

MINUTES: CITY OF DECHERD BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
DECHERD, TENNESSEE

October 12, 2020

The City of Dechard Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in regular session, Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall Council Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR MICHAEL GILLESPIE  
VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALDERMAN TAMMY HOLT  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR REX CLARK

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dennis Doney (who live streamed the meeting on Facebook), Ross Peterson, Jerre M. Hood (City Attorney), Al Tipps (WCDDT radio), Rickey Arnold, Ross Peterson, Michelle Peterson, Glenn T. Summers, Danita Slattton, Patrick Slattton, Kalab Tyree, Dianne Hensley, Dottie Smith, Chuck Williams, Zach Langford, Patrick Chambers.

Mayor Michael Gillespie called the meeting to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Dechard Board of Mayor & Aldermen dated September 14, 2020 was reviewed. Motion to accept was made by Alderman Pam Arnold and Seconded by Vice-Mayor Richard Gulley. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

The Financial Report for the Month of September 2020 was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Alderman Pam Arnold and Seconded by Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders to approve this report as indicated. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

Department reports for the Police and Fire were given by Public Safety Director Ross Peterson, Building Inspection Report was given by Codes Director Dennis Doney, and there was no Water Report. Motion to accept Department Reports by Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders and seconded by Alderman Pam Arnold. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

1. First Reading of Ordinance #429 was addressed. An Ordinance of the City of Decherd Amending the permit fees for Peddler, Vendor and Food Trucks, etc. A question was asked as to who did the investigations that is stated in the ordinance. The question was answered that the Codes Department and the City Administrator conducted the investigations. Mayor Gillespie requested to know which Alderman was sponsoring the Ordinance. Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders stated he would sponsor the Ordinance and stated that he felt the Food Truck fee should be higher but would discuss that more on Second Reading. The Mayor asked for a motion and Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders made the motion and Seconded by Vice-Mayor Richard Gulley. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

2. Resolution R7-20 was read by Mayor Michael Gillespie. The Resolution is to adjust eligibility for the members serving on the Safety Committee. Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders explained what the Safety Committee was requesting. Additional discussion continued about the Safety Board concerning who appoints the Chairman and who appoints the members. Vice Mayor Richard Gulley asked if the Board picked the elected official. More discussion followed. Motion was made to accept the Resolution R7-20 by Vice Mayor Richard Gulley and seconded by Alderman Pam Arnold. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

3. Permission to pursue a CDBG Matching Grant was discussed. A motion was made by Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders to pursue the CDBG matching grant and Vice Mayor Richard Gulley seconded. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

Discussion about what to pursue on the grant continued. Vice-Mayor Richard Gulley stated he understood that the drainage problem was larger than the grant could be applied for and that studies and plans had not been done. Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders stated that he felt the Weather Alert System would aid more citizens than the other suggestions. Comments were made from the citizens and discussion followed. A roll call was done with the members of the Board stating what they voted to pursue with the Grant.

MAYOR MICHAEL GILLESPIE – Weather Alert System  
VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Weather Alert System  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD – Weather Alert System  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS – Weather Alert System

The Weather Alert System had a 4-0 vote to pursue the CDBG grant.

Citizens' Concerns:

Danita Slatton stated that she felt and others felt that the citizens thoughts did not matter when asked so she felt the discission to apply for the weather alert system was already decided on before the Public Hearing was held.

Dottie Smith discussed some of the fire hydrants still was covered up and she wanted to know why. She also complained about a high water bill for the last couple months. Mayor Michael Gillespie asked if she had talked with the Water Superintendent and she stated no.

Mayor's Communications:

The Mayor advised that due to Covid 19 and a recommendation from the Street Department there would not be a Haunted House or Haunted Trail this year. Instead the Recreation Committee would be holding a home decoration contest for the scariest house decorations. The question was asked about the Christmas Parade and the Mayor stated it was being planned to have a Christmas Parade as usual.

Aldermen's Communications:

Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders brought up a letter he received concerning a problem with one of the Cities Fire Engines. Chief Ross Peterson was asked to comment on the letter and his suggestion for the solution. Chief committed that Engine 201 was having some severe engine problems and the engine had already had a lot of money spent to keep it running. He purposed to trade the engine and the van for a 2013 pumper. Alderman Jimmy Wayne Sanders motioned to have a Special Called Meeting on October 19, 2020 at 5:00 PM to make a discission on what to do. The Board then agreed that the engine 201 should be parked until a discussion was made.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Pam Arnold and seconded by Vice Mayor Richard Gulley and a roll call vote taken with the following results:

VICE-MAYOR RICHARD GULLEY - Aye  
ALDERMAN PAM ARNOLD - Aye  
ALDERMAN JIMMY WAYNE SANDERS - Aye

Motion Passed Unanimously 3-0

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:52.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis L. Doney

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Michael Gillespie, Mayor