

Minutes

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

City of Portland, Tennessee

August 7, 2023

A. Call to Order – Mayor Callis called the meeting to order at 5:24 P.M. at Portland City Hall.

B. Prayer/Pledge –Alderman Drew Jennings offered the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call -

Present:

Also Present:

Alderman Penny Barnes
Alderman Mike Hall
Alderman LaToya Holcomb
Alderman Drew Jennings
Vice Mayor Jody McDowell
Alderman Megann Thompson
Alderman Brian Woodall
Mayor Mike Callis

Assistant City Recorder Tracy Kizer
Finance Director, City Recorder Rachel Slusser
City Attorney John R. Bradley

D. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2023, Council Meeting. Motion was made by Vice-Mayor McDowell, seconded by Alderman Woodall to approve the minutes as presented. **Voice vote indicated approval.**

E. Approval of Agenda. Motion was made by Alderman Woodall, to add Resolution 23-81 as item #2 and Resolution 23-82 as item # 3 under Legislative also move item #9 (Discussion – Water Capacity) under Utilities to item #1. Second by Alderman Thompson to approve amended agenda. **Voice vote indicated approval of the amended agenda.**

F. Communications from Council Members – Alderman Thompson thanked Mayor Callis, Bryan Price, and Attorney Bradley for speaking at the Sumner County Commission meeting and County Commissioners Mark Harrison and Dylan Lamberth, who did the right thing, in her opinion.

G. Public Comment Period–

1. John McCloud of Portland spoke on Resolution 23-79.
2. Curtis Grove of Portland spoke on Resolution 23-79.

H. Department Reports – Motion was made by Alderman Thompson, second by Alderman Holcomb to approve. **Voice vote indicated approval of the Department Reports.**

I. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Callis

- Mayor Callis thanked Vice-mayor McDowell for chairing last council meeting.
- He reported the TDEC competitive grant submission deadline is tomorrow which the City will be applying for. If the grant is awarded, the maximum amount would be \$20 million minus our required match up to \$1 million. Sumner County commission placed conditions on the

grant that would be difficult to follow, such as mortarium on annexation and impact fee for schools.

- The City has looked at other water supply options. We did not get state approval, or the cost was too high.
- Currently, there was a \$9 million earmark of ARPA funds in the County budget for water use.
- By law, the rate payer must cover the cost to improve the water system. Portland's utility base in water is 8100 customers.
- Mayor Callis presented pictures showing the water intake at West Fork Drakes Creek from July 2023 and the drought of 2007. During the drought of 2007, we were days away from shutting off water to the factories in Portland.
- To put the amount of growth into perspective, since the County commission has been in their seats, they have approved over 300 residential homes in the unincorporated parts of Sumner County. During that same time period, Portland and Westmoreland have only approved a combined total of 38 new homes.
- Mayor Callis recommended to the ad hoc committee to look at city impact fees.

J. Community Development – Alderwoman Megann Thompson – No items

K. Finance – Alderwoman Penny Barnes

1. **Ordinance No. 23-37 – Second Reading** - An Ordinance of the City of Portland, Tennessee, amending Budget Ordinance No. 23- 25 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. Motion by Alderwoman Barnes seconded by Alderman Woodall. Alderwoman Barnes made motion to amend by adding the noted items in the Ordinance, second by Alderman Woodall. **Voice vote indicated approval of amendment. Voice vote indicated approval of amended Ordinance.**
2. **Ordinance No. 23-38 – First Reading** – An Ordinance providing for the levy on all real property, personal property, and ad valorem taxes for the City of Portland, Tennessee for the year 2023. Alderwoman Barnes made a motion to approve, second by Vice-Mayor McDowell. Discussion and explanation from Finance Director Slusser. Alderman Woodall made motion to amend by increasing the Robertson County Rate .10 cents to 0.81 cents, second by Alderman Jennings. **Voice vote indicated approval of amendment. Voice vote indicated approval of amended Ordinance.**

L. Fire Department –

Financed by: General Fund

1. **Resolution 23-75** - A Resolution to accept an assistance to firefighters grant for equipment and training through the Department of Homeland Security issued by FEMA. Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor McDowell, second by Alderwoman Barnes. **Voice vote indicated approval.**

It was also noted that the Fire Department has had three CPR & AED classes for city employees this year and trained approximately 36 employees. Later this year, they will train Police officers in CPR & AED and fire extinguisher training for all employees.

M. Human Resources – Alderwoman Penny Barnes

1. **Ordinance No. 23-36 - Second Reading** - An Ordinance to update the Employee Christmas Bonus. Move to approve by Alderwoman Barnes, second by Alderman Woodall. After discussion, motion was made by Alderwoman Barnes to change the name to Employee Longevity Bonus. Second by Alderman Woodall. **Voice vote indicated approval of amendment. Voice vote indicated approval of amended Ordinance.**