

**Millersville Board of Commissioners**  
**MINUTES**  
**For the Regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025,**  
**At Millersville City Hall**

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Millersville, TN, Board of Commissioners was held on April 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM at City Hall. Those attending were: Mayor Lincoln Atwood; Vice Mayor Dustin Darnall; Commissioner Jesse Powell; Commissioner Carla McCain; Commissioner David Gregory; Interim City Manager, Michael Gorham; City Attorney, Robert Wheeler; Finance Director, Delores Farrell; and City Recorder, Judy Florendo.

**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.**

Commissioner Jesse Powell led the invocation, and it was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Citizen's Comments.**

Mr. Frank Fox introduced himself. He said he is concerned about **Item #7 (Review and Approve MOU with Sumner County)**. He was the Interim City Manager back whenever the drawings were let and fixed for **Station 2**; it served them well for many years. He wanted to say something about the past pride of Millersville; they had the fire hall "back here" (at City Hall); they were growing. They "extended the sewer out to 'Gideon Land' where the good folks live;" they got a lot done during that period. They built **Station 2** and it's had its issues over the years. Suddenly, the ambulance that served Millersville became "homeless". The safety personnel at Millersville did everything they could to persuade the EMS department to put an ambulance here in Millersville; they had a BLS (Basic Life Support) ambulance sitting back there in the fire hall. They were having a lot of wrecks on the interstate and highway, and they would get called out behind an Advanced Life Support (ALS) truck; they took a lot of pride in that because they were serving the taxpayers of Millersville and their traveling public. He said he didn't want to see that "go down the drain."

They invited the EMS department to put an Advanced Life Support truck at **Station 2**; in addition to what they do, they also have the mutual aid with Robertson County so that the citizens in Robertson County get the help they need when an ambulance is needed; if Robertson County isn't available, the ALS truck is over there "in a New York minute." He said things have changed since then – that now, the cities are looking at the county to help build their fire halls.

**Mayor Atwood:** reminded Mr. Fox he had been speaking for about 5 minutes.

**Mr. Fox:** said he would stop after he said, "Do not fall prey; do not let this be a welfare city and expect the county to fix a problem that we make." He went on to say they're ready, willing, and able to come and...work with us; the county is already furnishing a truck...and the men and women to run the truck and pay for the fuel.

**Commissioner Powell:** addressed **Mayor Atwood**, making a motion to move **Item #7** up to **Item #4** on the agenda since it seemed to be the item of most significance to the public and so many people were there that came across the county to discuss it. **Vice Mayor Darnall** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Atwood** announced he had a motion and a second to amend the agenda; he asked all in favor to say "aye". **Ayes were unanimous. The motion passed.**

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he had two amendments to the agenda, and he wanted to stick them together since they would be treated equally. He moved to insert a new **Item #17 and #18** before the **City Manager Comment**; for **Item #17** to be the consideration of **Ordinance 25-807, an Ordinance to Amend the Millersville Zoning Map, Changing the Zoning From the Property Located at 1047 Slater's Creek Road and Identified on Sumner County Map 121 as Parcel 053.00 From Industrial to General Commercial.** He then proposed **Item #18** to be **Ordinance 25-816, an Ordinance to Amend the Millersville Zoning Map, Changing the Zoning From the Property Located**

at 1010 Steerman Drive and Identified on the Robertson County Tax Map 126 as Parcel 052.00 From Heavy Commercial to General Commercial.

**Mayor Atwood:** clarified: So, #17 was 25-807 and #18 is 25-816. He announced he had a motion and asked if he had a second. **Commissioner McCain** seconded the motion. **Mayor Atwood** asked for all in favor (of adding two new items, #17 and #18 to the agenda) to say "aye". **Ayes were unanimous. The motion passed and the agenda was amended accordingly.**

**4. Review and approve MOU with Sumner County.**

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he would provide some background on what they're doing because many might think we already have an MOU with Sumner County. He said this was mentioned in a county general ops committee meeting last Monday; our fire chief sent us the signed MOU the following day. He was aware it existed but had never seen it. And upon review, it had the signature of the previous mayor, the previous interim city manager and the previous city attorney. He said we could look back through the city's minutes and videos (for validation of that). He said this MOU was never brought forward and discussed in public; the city manager, the city attorney, and the mayor did not have authority from the commission to sign those documents and enter into those agreements on the city's behalf. His intention that night was to right a wrong and go through the public process, consider it, and vote on it. He said there would be many comments, (since they have a few different versions of it), and he believed it's appropriate to have exactly what was passed by Sumner County in August or so of last year as the starting point and have that considered by the board.

**Mayor Atwood:** asked, "What discussion do we have based on what we have in front of us?"

**ICM Gorham:** said he sent out the original MOU with the original agenda; the only things he changed were the names and the date. He believed some changes had been made by some of the commissioners, so if they wanted to discuss those and get them on record, that would be fine.

**Commissioner Jesse Powell:** made a motion to allow **Sumner County Mayor Isbel** to come up and speak on the matter since he had played a big part in it moving forward.

**Mayor Atwood:** asked all in favor to say "aye". **Ayes were unanimous. Mayor Atwood asked Mayor Isbel to come forward.**

**Mayor Isbel:** said he was just there to answer any questions they might have and that he didn't have an agenda; he said they could ask anything of him on behalf of the county, and he would be happy to answer it. He said he couldn't speak for the county commission, but he could speak from his office.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** asked **Mayor Isbel** if he had been notified by anyone representing the city (Millersville) in any way and through any form that the commission was kicking them (the EMS crew) out of **Station 2 on Bethel Road.**

**Mayor Isbel:** said, "No, sir. We have not ceased operations at all." He said they had been a bit inconvenienced in operations, but operations remain at a hundred percent at the Millersville station.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** then asked **the commission board** if anyone sitting up there had, at any point and through any means, informed anyone at Sumner County that they had any intention of kicking them out of **Station 2.** **The overall response was, "Absolutely not."**

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** continued, "So, if someone were to say with a red stamp on Facebook, 'Millersville kicks Sumner EMS out of their 20 year living quarters,' would that be factual?"

