

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 10, 2023

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) met in a Public Hearing on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN.

The first item on the Public Hearing agenda was an Ordinance amendment to Title 1, Chapter 15 Business Roundtable Committee, Section 1-1502, Compositions, Appointment, Membership, and Terms. Mayor Vest asked if there were any comments and there were none.

The next item on the Public Hearing agenda was an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Jonesborough Municipal Code, Title 2, Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" by Deleting Chapters 1 and 2 in their Entirety and Replacing them with New Chapters 1 and 2. Mayor Vest asked if there were any comments and there were none.

The Public Hearing was closed.

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ROBERT ANDERSON, RECORDER

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CHUCK VEST, MAYOR

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 10, 2023

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) met in Regular Session on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at Town Hall, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN.

Mayor Chuck Vest called the meeting to order. Alderman Dickson led the group in an opening Prayer, and T. McLeod led the pledge to the Flag.

Upon call of the roll those present were: Mayor Chuck Vest, Alderman Virginia Causey, Alderman Terry Countermine, and Alderman Adam Dickson. Absent was Alderman Kelly Wolfe. Also present were: Town Administrator Glenn Rosenoff, Town Recorder Robert Anderson, Operations Manager Craig Ford, and Town Attorney Jim Wheeler.

The next item was the Consent Agenda. Mayor Vest asked if there were any items that the Aldermen wished to have pulled from the Consent Agenda. Town Attorney Jim Wheeler requested that Item 9-d Special Event Request – 2023 Storytelling Festival be pulled for discussion. Alderman Causey made the motion, seconded by Alderman Countermine and duly passed, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Regular BMA meeting.
2. Approve the following bills for payment:

**Insert Payment**

3. Approve the following Town Administrator Report:

**Insert Report**

4. Approve the following Operations Manager Report:

**Insert Report**

5. Approve the following Committee Reports: JRT Board of Directors, Jonesborough Board of Zoning Appeals and Jonesborough Planning Commission.
6. Approve the following Supervisor Reports: Solid Waste and Recycling, McKinney Center, MBM Program Director, Fire Department, Visitor Center Manager, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, Police Department, Building Inspector, Animal Control, Street Department, Utility Manager, Water Quality Department, Water Distribution, Environmental Services/Wastewater, Water Treatment, and Director of Tourism and Main Street.
7. Acknowledgement of the Debt Obligation Report CT-0253 related to the General Obligation Capital Outlay Note, Series 2023 in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000.
8. Approve the surplus of the 2014 Ford Interceptor VIN #1FM5K8AR0EGA70961 to the Erwin Police Department for the sum of \$6500.00 payable prior to change in ownership; and surplus of the Music on the Square van and to place on GovDeals.

9. Approve the following Special Event Application requests:
  - a. Halloween Haunts and Happenings scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2023 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Main Street, with Main Street and associated side streets being closed at 5:30 pm, the intersections of Main Street and Fox Street to Main Street and Second Avenue.
  - b. “A Spot on the Hill” sponsored by the Heritage Alliance as presented, to include the dates and times of the six (6) performances: Friday, October 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm: 1 show - Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm – 2 shows \*Saturday Matinee will take place inside the Auditorium of the Visitor’s Center - Friday, October 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM – 1 show, Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM – 2 shows.
  - c. Approve the Pumpkin Fest Special Event Application sponsored by JAMSA on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; and for Main Street to be closed from Fox Street to First Avenue on the 23<sup>rd</sup> by 9:00 am until 6:00 pm, or when the police deem it safe to reopen.
10. Approve (1) the capital projects plan with its affected changes and that the TDEC ARPA funds be utilized in full to repay the 1M Capital Outlay Note as soon as practicable when received; and (2) recognition of the original intent of utilizing the 1.25M Capital Outlay Note to reclaim/replenish our local funds that were otherwise utilized as specified within our plan.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the Financial Report. Mayor Vest said the local sales tax revenues are still looking good, and called for motion to accept the Financial Report. Alderman Dickson made the motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Alderman Causey and duly passed.

Communications from the Mayor was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Vest said this year’s Jonesborough Days Festival was a great event; Music-On-The-Square (MOTS) is doing great, attendance has increase and the diversity in the music is great.

Mayor Vest said there is a recommendation to appoint Joe Smith to the JRT Board of Directors, which is a three-year term expiring June 2026, and called for a motion. Alderman Countermine made the motion to appoint Joe Smith to a three-year on the JRT Board of Directors expiring June 2026, seconded by Alderman Dickson and duly passed.

