

**TOWN OF DANDRIDGE, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
Regular Meeting
9 May 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The Dandridge Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) met in a regular session at the Dandridge Police Department/Public Works Building in Dandridge, Tennessee on Tuesday, the 9th day of May 2017.
- B. Mayor GEORGE GANTTE was present and presiding. Mayor GANTTE called the meeting to order immediately following the Beer Board Meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

- A. A roll call of the BMA was conducted by Town Recorder Cathy Dixon, with the following members responding:
- Mayor GEORGE GANTTE
 - Alderman MIKE CHAMBERS
 - Alderman JEFF DEPEW
 - Alderman JESSICA ELDER
 - Vice-Mayor TODD KESTERSON
 - Alderman MIKE NELSON
 - Alderman MARIANNE REESE

- B. A quorum being present, the following business was conducted and entered on the record:

The Pledge and Invocation was led by members of the current Jefferson County High School Leadership class.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES

It came on a motion by Alderman NELSON, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve the Regular Session minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting as written.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None presented.

V. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

VI. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR

- Mayor Gante reported that he, the Town Administrator and the Building Inspector met with a Mr. Bare who is opening a business in the industrial park. A grand opening will be held Friday at noon.
- Mayor Gante also acknowledged the Jefferson County public service meeting attended by Aldermen Depew and Reese. Alderman Reese reported that the meeting was a disappointment and does not foresee any additional funds for fire service to be allotted. Alderman Depew agreed with Alderman Reese's comments and reiterated that Jefferson County has made it clear that Dandridge VFD will not receive additional funding. Funding from Jefferson County will remain the same as previous years (\$55,000).
- Mayor Gante reported of a meeting he and the Town Administrator had with representatives of the Town of White Pine. TA Melissa Peagler reported that the Town of White Pine has stated they will no longer be considered a non-profit, services are provided to county residents, and wish to be treated as a contract service provider, in which they are requesting \$75,000 to provide services to county residents in their current fire service district. If a contract is not signed by the county as of July 1, 2017, White Pine fire department will no longer serve county residents. White Pine is asking that the Town of Dandridge consider supporting and align

with their funding and service desires. The Town of Dandridge would also send notice to Jefferson County of contract provider stipulations and funding requests. If the contract is not accepted, the Town of Dandridge would no longer provide fire service to county residents. Dandridge would also enter into a mutual supporting agreement with White Pine for assistance. Mutual aid would also remain with other county fire calls as needed, but not as first called out. Concerns would be with those current firemen who live outside the city limits. Would like to be able to service their homes. Lots of details to be worked out. Mayor Gantte stated that he personally doesn't know of anything else to do as a Town. For the past several years, different representatives have actively requested additional funding from Jefferson County to no avail. Mayor Gantte is open for suggestions. BMA needs to have good discussion and dialect on options. Citizens should be aware of situation.

Steve Williams, DVFD, stated that what is fair is fair. The Town has made every effort and given the county the chance for several years to increase funding. Not that he is in agreement with everything and would hate to cut service to anyone, but also understands the cost put upon the Town and its residents. The County has forced the Town into a corner and does not know what else to do. The firefighters will not take such news well as they will not want to see the call volume decrease and upset that their homes may not be covered. Firemen will quit but others will step up and the department will recover as part of growth. With such a proposal BMA will consider cutting service to approx. 47% of the county population.

Will Wiwczaroski, DVFD, stated that Mr. Williams nailed it; as a business perspective, at what point do you cut your losses? Facts are facts and at what point do you battle out of the corner? He does not want to not service anyone, but the Town has to do what it has to do.

TA M.Peagler stated that several public buildings would be affected by such a move...Patriot Academy, Piedmont Elementary, Mt Horeb School, not to mention Interstate I40 coverage. If such proposal passes, then the VFD would need full-time staff. Currently there are 2 active firefighters who live within the Town of Dandridge. Options and incentives would be pursued to retain firefighters.

Alderman Nelson stated that if the Town decides to go such a route, it needs to be made well known to the public via all resources possible. To reiterate the County forcing the city into such action.

Alderman Chambers stated he does not like using the county residents as a bargaining chip just to get additional support and feels uncomfortable in doing so, but knows no other way. We are talking people's lives and houses and this is a hard decision to make, the line has been drawn. Insurance rates will rise and development will decline.

Alderman Depew stated that Jefferson County has made it clear that property taxes will not be raised, but feels that it would be preferred that the Town's raise their property taxes to cover the excess. Would like to give county residents the opportunity to be annexed if the Town follows through with such a plan. Choices should be offered. M.Peagler clarified that a Plan of Services would detail what services those who would be annexed would cover.

Alderman Elder stated that she does not like the idea that her neighbors could be county residents and not covered versus yourself as a city resident, but the Town is in a corner.

