
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 24, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

Board Members

Mayor Ken Moore	P		
Vice Mayor Clyde Barnhill	P	Alderman Beverly Burger	P
Alderman Brandy Blanton	P	Alderman Matt Brown	P
Alderman Gabrielle Hanson	P	Alderman Jason Potts	P
Alderman Ann Petersen	A	Alderman Patrick Baggett	P

Department Directors/Staff

Eric Stuckey, City Administrator	P	Angie Johnson, City Recorder	P
Vernon Gerth, ACA Development	P	Cayce Anderson, Deputy City Recorder	P
Mark Hilty, ACA Public Works	P	Sarah Schilling, Assistant Deputy City Recorder	P
Kristine Brock, ACA/CFO	P	Hannah Lampela, Executive Assistant	A
Shauna Billingsley, City Attorney	P	Steve Grubb, Streets Director	P
Deb Faulkner, Police Chief	P	Lisa Clayton, Parks Director	P
Paul Holzen, Engineering Director	P	Jack Tucker, SES Director	P
Mike Lowe, Comptroller	P	Tom Marsh, BNS Director	P
Monique McCollough, Public Events Specialist	P	Scott Williar, Emergency Management Coordinator	P
Michelle Hatcher, Water Director	P	Jason Potts, IT Director	P
Chris Franklin, Public Works Operations Analyst	P	Milissa Reirson, Communications Manager	P

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ken Moore called the Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments on agenda items may be made in person at City Hall or by emailing recorder@franklintn.gov. Comments will be submitted for the record.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update from Tennessee Valley Authority

Eric Stuckey

Justin Maierhofer, Regional Vice President of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and Chuck Barber, Middle Tennessee Electric, provided an update on why there were rolling blackouts on December 23rd and 24th in the Tennessee Valley. TVA has 32,000 Megawatts of generating capacity across all plants. TVA also has the authority to purchase 6,000 Megawatts off-the-market. Therefore, prior to the winter storm, TVA anticipated the need for 38,000 Megawatts. During that 48-hour timeframe, TVA experienced the highest ever energy demand in TVA's history. The main issue came down to a frozen instrument on top of the boilers at the Cumberland Fossil Fuel Plant. The rolling blackouts protected the power grid and worked to proactively prevent the customers from experiencing a worst-case scenario energy event. To prevent this from happening again, TVA is committed to providing an after-action plan.

Mayor Moore wants to know where is the after-action plan discussed with Mayors in the region?

Answer: The process is under way, so the internal review will be available by the end of January. There is a blue-ribbon commission appointed to reviewing the after-action plan in the long term.

Alderman Burger wonders why the public was in the dark during the incident. She wants to stress that communication to the public needs to be better in the future.

Mr. Barber steps in to add that Middle Tennessee Electric is also evaluating internal procedures following the incident. He goes on to say that like TVA, Middle Tennessee Electric had hardware failure as well. His team is meeting with Williamson County Emergency Management Group to determine better ways to communicate issues for the whole county in a one-stop-shop manner. This could ensure that citizens get the right message at the right time.

Alderman Blanton thanks them both for coming.

2. Sister Cities Report

Alderman Gabrielle Hanson, Alderman Matt Brown and David Haas

Alderman Hanson, President of Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County, and David Haas, Treasurer, presented a Sister Cities Update. They provide a brief history of the organization and a list of upcoming events. This includes: a Youth Exchange with Germany, Celebration of Nations, Delegation Visits, the Great Pumpkin display at Pumpkinfest, and a special presentation of a private collection of Alexander von Humboldt's work.

3. Discussion Of Ordinance 2022-47, An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance 2022-03 Amending Title 16 For Public Gathering And Expression Events

Eric Stuckey, Shauna Billingsley

Mr. Stuckey presented elements of Ordinance 2022-47 regarding Public Expression. He urges discussion and Board guidance on the following:

- Event threshold: Fewer than 20 attendees and no amplification would not constitute an event.
- Downtown restriction for Friday and Saturday evening.
- Event restriction after dark – Citywide.
- Amplification as a general threshold for a permit.
- Reoccurring events – once per month permit.