**Commissioner Jesse Powell:** said it would not be factual from his perspective as a commissioner sitting on this board. He said he knows the county does not own **Station 2** and that we have had a good relationship with the EMS quartered there. He said there have been a few different plans proposed for how to fix the code compliant issue at **Fire Station 2**; and, just so everyone understands, there are a few different issues going on there. For one, there are two bedrooms within **Fire Station 2** in which EMS personnel or firefighters can be quartered overnight or during the day while they're on shift. As Mr. Fox said, we've had an agreement with the county for the past 20 years or so while EMS has been quartered there. He said he didn't know the full background on this since he was not a commissioner at that time, but when the Fire Marshall came in, there was an issue with the doors that go into the rooms that were built within the station. These doors open into the bay where vehicles are stored, allowing exhaust to get into the rooms, making it unhealthy for those staying there. It creates a codes issue they are trying to fix to make it safe.

**Commissioner Powell:** continued to say that Millersville is growing, and we have more full-time firefighters in the city than we've ever had. We're looking at increasing our budget for next year; the plan for the last two years has always been to increase the number of our full-time firefighters. **Fire Station 2** has always been a part of that plan in order to have personnel at **Fire Station 1** here at City Hall and we have to have room to place two firefighters (we cannot have only one there) at **Fire Station 2**. There are only two rooms to accommodate two EMS personnel and two firefighters, so something has to be done. The county has been working on a plan to get compliant with codes issues; however, the city hasn't been involved in that plan for whatever reason. Now, the city is trying to be involved in the plan and wants to have a partnership with the county in addressing the issues. We're trying to do this collaboratively together and in public. Since the MOU between the city and county hasn't been done correctly and is null and void, we would like to correct that and have the city involved in this process the right way so that EMS personnel are taken care of the right way and have a permanent space to stay at **Fire Station 2** to serve the residents of Sumner County in the Mutual Aid Agreement with Robertson County and the citizens of Millersville. And, we also have room to put firefighters when we need to do that.

**Commissioner Powell:** went on to say he thinks the MOU should be modified; some of the language should be changed where code compliant improvements for **Fire Station 2** should fall to the city; and, if Sumner County wants to house EMS personnel there, he would like to add language in there for them to build an addition onto that building. That way, Sumner County doesn't have to purchase land. It's already built into our building. He wants to put language within this MOU that says whatever Sumner County builds onto that building is for the primary use of Sumner County EMS personnel and not Millersville emergency services personnel. He wants to be clear that whatever Sumner County decides to do to build onto **Fire Station 2**, it is not Millersville trying to get the county to build us a fire station. He said he personally doesn't want Sumner County to try and fix our code compliant issue – let us fix our own issue. If Sumner County wants to provide something permanent for their EMS personnel, he would like to see them build onto that building so we can maintain that relationship. We still have our utilities tied in together and we're still headquartered out of the same building; paying for land isn't necessary. That way, it lets us fix our problem with our fire station and no one's trying to gouge the county for anything else.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said the fire chief handed them all a sheet of paper at their last meeting. They approved the city manager to increase his spending power so they could hire an architect. They, as a city, officially do not have a plan yet. He said they are working on hiring an architect and they're taking bids. Once they do that, they'll be able to start formulating a plan. He said what Jesse just mentioned officially is not a plan. They don't have plans for it from an architect; they don't know what they're doing yet. Growth is happening across the street from **Station 2**; they're going to need firefighters there overnight in the next two to five years. If they continue on the current route, he wants the county to be aware they might be spending \$25,000 or \$50,000 to get that room up to code compliance in order to stay in the rooms that they were in a year ago. They might still have to do an addition. It seems like the money would be spent unwisely. He said he personally is not going to stop the county from doing that; but, like Jesse, he would prefer that we spend the money on that rather than Sumner County because the county might have to spend again and no one knows how much more will be added on.

**Mayor Isbel:** said one thing he would suggest as they work through the MOU is for them (the Millersville Commission) and whoever they appoint as their representative to sit down with the County Commission and get together on a document they can all agree on instead of passing it back and forth. He said he wants to get it resolved and he's going to be submitting a plan their architect has worked on (which they empowered him to do). He said he will send the plan to them under the guidelines of their building policy once the plan is completed. The final decision rests with the county commission.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** spoke to **Mayor Isbel** and said that he knows he can't speak on behalf of the County Commission (and that **Mayor Isbel** knows the politics there better than they do), but if they were to agree to pass an MOU that night, with a perfect situation, how quickly did he think it would it be before the county would start doing any work, regardless of what is the fastest work possible.

**Mayor Isbel:** said he didn't know, and he wouldn't be justified in giving any type of time frame.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he wanted to know if they have a meeting with the county, how much of a delay that would cause just by their negotiating on something. He said if they weren't planning on doing anything for six months, that wouldn't constitute a delay; but, if they were planning on approving and getting something going, they need to act with urgency following advice.

**Mayor Isbel:** said, yes, if presented to the General Operations Committee next month; what they do with it at that point is up to that committee.

**Commissioner Powell:** said they have representatives from the General Operations Committee there (present at the regular commission meeting); he asked if the commission would like to suspend the rules and have them come up. **Mayor Atwood asked for all in favor to say "aye". Ayes were unanimous.**

**County Commissioner Jeremy Mansfield:** came to the podium and took the microphone. He said he was happy to explain the situation. He said that, essentially a year ago or around a year ago, they found out that their EMS personnel were being removed and displaced from **Fire Station 2** for some code compliance or 'whatever'. They've been there for 20 years in sleeping quarters and living there in living quarters. He said he is the chairman of the General Operations Committee since September. David Klein was the chairman previously, and now he's also chairman of their Planning Commission. He couldn't be there that night because he was at their Planning Commission at the time, chairing that meeting. **Commissioner Mansfield** said that a year ago when they found out about this problem, the committee immediately took steps to try to rectify the problem to bring that facility up to code. (Millersville's) previous city administration had no problem with that. They said that's fine, they were not going to contribute to that, but "you guys can do whatever you want to do."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** continued, saying their county mayor and county commissioners wanted to have an MOU before the County Commission did that (did anything further to bring **Fire Station 2** up to code). That did delay things. They had an architect come into that building last June; he gave them an estimate, a quote, on what it would take to get the sleeping quarters habitable so that they can get the EMS back in the building and not in a trailer. He said they had a plan that kept getting "delayed, delayed, delayed." He said he was very frustrated and angry about that and so is their committee. Commissioner Tim Jones is chairman of their Highway Commission and he's also on the General Operations Committee. Last August, it finally came before the full commission to do whatever with this MOU document..." the same document that you guys have here tonight. It's the exact same thing that came before the full County Commission went through our committee process as a matter of openness and transparency."

