

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Mayor And Aldermen
Of the Town of Thompson's Station, Tennessee
December 14, 2004

The regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Town of Thompson's Station was called to order at 7:05 p.m., on the 14th day of December, 2004 at the Thompson's Station Community Center. Members and officials in attendance were: Cherry B. Jackson, Mayor; Sarah H. Benson, Alderman; Corey Napier, Alderman-Elect; Larry D. Craig, City Attorney; and Douglas G. Goetsch, City Recorder. Absent: None.

City Attorney Craig administered the oath of office to Alderman-Elect Napier. Mayor Jackson nominated Alderman Benson for the vice-mayor position, Alderman Napier seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

The minutes of the November 9, 2004 meeting were previously submitted and motion to approve the minutes was made by Alderman Benson, seconded by Alderman Napier, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Announcements -

Mayor Jackson stated that the Red Cross blood drive would be held on December 16th from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center and that volunteers were needed to help administer the drive.

City Attorney Craig read a proclamation to Tim Neal praising his fourteen years of service to the Town of Thompson's Station in his position as alderman. Mayor Jackson then presented Mr. Neal with a plaque recognizing his service to the community, with a round of applause from the citizens present.

Old Business -

City Attorney Craig stated that he had received correspondence from the attorney for Smith Trucking asking for 30 days to investigate the Town's claim that Smith's trucks had damaged Sedberry Road. Mayor Jackson stated that the road had been repaired and the bill would be received soon. City Attorney Craig suggested sending the bill to Smith Trucking when received.

City Attorney Craig stated that a second letter was sent to Rachel Hafner of 2681 Thompson's Station Road East regarding driveway pillars constructed within the road right-of-way and considered to be a safety hazard to motorists. Mark Hafner addressed the board and stated that the contractor had built the pillars closer to the road than he had instructed, and proposed to move them one foot back from the road by March 31, 2005. Mayor Jackson asked about liability issues should a vehicle strike the pillars and City Attorney Craig stated that the property owner would have primary liability. The board discussed the situation and Alderman Napier made a motion to require the pillars be moved no later than February 28, 2005. Alderman Benson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Jackson appointed Mr. Jackie Attkisson to a 3-year term to the Municipal Planning Commission and Mr. Dale Stevens to a 3-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Alderman Benson seconded the appointments and they were accepted unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 04-009

Next presented to the board was the first reading of Ordinance 04-009 that creates a privilege tax for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption upon premises within the municipality. City Attorney Craig explained that the town had received the certified election results of the referendum on this issue where a majority of the citizens had voted in favor of this issue. The ordinance states that applicants must pay a privilege tax and that the ordinance incorporates by reference the Tennessee State Code setting the tax rates. After discussion, motion to adopt on first reading was made by Alderman Benson, seconded by Alderman Napier, and the motion passed unanimously. Alderman Benson made a motion to hold a public hearing on this ordinance on January 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson's Station Community Center. Alderman Napier seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Other New Business

City Attorney Craig stated that the H.B. & T.S. Utility District had approved transfer documents for the abandoned water lines along Highway 31 and had signed all easement documents. Property owners were being contacted and easement documents were in the process of being completed now. However, H.B. & T.S. did not sign the billing and collection agreement with the town. They were not in agreement with the commercial billing limitation in the document as this was different than any other agreement they had with other municipalities. City Attorney Craig suggested revising their contract as they requested and raise the issue again if a high-usage customer was brought aboard. After discussion, Alderman Benson made a motion to revise the contract to remove the commercial billing limitation, Alderman Napier seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

City Attorney Craig described differences between the state beer laws and the liquor by the drink laws when it comes to distance requirements from certain types of buildings. The town beer ordinance has a minimum 300-foot distance requirement between the selling location and any school, church or public gathering place (like Town Hall or the Community Center). The state liquor laws have no distance requirements. This could result in a restaurant to be able to sell liquor but not beer at their location. He suggested the board consider making changes to the beer ordinance to address this potential problem. Mayor Jackson suggested bringing this up at the January meeting of the board to allow more time for consideration. City Attorney Craig stated that no applications under the liquor by the drink ordinance could be accepted until 30-days after the second reading of the ordinance.

Community Input - Next the floor was opened to citizens for community input and concerns:

Millie Halvorson of 2708 Brenda Street thanked the board for lowering the speed limit in her subdivision and erecting new signs.

Karen Cole of 2730 Standing Oak Drive suggested that the town have nameplates for board members and have the state and U.S. flags displayed in the meeting room.

Roger Nixon of 2704 Brenda Street asked the town to consider instituting a zoning moratorium until the new zoning ordinance is in place.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Cherry B. Jackson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Douglas G. Goetsch, City Recorder