Public Comment:

Jeff Daniels, Murfreesboro, TN, cannot believe he is asking for permission to openly worship on the Square. He states that everyone is first and foremost accountable to God. He recites a testimony to show that the Saturday worships are worthwhile and life changing. According to Daniels, this is one of hundreds of testimonies with the same sentiment. He will work as long as he must in order to make it right.

Vice Mayor Barnhill wants to clarify that if a gathering is less than 20 people on a Saturday night, does it require a permit?

Answer: No.

Alderman Hanson has done some research to get to the heart of the issue in the Downtown District. The noise issues seem to be coming from several establishments and street performers, not just Jeff Daniels and the Saturday Worship. She wants to strike the restriction for Friday and Saturday evenings. However, she wants to put a time restriction on the amplification. She wants to buffer the noise in the Downtown District across the board.

Alderman Brown does not want to restrict prayer. He has never had a desire in his heart to stop people praying for each other and this City. It aligns with his values. He just does not understand why there is resistance to the amplification. In his opinion, amplification is not needed to pray. Amplification does not honor God with gentleness, kindness, and respect.

Alderman Burger does not think the noise on the Square is the problem. She wants to address amplification on a larger scale. She approves of some of the ordinance elements as presented. She thinks that the after dark restrictions should be later in the winter. She agrees with Alderman Hanson to strike the restriction on Friday and Saturday.

Alderman Baggett wants citizens of Franklin to know that they will not be arrested for praying on the Square. He supports the notion that gatherings under 20 people will not require a permit. He also thinks there should not be a restriction for Friday and Saturday. Furthermore, he is open to consider events after dark in the Downtown District. He reiterates that the Ordinance is in place to guide, direct, and facilitate special events. There could be negative rhetoric being amplified rather than positive, so there has to be a system in place to regulate that possibility. Without the permit process, there could be a free-for-all situation, and the City cannot enforce one over the other because no permit equals no priority.

Alderman Blanton is in support of the permit process as it will protect the City and provide order, to Alderman Baggett's point. She supports the Ordinance elements presented by Staff as is. She also is in favor of the after-dark restriction because it is harder to protect the City in the dark. She believes the amplification limits are in place to accommodate the needs of all Citizens.

Alderman Potts first wants to thank Mr. Daniels for praying over the City. He also thinks the permit process is important to prevent the types of gatherings that are not so faithful. He stresses that permit process helps keep special events safe. Regarding amplification, there must be a balance. In order for there to be balance, there must be a process. The Ordinance is written to address safety and noise primarily. He is willing to cautiously readdress the Friday and Saturday night restrictions. For reoccurring events, he agrees with Alderman Blanton. Again, it is about balancing the needs of all groups who have the right to be present on the Square with safety of people enjoying the Square for other reasons.

Alderman Burger wants to ensure that the Board and Staff do not overregulate this issue.

Vice Mayor Barnhill wants Mr. Stuckey to recap what he heard from the Board.

Mr. Stuckey summarizes:

- Amplification needs to be addressed as a bigger issue. The last amendment to the noise ordinance went away from decibels and towards distance, but that can be brought back before the Board to see how it would apply to public space.
- Revisit the Friday and Saturday restriction at some level.
- Reoccurring event permits need to be evaluated more alongside these other factors.

He further reminds the Board that the special event permit is written for an approval. The parameters at which he could deny a permit are very narrow. The permit is designed to be a mechanism to communicate event intentions with the City, so that Staff can support and accommodate from a logistics and safety standpoint.

As the Ordinance is written now, amplification, regardless of the number of people, triggers a permit.

4. Factory District Update

Alderman Matt Brown, Alderman Patrick Baggett, Emily Wright, Kelly Dannenfelser, Andrew Orr

Alderman Brown states that the Factory District right now is primarily a concept for an arts district and a placemaking opportunity. He wants to foster conversation amongst the Board to gauge interest in pursuing this vision. The goal with this district is to continue creating economic vitality and unique environments that are intentional and attractive.

Mr. Stuckey is excited that the Board brought something forward regarding the long-term vision for Franklin, rather than responding to a developer's vision. It gives Staff the opportunity to consider not only new design elements, but also street standards and traffic patterns for example.