Mayor Vest asked Arthur Casey to come forward for the July 2023 Employee of the Month Award. Mayor Vest read the following:

*I would like to recommend Arthur Casey for employee of the month for June 2023. Arthur has been employed by the Town of Jonesborough for 32 years and*

*has shown to be sedulous and an artisan at his position. Arthur was recently promoted to Construction Supervisor and has evolved as a true leader with a meticulous attention to detail in all of Water Distributions line maintenance and construction affairs. Arthur is well respected by his colleagues for his leadership skills and his knowledge of our intricate water system and has a propensity to share his knowledge to the incoming neophytes at water distribution. You can always call Arthur day or night at any time and he is willing to give advice to the people on call or come in and help with the repair of the water line. Arthur was instrumental in getting Lincoln Parks toilets plumbed and installed again, showcasing his knowledge and his ability to help other departments when needed. Arthur also took out the old water heaters at Wetlands Park and plumbed in and installed two water heaters that were antiquated and were leaking; along with repairing several leaks the park had this year. These are just a few examples of what Arthur Casey does on a daily basis besides his regular job duties. His kindness and generosity go beyond his normal working hours into his personal time by helping others that may need help with any home repairs or mechanical issues. These are the qualities that exemplify the traits of what Jonesborough, TN is known for and is expected by our residents and also what makes us flourish as a community. In conclusion I ask the Board to please consider Arthur Casey for Employee of the Month for his performance as a representative of the Town of Jonesborough to go above and beyond his normal job description for the greater good of the Township.*

*Submitted by: Allen Hicks, Water Distribution Supervisor*

Mayor Vest asked Arthur Casey if he had any comments. Arthur Casey said he was thankful for being nominated.

Mayor Vest announced that the next item to be addressed was the Special Event Application from ISC to hold the 2023 Storytelling Festival beginning October 4 – 8, 2023. The request includes use of the Visitor Center auditorium during registration through the festival as well as Mill Spring Park and gazebo for use for Ghost Stories. Beginning Thursday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup>, close College Street from Second Ave to Sabin Drive and Sabin Dr. from Boone Street to Oak Hill School to allow only vendors to park between Cherokee and First Ave on one side of College St, Thursday – Sunday (Oct. 5 – 8). Main Street and associated side streets are to be closed throughout the Festival early Friday morning through Sunday evening. Spring Street will be closed from Main Street to Franklin Ave along with the associated side streets from 6:00-10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings for Ghost Stories. The Library parking lot, Parson's Table lot, East Courthouse Square, and Visitor Center lots are requested for use. Tents will be erected beginning Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Library parking area for the annual Library Book Sale. Various Town services are required for the event. The festival boundary includes Boone Street where a 5-mph speed limit is requested during the festival. Also included is the Special Event/Special Occasion Outdoor Use Permit for the Wine Garden to be set up at the ISC Plaza from Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 PM daily, and the Beer Garden to be set up at the Library Tent on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> for the evening concert from

6:30-9:30 PM. Identifiable boundaries are included, signage stating that alcohol is not permitted beyond this point (the boundary), and wristbands (21 and over only). Attorney Jim Wheeler said he had been provided the Proof of Insurance Certificate and it does appear to be in order, so we are good from a legal standpoint. Mayor Vest asked the Aldermen if they had comments or questions. There being none, Alderman Causey made the motion to approve the Special Events Permit application from the International Storytelling Center to hold the National Storytelling Festival October 4 – 8, 2023, including street closures and Boone Street with a festival speed limit of 5 mph along with the use of the Visitor Center, Mill Spring Park, Christopher Taylor lot, Parson's Table lot, and front plaza of the MBM Storytelling Hall, and other accommodations, as requested. The motion was seconded by Alderman Dickson and duly passed.