He said, "We debated it, we deliberated on it, we discussed it, we voted on it in committee; it went to the full commission and did the same thing again. There was one minor change at that time to say: 'as long as we occupy the building.' That was the change the county commission...I believe the commissioner from the 15th district made. It was the amendment that passed, I believe unanimously if I'm not mistaken. So, the General Operations Committee, since September or the end of August, has been operating under the...

agreement of the previous administration that we were going to repair those rooms to make them habitable and put a barrier up for whatever they need it to be for a minimal cost to that space. If you want to jump in, feel free, and let's get one thing clear. This is your building."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** went on to say, "You can do whatever you want with it. The county does not own this building. The county has no right or claim to this building. But, as Mr. Fox said, it does definitely behoove the city of Millersville to be a good neighbor with the county when county residents are putting an ambulance there in your city, the city of Millersville, at no cost to Millersville City residents. I've had the same discussion with Hendersonville aldermen and Gallatin, and we've got Goodlettsville who's saying, we're going to build a new fire hall, and we'd love for you to put one there free of charge. We're not going to charge. That's that."

**Commissioner Powell:** said that was a mischaracterization.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said it was not a mischaracterization. He said he had the city manager reach out to him.

**Commissioner Powell:** said, "No, let's be clear about that post you put on Facebook."

He said after that post, they had the Fire Chief call them from Goodlettsville and they had no idea what he (**Commissioner Mansfield**) was talking about. He said they then contacted Goodlettsville City Hall, and 'he' said he had a conversation with **Commissioner Mansfield** in a grocery store about a year ago; and, no, there is no agreement in place about that. **Commissioner Powell** further said that the fire station in Moss Wright Park does not have money appropriated in a budget for it yet.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** responded, "And I never said it did. No, I never made that claim."

**Commissioner Powell:** said he knew, but **Commissioner Mansfield** was talking about trying to take EMS personnel that are in Millersville now and they're talking about a budget process that hasn't even been completed yet, and it's for next year. They are already working through that budget process now; it's not yet appropriated; it would be 2026 before they even work through that.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** responded, saying the point being is that what he said is factual and accurate. Tim Ellis called him and told him last year that Goodlettsville was going to build a fire station at Moss-Wright Park. So, this was in their EMS committee last year, and he explained this at their EMS committee, Health and Emergency Services. Quoting **Commissioner Mansfield:** "That was an offer from the city of Goodlettsville, because last year the EMS committee was wanting to build a brand new station in White House three and a half miles away, for \$4 to \$5 million. That is an option that's on the table. That's what the EMS committees want to do. So, I'm going to finish where I was going with that, and I'll get back to what you're saying."

**Commissioner Powell:** said he was offering to fix our own codes compliant issue and not have that be a county expense. The previous administration said they did not want to do that.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said the previous administration was not kicking the EMS out of living quarters, which, he said, is factually accurate and true because right now they're in a trailer that is on the premises.

**Commissioner Powell:** said they had already proven that is a false statement, to which **Commissioner Mansfield** replied he did not make a false statement, that it was factually accurate.

After a brief back and forth exchange, **Mayor Atwood** brought the meeting to order by telling the commissioners they needed to speak one at a time; he said he appreciated everybody's interest in this, but we can't speak over each other."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said, "Thank you Mr. Mayor. If I could just finish my statement of where I was

going with August, 2024... We approved the MOU; the county commissions General Operations Committee was moving forward under the MOU-agreed pretenses that we were going to retrofit your station to get them back into compliance with code to move EMS in. It is that simple. And that was what we've been operating with the entire time as a committee. The County Commission approved the county mayor in November for AP up to \$20,000 for architectural and design fees for that station to solve that problem. Commissioner Klein independently met with an architect last June to also come up with an alternate two to three quotes we want... He got a quote for \$13,000 for architectural services.

(He) basically was told from an architect design firm that it shouldn't cost... between \$25,000 to \$50,000 to renovate that space to bring it up to codes as satisfactory for the state. So that's what we've been operating under... In March we told them they can bring back whatever plan to the General Operations Committee, but the committee is not obliged to accept those plans and can alter them... So what happened in April when you guys came to our committee meeting for the first time, we were blindsided and everybody at the table felt blindsided because... we didn't know the discussions had been going on. We didn't know discussions had been going on in city hall that I read the minutes from, and I was quite shocked when I read the minutes from March. We didn't know it even happened. Nobody contacted us. Nobody contacted me as the commissioner for this area when previously I was working with the previous city administration. Just like... here's the problem. You notified us of this problem. How can we as a county fix this problem expediently and cost effectively for the citizens? I have a fiduciary responsibility to my constituents to solve the problem in the most cost-efficient manner."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** continued, "Then we were blindsided being told that our EMS was no longer going to be able to live in those quarters. If you don't like me saying 'kicked out', they were permanently removed or evicted from those living/sleeping quarters they can no longer inhabit. I don't care... we're talking about semantics here, but it's a factual statement. It was quite a shock to us. We're left with three options in our minds. One is, okay, we don't know what the county mayor's plan is because he hadn't seen it. I had to ask our finance department, and I was surprised by a price tag of \$650,000; and it could go up more... So that was a complete shock to us from something we thought might be a \$50,000 fix. Now, we're looking upwards of three quarters of a million dollars fix. That was a shock."

"Number two is... do we buy a trailer and permanently keep them in that? That was discussed in our committee meeting and about hooking up water and sewer to the trailer that's currently on location three, which I've discussed last year in committee meetings. Tim Ellis reached out to me; it wasn't in a grocery store conversation. He called me about it and said, 'Hey Jeremy, we are talking about building a new fire hall at Moss Wright Park and we would like some county EMS to have a station there free of charge. And I mentioned that over a year ago to the health and emergency services and informed them of that... emailed them. It's on public documentation. It's very well verified. And I reached out to Tim after the April 7th meeting of ops and I said, 'Hey, are you still offering that?' He said yes. He said he told me he didn't know if it's going to be in the budget this year... they haven't gone through their budget workshops. It's not official yet. And I have to... let you know he never got back with me and let me know yet. That was last week. He said it could be in next year's budget. Commissioner Powell is absolutely right. It could be the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> budget year... two more years. So, we're like, okay, do you buy a trailer and let them stay there? I don't know. Do we want to remove EMS from Millersville? No. Did I ever say that we were removing EMS from Millersville? No, I never said that. And it's factually inaccurate to say that or imply otherwise. It's a false premise, a false narrative and it's very just disingenuous."