There will be a community workshop held February 16, 2023 at 5:30 P.M in the Heritage Room at The Factory. Staff intends to use the time to generate ideas. New life is coming to the Factory District, and the City wants stakeholders' feedback. The workshop will consider:

- Visioning of Arts and Entertainment District anchored by the Factory
- Potential Land Uses
- Design Elements
- Liberty Pike Streetscape
- Future of Harpeth Industrial Court and Connectivity to the Factory
- Public Art Installations
- Parks, Plazas, and Outdoor Gathering Spaces
- Geographic Boundaries of Factory District
- Direct Property Owner Engagement

Alderman Blanton is excited to be a part of this discussion. It gives the opportunity for options when it comes to redevelopment.

Alderman Burger agrees with Alderman Blanton. She applauds Alderman Brown and Alderman Baggett for bringing new ideas to the Board. The City needs to think outside the box more often and get out of our own way to make something interesting. It is important to have synergy in redevelopments to encourage more people to live there and enjoy.

Alderman Potts wants to see examples from other art districts in cities around the country.

Alderman Baggett is grateful for these upcoming workshops. He believes Liberty Pike and its streetscape is the key to success for this district. It is the spinal cord of the project. Transit is a close second. It is crucial to figure out how to get visitors from the Factory to the Downtown District without getting in their car.

Alderman Hanson is in support of the entire arts district project. She thinks Miles Manor and other nearby homes should be considered part of the district.

Alderman Blanton brings up how the Historic Design Review Committee would get final say for this project which could be a potential issue down the line.

Alderman Brown is excited to see the Board's enthusiasm on the subject. He wants to emphasize that this district is not the exclusive place for art in the community. The hope is that if it is successful, it will elevate the arts throughout Franklin.

Mayor Moore applauds Alderman Brown and Alderman Baggett for bring this to the Board. He wants to look at other areas of opportunity too. He loves placemaking, so consider Hillsboro Road and Columbia Avenue.

Alderman Burger thinks McEwen could be its own district as well.

5. Presentation On Downtown Traffic And Parking Study

Paul Holzen, Jonathan Marston, Adam Moser

The Downtown Core Area Study presented by City Traffic Engineers, Adam Moser and David Chang, had a goal to determine whether downtown was a destination versus a cut-through. The result is that only 1 out of every 3-4 vehicles is heading downtown as a destination.

The most common routes to pass-through are via SR-96 East (Murfreesboro Road), SR-96 West (New Highway 96W), and Franklin Road.

The biggest question based on the results are what's the primary cause of the cut-through traffic?

Answer: School Car-riders and commerce/commuter cars.

Generally, there are known downtown bypass routes to avoid Main Street/Square. These are:

- South Margin
- Church St
- Bridge Street

The Mark Hatcher Northwest extension positively affected the traffic on common bypass routes overall.

Parking Study Update:

- Total free spots: 1442
- Total pay spots: 723
- Parking Occupancy is highest at the 2nd Avenue and 4th Avenue garage.
- In 2022, 90% of cars in the City garages stay for two hours or less.

Alderman Baggett asks if Staff has investigated overnight parking in City Garages?

Answer: Not yet, but the team is going to meet with IT to see if the indicator above the spot could possibly blink red to show parking enforcement that they have exceeded the 24-hour limit.

Alderman Potts asks if the Police Department issues citations for violations in the City Garages?

Answer: They do not ticket for anything less than 24 hours per the ordinance.

Short-term Recommendations:

- Work on Signal timing (Downtown)

- Possible Implementation of Dynamic Message Signing

Long-term Recommendations:

- Balance of Parking Options
- One-Way Streets
- Geometric Improvements (adding lanes)
- Further Reduce Cut-Through Traffic

Mr. Stuckey wants to commend Staff for their consultant-level work.

Public Comment:

Bob Ravener, 221 Third Ave S, Franklin, TN, President of the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), states that traffic congestion, traffic flow, and pedestrian safety are top priorities for the Association, so he appreciates the Board and Alderman Baggett for leading these studies. He argues that while most of the traffic is pass-through, Franklin still has around two million visitors per year which just adds to downtown congestion. The Association conducted a survey recently, and 97% of respondents said traffic is a top issue. He hopes to work with the City to begin tackling these issues starting with the traffic flow in the South Margin Corridor.

