

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2018

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners met in their regular monthly workshop session on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 5 pm at City Hall.

Mayor Lowe opened the workshop. The first item for discussion was a request from Monroe County E-911 Director April White to change our street signage to show "Sweetwater-Vonore Rd" rather than East North Street to match the 9-1-1 database. City Attorney John Cleveland advised he had reviewed the request, as had the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), and the city's liability carrier, Tennessee Municipal League. Ms. White proposed two solutions: 1) The city change their signs to match the 9-1-1 database or 2) 9-1-1 will send letters to the mail recipients along the road and tell them they must change their mailing address to East North Street and that the city is requiring it. Mr. Cleveland contends a third option: Since the City of Sweetwater has never voted to change the name to Sweetwater-Vonore Rd and the law supports that a city has the authority to name its municipal streets, the city can leave the signs as they are and 9-1-1 may leave its database as it is and no one should have to change their address. Mr. Cleveland noted that several of the 17 affected signs are the historic concrete posts, which cannot be replaced, and that 9-1-1 was intending the sign changes be made at the city's cost. He went on to note that our first responders are intelligent and know the common names for areas and streets in our area, and that even modern technologies such as google and yahoo maps show the street name as East North Street. MTAS's legal advisor also confirmed via email that there is no increased liability by leaving the signage as is and there is no cases where a city has been held liable. Mr. Cleveland recommended no action to be taken and that it be made clear that the city would not require anyone to change their mailing address.

City Recorder Jessica Morgan reviewed the guidelines and application for using the newly acquired Main Street Market lot at the corner of Main and Monroe, which is now being leased from Norfolk Southern. The board agreed to allow staff at City Hall to approve applications and any problems could be brought back to the board for review.

City Recorder Jessica Morgan provided a quarterly financial summary dated December 31, 2017, which reviewed debt obligations, fund balances, year-to-date revenues and expenditures. She noted that property taxes were 10% ahead of the same period last year and believed the new forms and return envelopes were helping with timely collections. She noted that fund balance was decreasing this year and new revenues would be discussed in the budget workshops. She reviewed the Moody's rating update which rated the city as Aa2.

Mayor Lowe reviewed the meeting agenda for February, noting that planning commission was being rescheduled due to weather to Tuesday, January 23, 2018, so some of the agenda items were pending planning commission review.

No action was taken.

The workshop was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

This the 22nd day of January, 2018.