"So, what I did say is factual. When you guys came, our EMS personnel are being kicked out of living quarters. And if you don't want to call it kicked out of living quarters, what else would you call it? You just admitted we're not going to be in those living quarters. So, the option is that we build onto your building, which you guys would have to give us permission to do, to build an addition to the building that's housed just for EMS. And that's fine. That is your right to do it but it's not the solution that we came up with. And we were blindsided by that. We were not involved in the discussions. That's just a simple fact. So how do we move forward? If you guys tell us that option is now off the table, we're left with three realities - the three realities I just gave you. We have to figure out how to solve that problem... and you have to get the County Commission to approve that. Do they want to spend three quarters of a million there? I don't know. I'm one of 24. I do not have authority to speak on behalf of the County Commission. I don't have

authority to speak on behalf of Commissioner Jones or our General Operations Committee unless they vote to give me that authority, which they can do as a representative of that committee. I've gone to Hendersonville to try to solve an issue with the library dispute we have with them over a shared building and shared ownership. I don't suggest you guys ever get into a shared ownership situation with another government entity. It's a bad idea. Just save yourself some headaches. So that's where we are. These are the facts. It's not false. There's nothing false that I've said. There's nothing factually inaccurate. If nobody took the time to read what I said, I explained all this very thoroughly and I documented my post."

**Commissioner Tim Jones:** (from the podium beside Commissioner Mansfield) said the only thing he would like to add is that he heard talk up there of "you guys" hiring an architect for the code compliance portion of it. Quoting **Commissioner Jones:** "But then you're also talking about if Sumner County does a portion to add on, that's another architect, there's going to be a place where these two architects collide when it comes to code compliance. Because an addition would be adding features that are new code compliance sprinklers or whatnot. And then you're also going to tie into new additions that you guys are going to have to make with code compliance. It sounds like you guys got a lot of figuring out to do before Sumner County's even involved with the direction you want to go with full ownership of the code compliance, full ownership of the architecture of the architect. So, I don't know that this plan is even ripe for discussion until you guys figure that part out."

**Commissioner Powell:** asked **Commissioners Mansfield and Jones** if either of them, in their March meeting, got plans from Architect's Workshop about an addition to a building onto **Fire Station 2**.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** responded by saying he didn't remember receiving plans; he said he thought the county mayor had submitted plans about a year ago. At that time, the cost was around a quarter of a million dollars, and he said they didn't need to do that.

**Commissioner Powell:** said, in reference to the minutes from March 3<sup>rd</sup> (2024) General Operations Meeting, it talks about Architect's Workshop, which is the one Mayor Isbel brought in and about how there was confusion concerning the concept design. He said **Commissioner Mansfield** himself had complained about the cost and about how there was only \$20,000 approved for a full design by the county commission. **Commissioner Powell** said he was trying to figure out the difference between the two plans -. the one on April 7th and the one in March.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said he wasn't at the March meeting, and he didn't see the April 7th plans at all at the meeting either; the plans weren't given to them.

**Commissioner Jones:** said there were plans or an idea Commissioner Klein had suggested after talking with the architect who gave the \$25,000 to \$50,000 minimal cost to make it compliant with state codes by putting a second exit in there; that one was the low cost that was to rebut the plans that the mayor brought forth involving a quarter of a million dollars that the whole committee did not want to do. Those two plans were talked about in the same meeting. **Commissioner Jones** suggested they may be convoluting those two ideas. He went further to say, "The third plan was a recent one that was "upwards of \$600,000... and if we didn't have a taste for the \$250,000, we're probably not going to have a taste for that one either."

**Commissioner Powell:** said he would like to work with their committee moving forward on this but that it is very hard to work with their committee when, as they said, when they were presented with this problem they have three possible plans and, of the three solutions, the first thing that came to his mind was that not one of them was, 'I need to reach out to the city of Millersville and figure out what their preference is and what they're thinking about this.' He said they went to social media instead and vented. He said he understands being emotional about that, but that that is not conducive to a partnership in good faith moving forward. He said, "I can see your face and I can see that's bothering you and it should."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said they weren't given an option because the option they were working toward was taken off the table.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, "I don't know that it has been yet."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said they were told it was (taken off the table) by the city manager and he had it on video as public record. He said they were told they were no longer going to be able to occupy those living quarters, and they would need to come up with an alternate plan; building onto the building was not mentioned. He said he watched the video, and this was said in public comments. He said they (our city commission) have every right to use the space, and he did acknowledge that. He said it's their building and they have a 100% right to tell the county how they want the county to be there and to use it. But the problem is they weren't expecting that. The previous administration had committed to them that they would be able to renovate that. He said they were blindsided by new information and that nobody reached out to their committee from the city of Millersville; no one invited them to the city meetings to discuss this. They never got an invitation to this.

**Commissioner Powell:** said this is the first time it has been on their (commission) meeting agenda.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said they talked about this last month.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he wanted to clarify the timeline. He said they had a regular meeting where it was discussed for the first time in March. They moved their work session from last week to a week earlier to discuss it further so that representatives here could come and talk to them about it. He said they shouldn't feel blindsided. Our commission was presenting new information for the first time. He understood that it got blown out of proportion; but at some point, they had to share information. He apologized to **Commissioner Mansfield** if he felt blindsided. He said they were trying to work better with him than the commission has in the past; they're hoping the future goes better than it has in the past. He added he would love to let bygones be bygones and Millersville be a great partner to Sumner County. But right now, he talked about the architecture. He said they have one quote, but they have to get three. They don't have a plan right now.

They've not been kicked out. This city has transacted no official business to kick them out. He said that, honestly, his preference is to not kick them out. He thinks some amendments are going to be made to the MOU. He's actually not in favor of them. He wants it to be signed exactly as written. He told them they could go the cheap route if they choose, but he needed them to know there might be wasted money down the road when they formulate a plan; but for now, they do not have a plan, and he can't tell them what two or three years down the road looks like.

