
A JOINT CALLED MEETING OF THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL AND THE BRISTOL, TENNESSEE CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M. AT 104 EIGHTH STREET, EWELL L. EASLEY ANNEX BUILDING, BRISTOL, TENNESSEE WITH MAYOR WILLIAM HARTLEY PRESIDING. COUNCIL MEMBERS J. DOUGLAS FLEENOR, ARCHIE HUBBARD, III, AND KEVIN MUMPOWER WERE PRESENT. CITY MANAGER, TABITHA CROWDER WAS ALSO PRESENT.

VICE MAYOR JIM STEELE WAS ABSENT.

ALSO PRESENT WERE BRISTOL, TENNESSEE MAYOR, CHAD KEEN, VICE MAYOR JACK YOUNG, COUNCIL MEMBERS LEA POWERS, AND MICHELLE DENISE. CITY MANAGER, BILL SORAH WAS ALSO PRESENT.

1. Call to Order – Bristol, Tennessee City Council

Mayor Keen called the meeting to order for Bristol Tennessee City Council.

2. Call to Order – Bristol, Virginia City Council

Mayor Hartley called the meeting to order for Bristol Virginia City Council.

3. Presentation by University of Tennessee Department of Forestry Street Tree Management Plan

Dr. Sharon Jean-Phillippe along with others from the University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry gave a presentation on the State Street tree management plan. Their recommendations were to remove the current trees as soon as possible due to the dead limbs throughout them which could become an issue should they fall from the trees striking a pedestrian, vehicle, or buildings. They recommended replacing the trees with Eastern Redbud, Golden Raintree, Skyline Honey Locust, Slender Silhouette Sweetgum, Japanese Zelkova, and Bosque Elm. Their recommendations were to stagger the trees to provide a colorful landscape and aesthetic beauty to the downtown area. They advised that good soil and an abundance of water were major factors in the life of the trees.

Bristol Tennessee City Manager, Mr. Bill Sorah, inquired about the timing of planting the new trees. The group from the University of Tennessee advised that early November or early spring would be the ideal time for planting the new trees.

Mr. Sorah advised that the City of Bristol, Tennessee had budgeted forty-five thousand (\$45,000) to go toward the cost of replacing the trees on the Tennessee side. City Manager, Ms. Tabitha Crowder, advised that the City of Bristol, Virginia had requested grant funds to help with the cost, but had not received information stating that the grants funds would be awarded as of this date.

A brief discussion ensued; however, no decisions were made to move forward with the process.

LET THE RECORDS REFLECT THAT COUNCIL MEMBER FLEENOR LEFT THE MEETING.

4. Discussion of Joint Planning Commission

Discussions regarding the Joint Planning Commission ensued with Bristol Tennessee Council Member Powers recommending that both cities discuss with their Council Members whether this should be pursued. She added that timing was everything, and she felt as if this was not a good time to revive the Joint Planning Commission.

No action was taken.

5. City Council Comments

Discussions ensued regarding issues in the downtown area. These included parking, noise, aesthetics, and the homeless.

It was pointed out that at 12:00 noon on November 10, 2016, a meeting would be held by the Downtown Merchants to discuss issues with the downtown area.

Branding the two (2) cities was discussed and Council Member Powers advised that the branding results would be presented by the end of the year.

Council Members from both cities agreed that continued talks was a must.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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City Clerk

Mayor