

AGENDA SESSION MINUTES

CHATTANOOGA CITY COUNCIL

October 22, 2019

In Attendance

Council Chairman Erskine Oglesby called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present including Vice-Chairman Chip Henderson, Council members Carol Berz, Anthony Byrd, Demetrus Coonrod, Russell Gilbert, Darrin Ledford, Jerry Mitchell and Ken Smith. Also present were Phil Noblett, City Attorney, and Keren Campbell, Council Support Specialist.

Others in Attendance

Senator, Todd Gardenhire; State Representatives: Mike Carter and JoAnne Favors; DIT: Donna Jeffery, Deputy Chief Officer; Fire: Skyler Phillips, Captain; Mayor's Council for Women: Brenda Freeman Short, Anna Biggs and Mimi Nichols

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Ledford and seconded by Councilman Mitchell, the minutes of the last meeting (October 15, 2019) were approved as published.

Ordinances (Final Reading) – Agenda Items 5A & 5B

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Ordinances (First Reading) – Agenda Items 6A

This item had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Resolutions – Agenda Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F & 7G

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

DIT, Police & Fire - "Take Me Home Program"

State Rep. Carter briefed the Council on the "Take Me Home Program" bill and how it came about. Both Rep. Carter and Senator Gardenhire spoke to the work that has been done in Chattanooga in getting this moving and how happy they were with the precedent being set in this city. Ms. Jeffery also gave the Council an update on the work that her department has done and introduced Mr. Phillips, who spoke to her department's role in the program. Councilpersons Henderson, Ledford, Gilbert, Byrd and Oglesby all expressed words of gratitude for work being done for the "Take Me Home Program." Discussion ensued, with Councilman Byrd inquiring about the registration process for constituents. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Mayor's Council for Women – Human Trafficking Study Presentation

Councilman Mitchell asked Rep. Carter to give an update on what is being done at the State level pertaining to Human Trafficking. Councilwoman Berz briefed the Council on the Mayor's Council for Women and the work they are doing regarding Human Trafficking. She then introduced Ms. Short, who gave the mission and vision statement for the Justice Committee. Ms. Short then asked Ms. Biggs and Mimi Nichols to make a presentation to the Council titled, "Reframing Prostitution in light of Sexual Training, Exploitation and Trafficking." Their presentation included information on the following:

- Mission
- Vision Statement
- Summary
- Introduction
- We have a Problem – Sex Trafficking Booming Industry
- Just the facts
- The Big Picture
- Impact of Aces on Person in Prostitution
- Sexual Trauma
- The State of TN
- Us Prostitution arrest in 2016
- Chattanooga
- Cost of incarcerating victims in Chattanooga
- Existing Community Resources
- End Modern Slavery
- Three-pronged Strategy
- How can every woman Thrive, Flourish and live their best life

A discussion ensued in which the following questions were addressed:

- Victims in Chattanooga (Councilman Henderson)
- Reframing Prostitution (Councilman Henderson)
- Percentage of Childhood Trauma (Councilman Henderson)
- Specific Ordinance (Councilman Henderson)
- Homeless Percentage (Councilman Ledford)
- What's Next (Councilman Ledford)

Councilwoman Berz expressed words of appreciation for the presentation and for the work being done by the Mayor's Council for Women. Upon no further questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Oglesby adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.