**Commissioner Tim Jones** addressed **Mayor Atwood** and said that it's been stated a couple times that you (our city commission), wish that we (Sumner County) would work with you. Quoting **Commissioner Jones**, "We were working with the old administration and perhaps the confusion is there was not a good handoff from the original plan to this new commission. That's no fault of our own. We're operating with what we had in place up until that point. So, it's not our job to make sure the old commission updates you on what they're doing either. I don't think this is a blame game here when we're talking about getting blindsided; we told our mayor that he could come up with whatever plan is possible. We look at your minutes and we realize that you've been in discussions with our mayor. So, this plan that came forward was hatched from our county EMS and our mayor and you guys. So that's why we were blindsided. And we look at the date on the plans, it's from February. So, we're getting presented plans that people in the county obviously knew about that we didn't know anything about. That's being blindsided. We're not saying you guys intended anything or you guys blindsided us. We were handed it from our own administration. And you guys have been working with people that you probably should have been working with all along, but we didn't know it was different compared to what it was a few months prior. So hopefully that shed some light on where the confusion is."

**Commissioner McCain:** "Ultimately, I don't have a mic so I'll just speak up. Ultimately, we didn't get a pass down from the previous administration. We need to open up that line of communication with you guys. We need to know how to contact you and who we're contacting; certainly, we can do better with that. That doesn't change the discussions we've had that you guys can throw a lot of money as a county or a little money as a county into these rooms, these bunks that are currently there. But it's going to change and it's not a good idea to throw money at something, and then we're going to say thank you, and we need that back now. So, all of it needs to happen differently. We need to talk to you guys, and we need to be able to talk to you guys. We can't communicate with you on social media. So, we can email you, we can call you. I'll commit myself to doing better at communicating.



We haven't invited anybody to the meetings. You're always welcome and we're always welcome at yours, I presume. So, we can do better as a commission with communicating with you guys... we just got here, and we need to learn that. We need to know that we need to open that with you guys. But we're here now. I've never seen this man before in my life. We haven't communicated with him about much of anything at all. This is all just kind of coming around and we're trying to figure it out. And as we do that, we need you, we need to communicate with you, and you need us to communicate with you. We need you to communicate with us. So, let's fix that. Let's not keep throwing who did what and where and how and what they did versus what we did. We're here, we don't want to continue this. It's got to get better. This has got to be open, and we have to work together because we're in your county and you matter to us just like we have to matter to you."

"Let's work together to get a solution that fits for everyone involved because we do want EMS out there. We do not want to kick them out. We do not like that they live in a trailer when they're out there. But that's where we're at right now. That's what got handed to us from codes. None of us wanted that. Let's figure out how to get out of that, whatever that takes... When we discussed it, it was you guys are going to throw money out there for something that we're going to take back. Do you want to do that? I thought, no, that's a waste of money. I wouldn't do that as a citizen, and I wouldn't ask my county to do that either. If you're going to repair our issue with codes, I mean 'thank you', but you're going to pay more money in the long run than having to figure out what you're going to do in a year or two. When we have to grow, we have to grow, and we need that space back. So, for whatever it's worth, for wherever we've been, for whatever we've done, we can fix it. We can all work together and we can do better at communicating. Let's do that though. Like, let's just open that up."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** "We're totally open to it... We have committee meetings every month and so that'd be great. But again, when you get new information, we were solving a problem. We had a solution and that got stopped, understandably unexpectedly. So now we're having to pivot and it's going to cost us exponentially a lot more money to pivot. And that is a surprise. And so, understand the fact that we have been trying to solve this problem for almost a year and we've gone no further; we have taken two steps back when we thought we were taking a step forward, and with something the full county commission approved eight months ago to move forward. So that's our position; we are trying to solve a problem. We don't have to like each other. That's okay. But we do need to serve the citizens and that's fine. So, whatever we need to do, I've got my phone number, got my email, and we know our committee, so if there's something you want to share with me, please email me. You guys have been doing that. But we need to do it in an open and transparent manner. And it has not been open and transparent until now. It just hasn't. I'm glad we're correcting that so they can be open and transparent and nothing's done behind closed doors and no side room deals that catch anybody off guard. But how can we expeditiously and expediently solve this problem? Because now we've wasted over \$30,000 as a county renting a trailer and a camper that we could have bought for the same amount of money. So no, I mean we're just having to figure out a lot of different things right now."

"If, you're building something that could take a year, at a minimum it looks like they might be in a camper for another year. You're asking about timelines. We know how building projects go. They're not fast, especially when government is involved. This problem is not going to go away anytime soon. Whatever decisions you guys make, we just need to be made aware of it. So, if we have permission to build an expansion, if that's what we want to do or what we're able to do, we need you guys to clarify that. You can build an expansion and as **Commissioner Jones** said, how do we work together? If you guys have an architect or we have an architect, are there going to be any problems or any codes? Do we need to build a separate building on your property that is not attached to the building? It's not an addition, it's a standalone with a breezeway or a sidewall. That way it's not even affecting your structure. Your building doesn't need an architect. You've got two separate little structures, whatever that sleeping quarters needs to look like and however big it needs to be. I figured if you build something standalone, it might go a lot faster... versus knocking out walls and doing expansions and dealing with structural issues of an older building and adding a new building on to it. We do have a county policy where any plans have to be submitted to our finance department as viable before it even goes to the County General Operations committee because we've had this problem in the past in the county... this function in the county government is the emergency 'chicken little' - and we've got to do this now! Or you hate EMS, you hate firefighters, you hate cops

because if you're not going to approve this, somebody's going to die. We get that crap all the time and citizens are sick of it. The commissioners are sick of it. We've got a process to safeguard citizens; we have elected officials to keep us from being blindsided by things. So, anything that comes through is going to go through our new building and codes process and through the general operations committee with financials. You've got to have the project scope, you've got to have the finances, you've got to have the reasoning for doing it before it even comes to our committee. And, as of April the seventh, we hadn't even seen whatever is new. We got an email 15 minutes after the meeting started when you guys were sitting there and saw our surprise. That's not transparent and that's not okay. It's not your fault on that, but I'm just telling you, what we're dealing with is a lot of problems that we're all trying to solve; we had a solution and we just felt like we were getting kicked in the teeth every time we turn around."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he had one question. He thinks the county mayor was right, that they (city commission) can't make decisions outside of their meetings and the county commissioners can't make decisions outside of their meetings. He proposed that a joint meeting that's publicly noticed to Sumner County and Millersville residents might be in order depending on how this conversation goes. He asked, "What's the process there?"

