noise Regulations in Industrial Zone

Building Inspector Terry Reneau – current constant noise level is 85 decibels. The noise ordinance we have now the police department monitors. Information provided is to look at and decide if the board wants to make any changes to the current noise ordinance.

XII. DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

- Codes Enforcement/Building Inspector - Terry Reneau
 - Normal inspections right now
 - Nothing new for commercial
 - Residential permits are down and commercial is up (county-wide)
- Fire – Steve Williams
 - Yearly fireworks fundraiser netted \$13,500
 - Won Firehouse Subs Grant of \$18,615 which will go towards 5 sets of turnout gear

- Dandridge Water Management Facility Superintendent - Tana Benson
 - Set 9 water taps
 - CDBG sewer project will wrapping up soon
 - Had substantial water leaks the past month, have asked people to conserve water
- Public Works Director - Donald Whaley
 - Thanks council for the raise, we have a good team.
 - Just finished paving project on W. Dumplin Valley
- Finance Director - Kendall Moore
 - Thanks to board for the raises.
 - Been updating payroll for the new year
 - Auditors have come for first visit already
- Parks and Recreation Director - James Baker (Shockley)
 - Summer basketball instructional league started tonight, 226 kids signed up
 - This Saturday from 4-7, Lady Vol Jewell Spear and Vol Jamai Mishak to meet with all the kids who have participated at the FODAC
 - Hosted 85 teams for the World Series from teams from all over the country
 - Will be updating backstops utilizing tourism grant
- South-Jefferson - Jeff Batson
 - Sent 4 all-star teams to state, Senior softball girls won state and will go to regionals in Salisbury, NC
 - Opening day went well despite the weather. Appreciates the board for support and Alderman Nelson for throwing out 1st pitch
- Attorney Jeff Greene
 - Have closed on property at the field of dreams
- Town Administrator Shockley
 - Paving is scheduled for HWY 92 hopefully starting July 15
 - Have met with all employees over the past few weeks getting feedback
 - Thanks to board for new contract

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

None Presented

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman NELSON, that the meeting of July 9, 2024, be adjourned.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

Todd Kesterson, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

Zach Reese, Town Recorder

MINUTES-BMA-070924