

CITY OF ROCKY TOP COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

The City Council of the City of Rocky Top, Tennessee, met at City Hall at 6:02 p.m. on June 15, 2023 for the regularly scheduled city council meeting with Mayor Kerry Templin presiding. Upon roll call the following answered present: Mack Bunch Jeff Gilliam Stacy Phillips Kerry Templin Councilman, Zack Green was on vacation and not present at the meeting.

Invocation

Vice-Mayor Mack Bunch opened the meeting with prayer.
Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Vice Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilman Jeff Gilliam. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilman Jeff Gilliam made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 5, 2023 Special Called meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Recognize Citizens, Guests and Visitors

Mr. Rose inquired about the locations of unmarked vs. marked unloading zones. Mayor Templin stated that if a sidewalk is being blocked and impedes walking that is a violation, however, so long as 36 inches is accessible while a sidewalk is being used for unloading purposes no violation is being committed. Additionally, Mr. Rose inquired about the grant monies the City of Rocky Top received for sidewalk repairs and sewer rehab. Mayor Templin advised that the grant monies are still sitting there in anticipation of the scheduled rehab work to begin in Spring 2024.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Templin advised that during the discussion City Manager, Michael Ellis' salary, he misspoke Mr. Ellis' annual salary amount. In that, the Interim City Manager position was posted for \$55,000.00 and the City Manager position was posted for \$60,000.00 annual salary. Vice Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to correct Mr. Ellis' salary to reflect \$60,000.00 pursuant to the job posting, seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. The City Recorder, Peggy Watson, stated that for clarification purposes that Mr. Ellis' salary change shall be retroactive from his City Manager appointment to the present time, and he shall be compensated for the difference. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Templin advised that the April 2023 appointment for Debbie Shaw to the Library Board was only for a period of two (2) months. Mayor Templin stated that Ms. Shaw needs to be reappointed for a one-year appointment. Vice Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to reappoint Debbie Shaw to the library board for a one-year term, seconded by Councilman Jeff Gilliam. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Templin stated the Library Board has an open position due to a member moving. Mayor Templin received a request to appoint Christy Day-Hibbler to the Library Board. Councilman Jeff Gilliam made a motion to appoint Christy Day-Hibbler to the Library Board, seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Additionally, the City Council is acting under the presumption that said appointment should be for a period of one (1) year.

New Business

Mayor Templin led a discussion regarding the changes to the Community Center rental policy, rental fees, damage deposit and mandate that a city employee must be present at the community center during rentals. It was noted that the address on the rental application page would need to be corrected. Councilwoman Stacy Phillips made a motion to accept the Community Center Rental Policy with the address correction, seconded by Councilman Jeff Gilliam. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Recorder, Peggy Watson, stated that the water rate was placed on the agenda for discussion, but the MTAS representative that is reviewing our new budget and our reports for the water department has not had time due to time restraints and scheduling conflicts to make any suggestions. The City Recorder also stated that in previous years the water rate was only placed on the agenda when an increase was needed. However, for transparency purposes this administration felt that the issue should be placed on the agenda and recorded in the minutes. The City Recorder suggested that this discussion be tabled to the budget meeting on June 26, 2023. City Manager Michael Ellis discussed that in 2015 the State of Tennessee came in and set a fifteen percent (15%) increase to the City's water rate for a period of two (2) years then one percent (1%) annual increase thereafter. The computations are being reviewed to make sure we are at the correct rate. Mayor Templin stated that once the correct water rate is determined that the water rate will be discussed, set, and voted on in an open meeting and the rate will be contained in minutes to alleviate any future guesswork of the calculations used to determine the water rates. Vice Mayor Mack Bunch made a motion to table the water rate discussion until the budget meeting on June 26, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Templin led a discussion regarding the City's seal. A photo of the suggested city seal was circulated throughout the crowd for their review. City Manager Michael Ellis stated that the

new design represents our motto Proud Past, Bright Future. Councilwoman Stacy Phillips made a motion to approve the city seal drawing with any minor modifications that may be needed, seconded by Vice Mayor Mack Bunch. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Manager Michael Ellis led the discussion of the restructuring individuals and duties in City Hall in anticipation of the grants that the city has been awarded and the upcoming projects. The City Attorney advised that Section 12-6 of the Charter provided for the restructuring. Peggy Watson will become the Fiscal Officer and shall oversee the budgets, prepare financial reports, manage the grants, ensure that all financial transactions are handled correctly, shall be the general accountant and internal auditor for the City, manage the fiscal affairs of the city and over all the city's property assets and continue her duties as the City Court Clerk. Amanda Daugherty will become the City Recorder and shall oversee payroll, accounts receivable/payable, purchasing, HR and claims, issue checks provided that the checks are counter-signed by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer or City Manager, shall have a seat and voice but no vote on City Council, shall administer Oaths and Affirmations, maintain the records and archives, Ordinances and Resolutions, be the custodian of the minutes and shall perform any other duties prescribed by City Council that are not imposed upon any other officer under this charter. Mayor Templin stated that the upcoming grants and projects are important, and that the upcoming work the next few years will be monstrous. City Recorder Peggy Watson stated that pursuant to the new job duties internal control devices in place will need to be adhered to so that the new job duties remain in compliance. Councilman Jeff Gilliam made a motion to adopt the restructure of City Hall, seconded by Vice Mayor Mack Bunch. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Manager advised that we have received Phase III funding approval in the amount of \$1.7 million dollars for the sidewalk project. Mayor Templin stated that the marks on the sidewalk areas are in preparation for the sidewalk project.

General Government

Sewer Adjustments \$1,111.00. Motion to accept sewer adjustment as written was by Councilman Mack Bunch, seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Water Department report

Police Department report

Fire Department report

Public Works Department report

City Manager Michael Ellis reminded everyone that July 4th festivities are coming up with festivities starting at 3:00 p.m. and the kids parade will start at 2:45 p.m.

Mayor Templin and Fire Chief Anthony Braden are certified to shoot fireworks. The display permit has been mailed. The hardware to shoot the fireworks has been delivered and the

actual fireworks will be delivered on the 4th. Councilman Jeff Gilliam wanted to recognize Mayor Templin and Fire Chief Anthony Braden for their efforts in becoming certified to ensure that the citizens could enjoy a fireworks display.

Mayor Templin commended the Little League Football for their hard work at the ballfield and their fund-raisers for a lot of their materials.

Mayor Templin and Vice Mayor Mack Bunch commended and sent a thank you to Officer Culver for traffic control during the pressure washing of the bridge.

Reminder that on June 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Special Called budget meeting will be held.

There being no further business to come before the council, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Jeff Gilliam and seconded by Councilwoman Stacy Phillips. Mayor Templin called for roll call: Mack Bunch "I"; Jeff Gilliam "I"; Stacy Phillips "I" and Mayor Templin "I". Councilman Zack Green was on vacation and not present. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Kerry Templin, Mayor

Peggy Watson, City Recorder