

CITY OF WHITE HOUSE  
Board of Mayor and Aldermen  
*Study Session*  
Minutes  
October 10, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order by the Mayor

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Corbitt – Present; Ald. Matthews - Absent; Ald. Silver – Present; Ald. Spicer– Present; Ald. Wall – Absent; **Quorum – Present.**

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion was made by Ald. Spicer, second by Ald. Silver to adopt the agenda. A voice vote was called for with all members voting aye. **Motion passed.**

4. New Business

a. Discuss renaming the Michael L. Arnold Municipal Park

Mayor Corbitt opened the discussion by asking the Aldermen their thoughts on the name for the park. Ald. Silver stated that she is in favor of renaming the park back to the original name, “White House Municipal Park.” Ald. Silver continued that this name would cause the least amount of grief since some people did not know the name changed. Ald. Silver noted that she thought about having members of the community and schools participate in coming up with a fitting name for the park; however, that route would be more elaborate than what the Board may want to do currently. Ald. Spicer agreed with Ald. Silver that the name should be changed based on the feedback received and recommends the name to go back to what it was previously.

Ald. Spicer mentioned that this discussion brings up the question of what criteria the Board should consider having a facility named after an individual in the future. City Administrator Gerald Herman discussed his findings after researching the history of the park. Mr. Herman noted that there is a plaque at the Andrew Jackson Trailhead near Sonic on Hwy 76 that says the “White House Municipal Park” and adjacent lands were in memory of the original owners of Carmon and Clarince Warren. Mr. Herman mentioned that there was no date on the plaque to determine how long it had been there. Mr. Herman continued that according to the deed, the City purchased the land from Mary Elizabeth Ferris and Thomas Ferris, and does not know the relation between the Warren and Ferris families. City Attorney Valerie Webb stated that Mary Elizabeth was the daughter of Carmon and Clarince Warren. Mr. Herman discussed that the land was referenced as the White House Municipal Park. Mr. Herman stated that a proclamation can be drafted for the next meeting if the Board decides to rename the park.

Mayor Corbitt agreed that the name should be changed and that all feedback he received was in support of changing the name. Mayor Corbitt continued that the park should not be named after someone as of right now for the sake of doing so. Mayor Corbitt recommended that the name be reverted back to the original name of “White House Municipal Park.”

City Administrator Gerald Herman asked City Recorder Derek Watson if Google Maps will be updated automatically or would we have to request the name change. Mr. Watson stated that the name can be changed on Google Maps by requesting the change, but the process is quick and simple to do.

City Administrator Gerald Herman mentioned that the Parks Department has the funds in their budget to purchase a new sign this fiscal year, and he requested to hold off on the purchase until a name was decided.

City Administrator Gerald Herman announced that the City of White House was named Best Community in Robertson County by Main Street Media. Mr. Herman noted that members of the community and readers of the local newspaper submitted and voted for their top picks in several categories. Mr. Herman discussed that this is the first time he has known the City to receive the award.

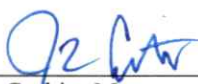
City Administrator Gerald Herman stated that an ordinance will be part of November's meeting agenda to dissolve the Cemetery Board. Mr. Herman discussed that the Board consists of mostly internal staff and representatives from each funeral home in the City. Mr. Herman continued that the matters concerning Hillcrest Cemetery are already presented with the Leisure Services Board. Mr. Herman noted that the Cemetery Board met today and it was determined to terminate the Board.

Mayor Corbitt mentioned that the Board should hold off on tackling the idea of setting criteria for naming facilities. Mayor Corbitt continued that renaming a facility can be brought up on the agenda for the Board to have a discussion. City Administrator Gerald Herman stated that inquiries came in regarding the naming of the Library's reading garden. Mr. Herman noted that the garden was named after Mrs. Sherry Eden who is an active member of the Friends of the Library nonprofit and helped fundraise for the Library building. Mr. Herman mentioned that the garden construction and naming was completed by the Friends of the Library.

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

ATTEST:

  
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John Corbitt, Mayor

  
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Derek Watson, City Recorder