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said he would have to get with their law director and ask him about it and he didn't have an answer for him on that.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, if they can figure that out on their end and **Commissioners Mansfield and Jones** could figure it out on their end: if it doesn't go how he wants it to, he thinks they will have to go that route.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said the main thing is, do the city commissioners give permission to modify their building, add on a new building and extend it? The county wanted to ask this question because it's a liability issue. He said and that's why the MOU was pushed forward - to make sure that if a contractor does something to damage your building, then Millersville sues the county, then you can see that's like, yes, you have to have permission to modify our building to accommodate for your space. He said that's what they did. But he didn't see any changes from what passed in the full county commission and what was signed by the previous city administration. He said he was disappointed to hear that it never got ratified by the body and that all he got was a document with signatures from the county attorney, the mayor, and the city manager. So, he could only go with what he and the commission had been given. He said they were happy to do whatever, but they were just trying to solve the problem...and nobody has ever said that Millersville is not going to have EMS there. He said but just know that this was when they were told they're removed from living quarters. He said if they didn't like the word "kicked out" that's fine. They were asked...they were being removed from the living quarters. They were told to find an alternate solution - that's a trailer, an add-on building or a new location. He said to keep in mind, they've been asked to try to fund a \$4 to \$5 million station, three and a half miles up a road in White House that was in last year's budget. It got pulled. But that could be an option. He said he was fully transparent and asked if there were any other questions. He said he would be happy to answer them, or they could email him afterward.

**Commissioner McCain:** said she read through the email chain and asked if they could email him.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said, "Absolutely...I'm a single person. You can do whatever you want to."

**Commissioner McCain:** said she wanted to make sure it was ok to be that open in an email.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said the fact is they're getting communication period. It's a matter of public record.

**Commissioner McCain:** said that was fair and she was open to that.

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said what happened last week was zero notice, zero public record, zero emails.

**Commissioner McCain:** said that's why he had a lot more experience than this group and she respected that. She said "You guys have been doing this for a long time. We've got to figure this out. We're learning and we can do that. It's simple."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said sure...so I appreciate that.

**Commissioner Jones:** said he believes they can email one-on-one or they can copy their whole commission and his whole commission because it's two different separate bodies. There's no conflict of sunshine laws.

**Commissioner McCain:** "Good. Thank you."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said he would caution them on all being on it and then getting a deliberation and discussion on an email.

**Commissioner McCain:** said, "We got that."

**Commissioner Mansfield:** said he appreciated them even though it is a matter of public record.

**Commissioner McCain:** said, "We appreciate that. Thank you for coming."

**Vice Mayor Darnall** made a motion to approve the MOU that was in their packet as written (that was passed by the county commission).

**Mayor Atwood:** said he had a motion and asked for a second. He seconded the motion himself.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, "We've had considerable discussion, and I assume we're about to have considerably more."

**Commissioner Gregory:** said, under the circumstances that this was taken to the county without going through the city commission with the mayor and the attorney and interim city manager at that time, signing it, to him, was not legal and he would not vote for that.

**Commissioner Powell:** said he had made his position clear on this; he said he still thinks if they can be involved accurately within this process at decision making regarding what these improvements are, he doesn't think that this MOU has language in there that is specific enough for them as decision makers. He said it gives the county too much latitude in terms of making those improvements, in his opinion, with it being our property.

**ICM Gorham:** said he sent it through to Robert Wheeler, our city attorney, and he concurs with **Commissioner Powell's** thoughts; he didn't think the city was protected enough in the original MOU.

**Commissioner Powell:** said, in his opinion, if they sign the MOU as is, they are abdicating their decision-making authority on what happens with that property; and, if the county chooses to alleviate the codes compliant issue, he does not have an issue with that. However, it's still a temporary solution to a long-term problem. He said they had already heard from **Fire Chief Williams** that it may not be the solution they desire, and they have abdicated their decision-making responsibility if they sign that MOU.

**Commissioner Gregory:** said if they pass the MOU that evening, why do they need a commission? If the mayor and the interim city manager and city attorney can sign that for them without their approval, why do they need a commission?

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he had seen three versions; they have one in the packet; they have one that has additional language from our attorney; and, they have one that **Commissioner Powell** has provided. He thinks through an amendment process, they can get to something they can agree on that night; but he did want to say as soon as they amend it, the county has not approved for that to be signed. At the same time, they probably need to immediately reach out to the county and have a joint meeting to hash things out.

**Commissioner Gregory:** agreed.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he would make amendments and read them to get this to where our attorney has put it; so "the first one in the first, 'Whereas' at the end of that colon, we will add an 'and,' so it ends with 'Whereas;...and,' And in the next one, the second, 'Whereas' I want to amend it to where it says, 'Whereas the county has used the facility for 20 years as local headquarters for their emergency medical technicians'; And I will further amend the third 'Whereas' to say, 'The county wishes to make certain improvements to the facility for their EMTs'. And in the number two improvement section, I want to add language after facility that says, 'As agreed upon by the city'. So, it will now read 'The county agrees to make all necessary upgrades to the facility as agreed by the city'... And then in section eight, I'll just read what I propose. 'The changes to any disputes under this MOU shall be resolved through the following chronological steps. A) good faith negotiations with the county and the city; B) mediation; and C) legal resolution through the Chancery court of Sumner County, Tennessee.' And I believe those are the changes our attorney had made."

**Mayor Atwood:** said, all right, we have a motion to amend. I will second that motion. Is there any discussion on the changes proposed?

**Commissioner Gregory:** said, "That kind of amendment? I'd like to have something in writing where I know what I can remember from all that."

**Mayor Atwood:** "You, do you need, do you want to see it before you vote on it?"

**Commissioner Gregory:** "I'd like to see that before I vote on it."

**Commissioner Powell:** said, "I'm in agreement with this language, specifically because of the language in paragraph two..."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, "As agreed upon by the city?"

