

City of Rocky Top Council Meeting
August 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm

The City Council of Rocky Top, Tennessee met at City Hall at 6:00 pm on August 17, 2023, for the regularly scheduled City Council meeting with Mayor Kerry Templin presiding. Upon roll call the following answered present: Mack Bunch Jeff Gilliam Zack Green Stacy Phillips Kerry Templin

Invocation

Brian Brown opened the meeting with prayer.
Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 20, 2023 Beer Board meeting, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Gilliam. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilperson Stacy Phillips made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 20, 2023 Council Meeting, seconded by Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 3, 2023 Special Called Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Recognize Citizens, Guests, and Visitors

Harold Edwards with East Tennessee Development District to assist the City of Rocky Top with the planning program. Harold started with the Tennessee State Planning office in January 1980, and his first assignment was the town of Lake City. He worked for four (4) months with the town of Lake City. He spent four (4) years with the Tennessee State Planning office, two (2) years as City Planner for City of Gatlinburg, most recently worked for Oak Ridge Community Development and is under contract with the Tennessee Development District currently. Harold has been a resident of Anderson County for 25 year, he resides in the Claxton Community. Harold will be replacing Jordan Rockwell, Rocky Top’s former Planner.

Savannah Meade, with ASAP of Anderson, inviting everyone to the International Overdose Awareness Day event on August 31, 2023 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. It is free and everyone is invited and lunch will be provided. The event will be at First Baptist Church in Clinton.

Resident of Rocky Top has an issue with cats. She says they have had around 30 cats around their house this year. She has called Animal Control, but was told she has to call the Police first, then the Police will call Animal Control. She lives on High Avenue.

David Massengill, 218 Nelson Street, mentioned a parcel of land across the street from him that is for sale. The owner wants to sell the property for someone to put in a mobile home or small house. The owner stated to Mr. Massengill that his property goes to the center of the road. He put a stake up in front of Mr. Massengill’s mailbox. Mr. Massengill also mentioned the embankment that was discussed in last

month's meeting. Terry Bearden, Public Works Director, stated the embankment has been the same for 15 years or so.

Mayor's Report

Veteran's Breakfast will be Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 8:30 am at First Baptist Church in Rocky Top. All Veterans are welcome to attend.

Old/Unfinished Business

Mayor Templin displayed the new City Seal.

Recreation/Community Center Policy was revised to increase rental fees and change the Open/Close time of the Community Center. The Community Center will now close at 10:00 pm. Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the Recreation/Community Center Policy, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam "I"; Mack Bunch "I"; Zack Green "I"; Stacy Phillips "I"; and Mayor Templin "I". Motion carried by unanimous vote.

AirMedCare Memberships was tabled at last month's meeting for a discussion on newly hired employees. City Manager Mike Ellis gave two (2) options. The employee could wait out the one (1) year probation period or the employee could pay the membership fee and the City would reimburse them after one (1) year. Councilperson Stacy Phillips inquired if this was for new employees for the date of implementation. City Manager Mike Ellis confirmed. Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to purchase the AirMedCare memberships for City employees and future City employees, and reimburse newly hired employees after one (1) year, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam "I"; Mack Bunch "I"; Zack Green "I"; Stacy Phillips "I"; and Mayor Templin "I". Motion carried by unanimous vote.

New Business

Brian Brown inquired about a road block on September 2, 2023, rain date September 9, 2023, to raise money for friend, Michael Hensley, who lost his house to a fire, had five (5) strokes, and his short-term disability has run out. Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to allow the road block on September 2, 2023 or September 9, 2023, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam "No"; Mack Bunch "I"; Stacy Phillips "I"; Zack Green "I"; and Mayor Templin "I". Motion carried with Councilperson Jeff Gilliam opposing.

Brian Brown would like to invite everyone to the Briceville Volunteer Fire Department building dedication on August 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm, with Brother Danny Lawson from First Baptist Briceville will preach at the dedication.

City of Rocky Top Customer Discrimination Policy is required for grants. Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the Customer Discrimination Policy, seconded by Councilperson Zack Green. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam "I"; Mack Bunch "I"; Zack Green "I"; Stacy Phillips "I"; and Mayor Templin "I". Motion carried by unanimous vote.

First reading of Ordinance No. 575, An Ordinance to Amend Rocky Top Municipal Code by Revising Water & Sewers Title 18, Section 18-103 & Section 18-105 effective September 1, 2023. Mayor Templin stated the rates will go up about 6%. The minimum gallons will change from 1500 gallons to 1000 gallons. The connection/reconnection fees will stay the same. Both water and sewer tap fees will go up as well. The fines for tampering with the system will go up as well. Councilperson Zack Green inquired if the rate increase was the state minimum required increase. City Manager Ellis stated the inflation rate is

around 4.9%. Councilperson Zack Green inquired what MTAS suggested the rates be, have the studies been completed. City Manager Ellis stated The State Comptroller rejected the budget, and requested a budget revision. Councilperson Zack Green suggested we stop throwing numbers around and go with what the state suggested. Councilperson Zack Green inquired where the rates came from. City Manager Ellis stated the 6% increase was needed to balance the budget. Mayor Templin stated the rate increase should at least stay consistent with inflation every year. Councilperson Zack Green made a motion to table the Ordinance until a rate study could be done, with no second, motion died. Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 575, seconded by Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “No”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried with Councilperson Zack Green opposing.

Discussion to amend the water and sewer budget. No comments. Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to amend the water and sewer budget, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Templin discussed the new Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) permit application and applicable fees. Each restaurant in town will be visited to explain the requirements of the FOG program.

Renewal of the City’s contract with Auditors Mitchell Emert & Hill. Councilperson Stacy Phillips made a motion to renew the City’s contract with Mitchell Emert & Hill, seconded by Vice Mayor Mack Bunch. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Templin proposed a Mission Statement for the City. Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to accept and implement the Mission Statement, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

General Government

August sewer adjustments were \$480. Councilperson Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the sewer adjustment report for August, seconded by Councilperson Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Jeff Gilliam “I”; Mack Bunch “I”; Zack Green “I”; Stacy Phillips “I”; and Mayor Templin “I”. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

Police Department Report
Fire Department Report
Water Department Report
Public Works Report

The Recreation Committee has organized a Trunk or Treat for October 27, 2023, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

City Manager Report

SRF loans are going through final review. Cannon & Cannon hopes to advertise the sewer project by the end of September. Tree committee has requested to change their meeting time from 6:00pm to 5:00pm, same day and same location. Police Chief Jim Shetterly has submitted his retirement papers. His last day will be September 29, 2023. City Manager Ellis wished him the best on his retirement and thanked him for his 37 years of service with the City of Rocky Top.

Public Comment

None

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilperson Jeff Gilliam. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Kerry Templin, Mayor

Amanda Daugherty, City Recorder