Citizens Comments was the next item on the Agenda. Mayor Vest asked if there were any citizens present that would like to comment at this time. Jennifer Richman, 1338 Lemongrass Drive, Jonesborough TN. Ms. Richman said she moved to Jonesborough 19 months ago from Cherry Hill, NJ, which is about 15 minutes outside of Philadelphia. Like many out of staters, I came to Jonesborough for a different kind of life. I can assure you it isn't easy to move away from everyone and everything you know. But so many of us out of staters did that because our states and hometowns have completely lost their way. The reason people like me are descending on places like this is because we desire what Jonesborough offers. It has charm, a spirit, a soul, a heartbeat, palpable energy, and unbelievable pride in residency. It is a slice of America that is disappearing before our eyes. The reason Jonesborough is exploding is because people are desperately craving traditional values, quaint small-town culture and dripping in patriotism Americana that makes your heart just swell. What Jonesborough is doing is so attractive that people are coming in droves. The sales pitch is working. People are coming here for what Jonesborough already IS. This town has bottled the secret sauce. The board and mayor are the citizens' line of defense to navigate the evolution of a town. In many ways it's like a parent, where sometimes you say yes, sometimes you say no, and sometimes a compromise is reached. At the core of every issue and subsequent decision is what is best for the family. People like me can only hope that at the heart of each Jonesborough decision, the elected representatives look at things in a reasoned, rational way, with guardrails in place to make sure the best interests and core values of this town are being honored. Ms. Richman thanked the BMA for their service to the community and for their time.

Matthew Paul, 126 Sarah's Way, Jonesborough, TN, addressed the Board with traffic concerns on North Cherokee Street with the new school nearing completion. Mr. Paul asked the Board about adding sidewalks and protected or separated bike infrastructure to the school from along South Cherokee Street in order to help the traffic, and which will help with the physical well-being of students attending the new Jonesborough School, and adults as well. Mayor Vest thanked Matthew Paul for his comments. Mayor Vest noted that the Town has a plan to widen North Cherokee Street and run a trail from the school over to the new Saylor's Place development across the street and connect into North Jonesborough Subdivision and then at some point connect with the trails that we have downtown.

T. McLeod, 101 East Main Street, Jonesborough, TN, addressed the Board. Mr. McLeod said he started attending the Board meetings about four or five months ago with the intentions of finding out what might affect his business or what might affect JAMSA as an organization, which he is the President of. Mr. McLeod said he has been in Jonesborough for almost 2 years, since moving from North Carolina, and he hasn't publicly stood up and issued his support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. He said we love this town and the McLeod family motto is to "Hold Fast"; and we appreciate the fact that you are holding fast to things that we really love to what Jonesborough is today. Mr. McLeod said they are here to support the Board in any possible way that we can, and thanked the BMA for the job and support your elections and terms as they are right now and you all do a great job. Mayor Vest thanked T. McLeod for his comments.

Dana Helvey, 100 East Woodrow Ave, Jonesborough, TN, addressed the Board, with his concerns in regard to TN Hills Distillery, who is a great friend and a good neighbor to him, and when he has issues concerning the distillery he has been able to call Stephen and address those issues. Mr. Helvey said he was at the last BMA meeting, and was in support of everything that he heard at that meeting - we want to brew some beer in Jonesborough, TN, we want to distribute that beer through growlers and other facilities, we want to have a bases for ETSU students to come in and learn about this process. Mr. Helvey said but when the picture was posted on Facebook of all of the Board members looking like pirates, he thought what kind of neighbor is that and why is that happening. Mr. Helvey said but when it comes down to slandering people, calling people names, it's just distasteful. Mr. Helvey said people should come together, without the lawyers present, and just talk about what are our differences and where is our common ground. Mr. Helvey said we have a responsibility to this historical community to work together. Mayor Vest thanked Dana Helvey for his comments.

Clark Jordan, Attorney for Tennessee Hills Distillery, asked the Mayor if he could address the Board with a couple of comments. Mayor Vest said yes and that he would give him 60 seconds to comment. Clark Jordan said first of all I love your passion (in reference to Dana Helvey's comments / citizens comments) , and secondly we are trying to work it out, and he thinks they have resolution. Mr. Jordan said there has been a lot of discussion and he his optimistic about it, and would be happy to talk with you about that after the meeting. Mr. Jordan said it is unfortunate that it got to the place that it did, honestly; and he is appreciative of those who have worked to try to find resolution, and would love to have some discussion with you after the meeting. Mayor Vest thanked Clark Jordan for his comments.