**Commissioner Powell:** responded, "Correct."

A few minutes elapsed as the commissioners read the amended MOU...

**Commissioner Gregory:** said he had read it, and he agreed with it.

**Mayor Atwood:** asked if there was any further discussion on the amendment.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, "I believe this allows the county on our approval to do any of the plans that they have (including) the current cheaper plan. If we approve it for the more expensive addition, it's not specific to one or another. And I will state again, I am not averse to them moving forward with their cheaper plan, as long as they understand and have been informed possibly within two years, we may need that space that they are spending money to approve or improve upon."

**Mayor Atwood:** said he would agree, and he thinks the amendment to the MOU will force that discussion so no one misses it.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he is a Sumner County taxpayer as well as Millersville. And he, like Mr. Mansfield said, hates wasting taxpayer money. He agreed and said he was leery that the double improvement could possibly be, but again, he said they don't have a plan.

**ICM Gorham:** asked, "Would you like to provide a copy of this to Mr. Mansfield at this time?"

**Commissioner McCain:** said she was emailing it to him right now.

**Mayor Atwood:** asked if there was any further discussion.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said, "And if we approve this amendment, it does open up a can of worms because the county has to also then approve our changes. And there's no guarantee they do that."

**Commissioner McCain:** said, "We have to do something."

**Mayor Atwood:** said, "I understand that. I don't think we can proceed without it based on what I'm hearing from this board." He then called for a roll call vote. **Ayes were unanimous. Motion to amend the MOU passes.**

**Mayor Atwood** said the amendment passes back to the original motion to approve the MOU, which is now the MOU as amended. He took a roll call vote. **Ayes were unanimous. Motion to approve the MOU as amended passes.**

#### **5. Approval of Minutes for the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting**

**Mayor Atwood:** asked for a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes.

**Commissioner Powell:** made a motion to approve.

**Commissioner McCain:** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Atwood:** said he had a motion and a second and asked if there was any discussion.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** said he wants to amend them on page eight, number seven, just the heading of the agenda item. He wanted to strike what's there and change it to "Discuss to vote and change the date of the April work session. He clarified, "It it currently states that agenda item was 'discuss and vote'. I'm sorry. I have a note right in the middle of that, discuss and vote to move updating the planning commission and beer board ordinance to the April work session. Agenda item number seven was actually 'Discuss and vote to change the date of the April work session.' So, I want to strike what's there and replace it with, 'Discuss and vote to change the date of the April work session.'"

**Mayor Atwood:** asked if there was any further discussion. He asked for all in favor of approving the minutes for the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting to say "aye". **Ayes were unanimous. Minutes were approved.**

**6. Approval of Minutes for the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Special Call Commission Meeting.**

**Mayor Atwood:** asked for a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by **Commissioner Gregory.**

**Mayor Atwood:** said he had a motion and second and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. He asked for all in favor of approving the minutes for the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Special Call Meeting to say "aye". **Ayes were unanimous. Minutes were approved.**

**7. Discussion of the process of hiring a permanent city manager.**

**Commissioner Powell:** Mr. Mayor, I'd like to make a motion to allow Mr. Jakel to come up.

**Mayor Atwood:** I have a motion to allow Mr. Jaeckel to come up. All those in favor say aye.

**Ayes were unanimous.**

**ICM Gorham:** I was going to speak because Mr. Jaeckel and I have talked about this. I have talked with a couple of the commissioners just when I've seen them and have been talking to them already. I think Gary (Jaeckel) and I agree that I'm not sure where everyone stands. I know you've talked to four of the candidates. I don't know about the fifth, whether you want to set up individual interviews with the fifth one or not. I know that the Vice Mayor was going to reach out to the fifth candidate by phone.

**Commissioner McCain:** "I did as well."

**ICM Gorham:** "I don't know if anybody else has. I got a chance. Do you want to set up individual interviews with this fifth individual?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I would recommend at a minimum everybody reach out to him by phone. In my opinion, he presented much better on the phone than he did on paper. And I was thankful that I had a call with him."

**Commissioner Gregory:** "Which one is this? I've got five names already..."

**Commissioner McCain:** "I gave you the resume last time."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "He's out of Kentucky. His name is Kevin Mahorn."

**ICM Gorham:** "Once that is completed... once you have your top two candidates, if you would submit them to Gary (Jaeckel) or to us both, I don't have to be involved, obviously. Then hopefully, if you have a consensus, then you've got your selection, and you can start the negotiation. Or Gary can conduct the negotiation for you. IF you don't have a consensus, then Gary can conduct and try to get to a consensus with whoever's not consenting."

**Gary Jaeckel, MTAS:** "I think you've got to collectively know who you feel most comfortable with to have the ability, the skillset that you, you need to have to move forward. And someone who's understands that there's a lot to do to get on track. There are a lot of elements that go into choosing a person to do this.

Frankly, in all seriousness, I would be a little bit surprised if there were only two people that everybody agreed on because that would be very unusual in most of my communities, to be honest. It usually is more like three or four people that kind of stand out typically. How you want to go about that from here I think is probably a situation where you want to have some more time and ask some different sets of questions for these individuals. And if you've done just telephone interviews with one or two of them, you need to see those folks in person. And I would say to you, you probably need to see them collectively, you need to see them not individually. Because what you want to know is how well do they interact with all of you in a room setting like this. And is what you hear in that setting the same things that you were hearing perhaps in as an individual?"

"Sometimes that can be different because some people are really good at saying what they think you want to hear, which is easy one-on-one. It's a lot more difficult to do that with five people or more. But that's up to you all about how you move forward. I do know you want to get this completed because it would be good to get somebody on board just prior to or around the time that your next fiscal year starts so that they can get a feel for the organization, for the people that work here, and get a sense for what they have to work with financially because the financial part is going to be really important going forward. There's still work to do there. So that's

kind of up to you all how you want to handle that really. And trust me, there are all sorts of questions you can ask these folks. I'd be willing to bet with each and every one of you that there's probably at least a hundred other questions that nobody has used. But I think you've interviewed folks, and as I recall, it's been over a pretty big time span between first interviews and later interviews. You've got to get to moving forward because what I'll be afraid of is that the longer you wait to move forward, the less likely you're going to be able to retain and bring back the people that you might be most interested in; because if they're applying here, the first rule is they're looking someplace else."

