Greeneville BMA Hears Inquiry Into Road Closure

BY LORELEI GOFF
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The Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting took an unexpected turn on Tuesday when a woman interrupted the adjournment of the meeting and inquired about the possible closing of Wesley Avenue.

Joan Stover, a leader within the Wesley Heights community, passionately opposed the closure, which was requested by the Holston United Methodist Home for Children, during the public hearing portion of the last meeting.

Stover asked the board on Tuesday if there had been a resolution on the issue.

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Alderman Jeff Taylor said it was left with Holston Home to come up with a revised plan in preparation to meeting with residents for further discussion.

Stover pressed the board to set a time for a meeting between the parties.

"I feel the community has the right to know what is going on," said Stover. "At this point we don't know. I'd like to be able to go back to the community and tell them this is going to happen within the next two weeks or whatever."

City Administrator Todd Smith said he spoke with Holston Home earlier in the day and "encouraged them to reach out to the community and maybe even set up a meeting with some of the leaders of the community quickly."

He said he also encouraged them to follow that up with a public meeting for the entire community. Smith offered to attend the meetings if it would be helpful.

Stover continued to press for a concrete time.

"We don't want it to go on and on forever," she said.

After Taylor responded that it was in Holston Home's court since they introduced the request, Stover asserted that the community has a right to expect that the issue will be resolved in a timely manner and requested that an alderman step in to facilitate setting up a meeting.

Greeneville Mayor W.T. Daniels said he agreed with everything Stover said and that "there is no need to keep people waiting."

"I think there needs to be a decision," Daniels said. "I will take it upon myself. You will hear from me this week."

In other business, the board approved the purchase of three Ford Interceptor SUVs for the Greeneville Police Department. The cost of each vehicle is approximately $30,000 for a total of about $90,000. Money from the public safety fund will be used for the purchase.

The board also approved an addendum to the design contract for the Walters State Community College Multimodal sidewalk construction. The town will pay about another $1,000 to help cover the cost of hiring Vaughn and Melton Consulting Engineers to finish work that was begun by a state consultant, whom the state later pulled off the job.

A special event permit was approved for the town's annual Barbecue and Blue Grass event, and requests for signs for that event and a series of events at The Shed on Snapps Ferry Road were also approved.



SUN PHOTO BY LORELEI GOFF

Work continued on the multimodal sidewalk network on the Walters State Community College campus Tuesday. The Greeneville Board of Mayor and Alderman approved a request for an additional $1,000 toward completing the project.

Two items were approved on second reading: the budget amendment to reconcile the 2016-17 fiscal year budget and the rezoning of 206 McKee St., from split zoning to B-3, intermediate business district.

Mike Idell and Dave Wright were reappointed to serve on the Standard Review board.

An additional item was added to the agenda. The board approved a motion to authorize Smith to apply for a $14,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office to assist with the purchase of a fire truck. Smith said he received a phone call earlier in the day during which he learned the money is available.