Alderman Communications was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Vest asked the Aldermen if they had comments. Alderman Dickson said he wanted to say to Town staff just a great thanks for Jonesborough Days, which he thought was just outstanding this year, every year before hand has been wonderful, but this year was just really nice, the parade was nice, and the weather out outstanding. Alderman Dickson said in particular he wanted to bring up something that has really caught his attention, and he thinks that we as a Board should be very public in recognizing Town staff. Alderman

Dickson said he had the opportunity to meet new Public Safety Officer Art De La Cruz, and really enjoyed meeting and talking to him; and another thing that he noticed in the BMA agenda tonight that we just voted to approve the hire of Artivan Hart, Jr. Alderman Dickson said for the local people, there is a family here in Washington County, the Harts, Mr. William and Ms. Mary Hart were both just beautiful people, with four children, and they both have passed away. He said one of their children is Artivan Hart, and his son was a Washington County Deputy, and the BMA has just hired him for the Town of Jonesborough and that is a very pleasant surprise and very glad to see that happen. He said thirdly, as he was thinking Officer De La Cruz, Officer Hart, and Officer Hannah Fleming, and Sgt. White, and in 2020 we all know that year the living epiphany it rocked everybody in this room on a few levels. Alderman Dickson said 2020 was rough for this community and there were a lot of tough conversations that we had as a community, we weathered the storm, we got to the other side, and the four people that he just mentioned today are reflective of the leadership that's taken place in terms of making sure in terms of public safety that we have diversity, and also to strengthen our community. Alderman Dickson said he thinks Police Chief Rice, Director Ford, and Town Administrator Rosenoff ought to be recognized for the leadership that it takes and it didn't necessarily have to be overt and flagrant, it was just being mindful and he just want to say publicly, thank you and expressed his appreciation to the Town Administrator and it is really positive and it is reflective of our community. Mayor Vest thanked Alderman Dickson for his comments.

Alderman Causey said she would like to say one thing. Alderman Causey said at the last meeting she had to leave early because her husband was sick. Alderman Causey said on Thursday she had to call EMS and Sgt. Jeff White came, he was the first one there, and really did a good job and EMS, and she expressed her appreciation to the fact of how fast our people really do respond. Mayor Vest thanked Alderman Causey for her comments.

Town Attorney Comments was the next item on the agenda. Mayor Vest asked Town Attorney Jim Wheeler if he had any comments. Jim Wheeler replied no.

The first item under Old Business was second and final reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Code of the Town of Jonesborough, Tennessee to Amend Title 1 Chapter 15 Roundtable Advisory Committee. This is to re-ignite the already established Roundtable Advisory Committee, which has been inactive for several years, and to take a new roster of members. The few revisions to the composition section of the ordinance includes: The few revisions to the composition section of the ordinance includes: (1) Reducing the number of total members from 25 to 11, and still having staff and other ex-officio members. The number 25 reminded me of the past when the County Commission was composed of 25 members. To be more efficient I opine that a number like 11 of very strong members will be to our benefit more than a higher number like 25. (2) Rather than terms expiring with 1 year and 2-years, staff is proposing 2-year and 3-year terms. (3) Currently, to Town staff's knowledge, the Washington County Economic Development Council is the entity to serve our economic development needs. Mayor Vest asked the Aldermen if they had comments or questions. There being none,

Alderman Dickson made the motion to approve second and final reading of the Ordinance amending Title 1, Chapter 15 Business Roundtable Committee, Section 1-1502, Compositions, appointment, membership and terms, as presented. Alderman Countermine seconded the motion and it was duly passed.

## **INSERT ORDINANCE**

The next item on the agenda was second and final reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Jonesborough Municipal Code, Title 2, Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" by Deleting Chapters 1 and 2 in their Entirety and Replacing them with New Chapters 1 and 2. Mayor Vest asked Town Attorney Jim Wheeler to address the change. Jim Wheeler said we are making changes on second reading and pointed out that most of these involve the wording of the two requirements in regards to food sales from 75% to 50% which is in line with ABC; and the beer alcohol content from 5% to 8%. Jim Wheeler said they made some changes, in individual conversations that the Town Administrator and he had with Aldermen, and the Town Administrator made the decision in consultation with me, to recommend to the Board, some changes that you all had talked about possibly making a little later in the year. Mr. Wheeler said one of those is 2-225 to change from one-hundred (100) barrels annually to twenty five (25) barrels annually. Mr. Wheeler said they are recommending changing and creating an option for the food requirement that will involve the distribution for a second facility within close proximity to the first facility or to actually have food on site. Mr. Wheeler said they worked on that very diligently and very quickly put that together. Mayor Vest said he appreciates that the leaders in the past felt like the food component with alcohol was important and appreciates the Alderman continuing to feel that way, and he thinks this still addresses that importance. Mayor Vest asked the Alderman if they had any comments or questions. There being none, Alderman Countermine made the motion to approve on second and final reading the Ordinance to amend the Town of Jonesborough Municipal Code, Title 2, Entitled "Alcoholic Beverages" by Deleting Chapters 1 and 2 in their Entirety and Replacing them with New Chapters 1 and 2. Alderman Causey seconded the motion. Mayor Vest asked the Aldermen if there were any further discussions. Alderman Countermine said this has been a discussion and he appreciates the many calls concerned about this. Alderman Countermine said he believes Glenn Rosenoff and Jim Wheeler have done a good job of comprising, and he is a believer in comprise, and he does want assure who are concerned that we will do our best to have that neighborhood be a neighborhood. Alderman Countermine said he received calls on the term limit situation and that's interesting. Alderman Countermine said he appreciates very much those who have supported him, he loves Jonesborough, yes he has been doing this job a long time, we believes we have a record of doing many good things in this town, and we hopes we can continue and do hope through this compromise work with TN Hills and have that corner be a part of the neighborhood. Mayor Vest thanked Alderman Countermine for his comments. Alderman Dickson said it has been said a few times how much we love this town and himself, Mayor Vest and Alderwoman Causey were born and raised in Tennessee's oldest town. Alderman Dickson said we have a great love for this town and we are so glad for our new citizens that have moved into town and make this town their home. Alderman Dickson said he