Walter Green, 227 Fourth Ave S, Franklin, TN, says that before Alderman Baggett approached the DNA about traffic issues, he conducted a traffic survey of his own at the corner of Third Avenue and South Margin. Since he lives a block away from that intersection, he has an invested interest. The survey consisted of counting cars at different time periods throughout the day and calculating the percentage that continued straight, turned left, or turned right. The conclusion was 93% of cars turn right, 5% continue straight, and 2% turn left. Therefore, there was a traffic buildup in that corridor, so the DNA was eager to work with Alderman Baggett on a City Traffic Study. Alderman Baggett suggested working with a traffic engineer to obtain professional recommendations, so the DNA hired John Hall. He determined that this intersection would significantly benefit from a right turn only lane.

Alderman Baggett wants to meet with DNA, City Staff, and BOMA to discuss the recommendations further.

Vice Mayor Barnhill wants to know why Staff did not consider Franklin Transit Authority information.

Answer: It was not considered as part of this particular study.

6. *Consideration Of Resolution 2022-85, A Resolution Rejecting The November 2, 2022 Construction Bids For The SR96 Traffic Signal Improvement Project (TDOT PIN 127913.00, COF Contract 2022-0116)

Paul Holzen, Jonathan Marston, Adam Moser

This item was acknowledged.

7. Discussion Concerning A Proposed Culvert Replacement Project On Del Rio Pike

Paul Holzen, Adam Moser

Staff is recommending improvements for a stretch of road on Del Rio Pike. There are currently narrow lanes near a 12–14-foot drop-off. This was identified as a safety issue by an inspector on the Del Rio Pike Project. Staff is requesting approval to initiate the design phase of a bridge replacement or culvert project with the City's on-call engineering firm. It is expected to cost about \$1.5M

Alderman Hanson asks if this will delay the road closure on Del Rio Pike even more?

Answer: Staff has given the developers the option to deliver it within an eight-month time frame. The road would reopen and then the City would come back and do this repair.

Alderman Hanson follows up by asking when Del Rio Pike is projected to fully reopen at this point?

Answer: Spring of 2023, summer at the latest.

Alderman Potts asks since a safety issue was identified, are there any plans to add additional markers while the road is open and before the repair?

Answer: The plan is to work with the Streets Department to put enhanced thermoplastic down and fix some of the markers already out there, including warning signs.

Alderman Baggett asks if a temporary guard rail is a possibility?

Answer: It is not possible without reducing the lane width further, which will create an even bigger hazard.

Alderman Brown asks if there are real safety concerns associated with reopening while we address this?

Answer: There is no crash history. However, the City will put barrels up and make it clear that there is a hazard, while still opening it and providing pass-through traffic relief to the public.

Alderman Blanton reminds the Board that this road has been a safety issue for as long as she can remember. There should be urgency to rectify the safety issue, but it is not a new hazard.

8. *Consideration Of Ordinance 2022-44, An Ordinance Revising The Installation Fees For Title 18, Chapters Appendix A, Comprehensive Fees And Penalties Chapter 18 Of The Franklin Municipal Code. Establishing A Public Hearing On February 28, 2023

Michelle Hatcher, Brian Goodwin

This Ordinance is set to be considered for first reading tonight. There is the option of a two-year phase-in.

Mayor Moore reminds the Board that the City is currently losing money because current installation fees are too low. If the Board opts for a two-year phase-in, that is two more years of losing money. Right now, ratepayers are supplementing the new connections being made.

9. Consideration Of Support For State Legislation That Would Permit Local Governments In Tennessee To Provide Tax Relief For Certain Commercial Historical Properties

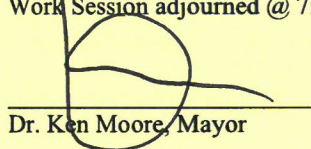
Alderman Patrick Baggett

This item will be discussed at a future Board of Mayor and Alderman Work Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Work Session adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.



Dr. Ken Moore, Mayor

Minutes prepared by Sarah Schilling, Assistant Deputy City Recorder, City Administrator's Office 2/10/2023 8:12 AM