Vice-Mayor Kesterson responded that he sees both sides (Town & County), but fire protection is an essential service and should be funded as such. Struggle with not providing service. Not a whole lot of options, knows no other way. Leary of time frame of proposed implementation of service contracts. Would feel more comfortable with a July 2018 contract time to give more funding options time. Not against proposal, struggle, but comfortable in what they are saying in going city only, but timeline in doing so is way too short. Maybe city employees could be encouraged to become firefighters. (Public Works Superintendent Gregg Gann responded that his department could not keep up their work and answer fire calls).

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TOWN RECORDER

<u>Bank Balance:</u>	<u>BMA Acct:</u>	\$2,068,271.85	<u>Drug Fund Balance:</u>	\$ 60,065.39
	<u>Money Market Balance:</u>	\$ -0-	<u>DVFD Balance:</u>	\$287,333.05

VIII. PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- First Reading of **Ordinance No.16/17-12** To Amend Section 8-207 of the Municipal Code: Permit Required for Sale of Beer

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman REESE, to approve Ordinance No.16/17-12 on first reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	NO
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	PASS
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	NO		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-2, with Vice-Mayor KESTERSON & Alderman NELSON, voting NO (Mayor GANTTE passing), and was so ordered.

- First Reading of **Ordinance No. 16/17-13** To Amend Title 7 Chapter 3 Section 305 of the Municipal Code: Tenure and Compensation of Members

It came on a motion by Alderman NELSON, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, to approve Ordinance No.16/17-13 on first reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	AYE		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- First Reading of **Ordinance No.16/17-14** To Amend 2016-2017 Budget

It came on a motion by Alderman CHAMBERS, seconded by Alderman ELDER, to approve Ordinance No.16/17-14 on first reading.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	AYE		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- First Reading of **Ordinance No.17/18-01** FY17/18 Budget

It came on a motion by Alderman KESTERSON, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to approve Ordinance No.17/18-01 on first reading.

A balanced budget with no tax increase.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	NO	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	NO	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	NO	Mayor GANTTE	NO
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	AYE		

On a roll call vote, the motion failed 3-4, with Aldermen CHAMBERS, DEPEW, ELDER and Mayor GANTTE voting NO, and was so ordered.

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to approve Ordinance No.17/18-01 on first reading as amended by increasing the following...

\$ 2,000.00	Christmas in Dandridge
\$ 2,500.00	Jefferson County Rescue Squad
<u>\$12,818.00</u>	Seasonal Public Works Part-Time Employee
\$17,318.00	

Increased funds will be taken from General Fund Operating Funds transfers to the VFD, which in turn the VFD will have to use additional donation funds to balance their budget.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	NO
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	NO		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-2, with Vice Mayor KESTERSON & Alderman REESE voting NO, and was so ordered.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Grant Contract between the State of TN Dept of Economic & Community Development and Town of Dandridge (Tourism Enhancement Grant – Professional services and labor to create a public dock, add boat slips, and install electrical service and lighting enhancements to the Douglas Lake waterfront project)

Grant Contract	\$50,000.00
Grantee Match	\$21,428.57
Total Project	\$71,428.57

It came on a motion by Alderman NELSON, seconded by Alderman DEPEW, to approve the grant contract.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	AYE		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Road Block Request - Dandridge Lions Club
Friday – October 6, 2017 – 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

It came on a motion by Vice-Mayor KESTERSON, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, to approve the roadblock request.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

- Home Grant Update

Contract were signed on April 28th between the builders and the homeowners. Construction is scheduled to start in June.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- Jefferson County Fire Service Agreement & Mutual Aid Agreement with the Town of White Pine

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, to suspend the rules and add the above item to the agenda.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	AYE	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	AYE		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to instruct the Town Attorney to construct a contract to offer to Jefferson County for fire service beyond the Dandridge City limits as to be determined by the BMA and to the Town of White Pine for mutual assistance.

It came on a motion by Alderman DEPEW, seconded by Alderman NELSON, to amend the previous motion by adding that the contract will be effective in 6 months at a cost of \$100,000 with a 5% increase annually for five years.

A roll call was asked for and the BMA responded as follows:

Alderman CHAMBERS	AYE	Alderman NELSON	AYE
Alderman DEPEW	AYE	Alderman REESE	AYE
Alderman ELDER	NO	Mayor GANTTE	AYE
Vice Mayor KESTERSON	NO		

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-2, with Alderman ELDER & Vice-Mayor KESTERSON voting NO, and was so ordered.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

It came on a motion by Vice-Mayor KESTERSON, seconded by Alderman CHAMBERS, that the meeting of May 9, 2017 be adjourned.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and was so ordered.

George Gantte, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy Dixon Town Recorder