doesn't want to be ignorant, wants to be balanced, we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we understand that people from all over the world are coming into our community. Alderman Dickson said its very heart warming and uplifting to hear comments about the values that people see, and doesn't think that is by happenstance or by coincidence, he thinks that is intentional to make this community a very special place. Alderman Dickson said with all that said he just wants to say he appreciates Attorney Wheeler and Administrator Rosenoff, and appreciates this Board. Alderman Dickson said the Mayor mentioned back in the early 2000's this food requirement, it seemed like it was very important for the moment and he will say and go on the record that he still thinks it is important. Alderman Dickson said from a legal standpoint, and it may not a hold bit of strength in court, but he thinks as a community that we need inclusive spaces where we gather. He said we don't need to be insolent people, and he has very dear friends who enjoy a glass of wine with their meal and he thinks there is a lot of citizens in this town who understand that and are open to that. Alderman Dickson said but having a space where we can gather and not just be singular, he doesn't want to lecture too much, but if you look at American society today we have too many places that are singular; and the notion is if you don't want to go then don't go, so now they are just singular places. Alderman Dickson said that polarization just continues to yelp, because if you don't want to go, don't go, but those who do want to go, go; and they are not inclusive. Alderman Dickson said we need inclusive spaces in town and the food requirement in a very round-about way creates that kind of climate. Alderman Dickson said he is grateful the Board, he is grateful for the compromise, and he believes that the majority of the votes are there to make this thing move forward. Alderman Dickson said he hopes that Dickson want be seen as insolent or backward or stupid, if his votes is not one of the votes. He said he thinks this is for the health of this town, he appreciates the leadership in trying to strike a balance and he wants to be public about that. Alderman Dickson said he was just thinking about an episode of the Andy Griffith show, Bill Bixby was a spoiled brat and came through Mayberry and got arrested and had to spend sometime in jail, and Andy talked to him about the importance of standing on your own two legs, what means for an individual to stand on your own two legs. Alderman Dickson said so he thinks that is what Dickson is going to do this evening. Mayor Vest thanked Alderman Dickson for his comments. With there being no further comments, Mayor Vest asked the Town Recorder to call for the vote. Upon call of the roll, the following Aldermen voted Aye: Alderman Countermine and Alderman Causey. Voting Nay: Alderman Dickson. The motion carried

## **INSERT ORDINANCE**

The next item on the agenda was first reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Jonesborough Municipal Code, Title 9, Entitled "Motor Vehicles And Traffic" by Deleting Chapter 5 Parking in its Entirety and Replacing it with a New Chapter 5. Mayor Vest asked the Aldermen if they had questions or comments. With there being none, Alderman Countermine made the motion to approve on first reading the Ordinance to Amend the Town of Jonesborough Municipal Code, Title 9, Entitled "Motor Vehicles And Traffic" by Deleting Chapter 5 Parking in its Entirety and Replacing it with a New

Chapter 5, as presented. Alderman Causey seconded the motion and it was duly passed.

**INSERT ORDINANCE**

There being no further business the meeting was duly adjourned.

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ROBERT ANDERSON, RECORDER

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CHUCK VEST, MAYOR