**Commissioner Powell:** "I would like to do two things. One, email, **Mr. Jaeckel** our top three in rank order, like one through three. And then if we have kind of a consensus on the top two, I would like to bring in those two for public interviews with the five of us, like we did with **Mr. Gorham**, where we can get that one public feel for everyone. Then we can also ask that second round of questions."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I am aligned, and I want to proceed fairly urgently because, speaking with our current interim city manager, he has graciously said he would stay on through the budget process. And we will be done with that in a maximum of 10 weeks. The comptroller's office encouraged us to finish early based on the rejected budget."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Is it possible for everyone to email the top three rank order to **Mr. Jaeckel** in the next two weeks?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Yes."

**Gary Jaeckel, MTAS:** "Try next week because if it lingers, someone's going to forget."

**Commissioner Gregory:** "We've met personally with four out of the five. **Eric Boswick** never did come down or didn't want to. And I'm familiar with the four, but I can't really give an answer with Kevin Mahorn since I've already met personally with four. I'd like to know if we could possibly meet with **Mr. Mahorn** personally because that would be fair since we've done that with at least four out of the five. So do you recommend that **Mr. Jaeckel**, if we meet with **Kevin Mahorn**, like we did the other four?"

**Gary Jaeckel:** "I think it would probably be to everyone's advantage to do that, for all of you as well as the individual, the candidates. I think it would be good because then they would get a sense of who they'd be working for."

**Commissioner McCain:** "He lives in Kentucky. And so, to get him down here to meet with everybody and have an answer to you within a week, we're not going to do that."

**Commissioner Gregory:** "That's going to make it a little tough."

**Commissioner McCain:** "If you spoke to Mr. Mahorn on the phone and you said, no, that's not it, there's no need to bring him down here. I don't think that's what you're going to say. But it may be worth talking to him to see if you even want to bring him in."

**Commissioner Gregory:** "Well, I made that decision after some of these I already talked to in person. It was different in person than it was on the phone. Agreed."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I want to clarify something for the public because I'm concerned they might have heard something that didn't actually happen based on the words we used. We, as a commission, have not met with these people in person. They've been one-on-one interviews on Saturdays. We had different rooms for them to be in, and the commissioners would rotate between them. No open meetings violations were happening. We weren't meeting as a commission."

**Gary Jaeckel:** "Yes. And as we provided that guidance to you all to be able to do that so you could interview the candidates legally that way."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "We still have not deliberated on what we thought from those interviews. I'm eager to get that going...I'm eager to come to a conclusion."

**Gary Jaeckel:** "And I don't want you to either. I think you all collectively have got to get to a place where, if you're interested in this last person, this fifth person from Kentucky, whether you're confident over the phone or if you need to see them in person, that's up to you all how to figure that out."

**Commissioner McCain:** "Could you zoom call with him or, or would you rather talk to him in person?"

**Commissioner Gregory:** "If I have the Zoom call, I have to drive to Kentucky."

**Mayor Atwood:** "So, from my standpoint, I understand the approach to interviewing in person. I am okay with an initial phone interview to determine whether or not I would like that person to come speak to us as a group. That's my opinion. I would hope that we could move this along pretty quickly and get down to our pick of the top three. I would agree with **Commissioner Powell** on this, if we can get to a top three that we like, we bring them in. So, this would potentially include Kevin Mayhorn. **Commissioner Gregory**, are you okay with an initial interview by phone, knowing that he will come to interview in front of all of us?"

**Commissioner Gregory:** "Okay, I understand. That's fair. If you'll do that, I didn't want to leave him out since we've already privately met."

**Mayor Atwood:** "I think what I would like is for those of us that haven't spoken to him yet by phone, to go ahead and make the commitment to do that, and to have **Mr. Jaeckel** a list of our top three, preferably by Monday. and then that'd be good. **Mr. Jaeckel**, you'll get our consensus of the top three."

**Gary Jaeckel:** "Yes, that would be the hope... everybody will email me."

A discussion ensued as to the best time for everyone to schedule the meeting to interview the top three candidates, at the conclusion of which **Mayor Atwood** reiterated that they, as a commission, had committed to getting their preferred candidates to **Gary Jaeckel** by Monday, April 21st. All were in agreement and thanked **Mr. Jaeckel** for his valued input and assistance.

#### 8. Lawsuit Update.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "This is one I'd asked to be added, and I would like our city attorney to update the public on the two lawsuits we face."

**City Attorney Robert Wheeler:** "You have two new ones that came in since the first of the year.

The first new one that came in is the Ray Justice case; he was employed in the police department. He filed suit because he claimed his personal records and some financial records were accessed and shouldn't have been; he was dismissed in the process. Your insurance company not only denied coverage but they denied providing defense counsel for the city. We challenged them on that and quoted certain parts of the policy that cover you with the argument that they did owe you a defense. Their response to that was that they agreed to do that. They agreed to, provide you with lawyers. There are two that they have hired. One, your lawyer is a fellow by the name of Jeffrey Lindley, who is from Jackson. And these are decisions made solely by the insurance company. But I've spoken with Mr. Lindley three times, at least. He has a world of experience in representing municipalities, particularly in these cases wherein there are statute numbers that talk about different types of lawsuits. This is a civil rights action, the statute number of which is 42 USC 1983, claiming that his rights were violated."

"Mr. Lindley has a ton of experience in these kinds of cases. And the city was sued along with Mr. (Bryan) Morris and Mr. (Shawn) Taylor. They have been assigned a lawyer now out of Chattanooga, whose name I forget. But he too, in speaking with Mr. Lindley, has a lot of experience with these kinds of cases. And they're just now being assigned. I was told this afternoon that Mr. Morris and particularly Mr. Taylor, haven't even been served with the lawsuit yet. And you've got 30 days within which to serve a lawsuit that you file. And if you can't get them served in 30 days, you have to reissue the summons. So that's going to have to be done. And, that's the current status. To make a long story short, uh, they're just getting started in formulating the the defense and who's representing whom."

**Mr. Wheeler** continued: "The lawyers involved in that will be working the case and filing answers, filing motions, filing interrogatories, which are written questions. Then, scheduling depositions. And this you're getting started in terms of the process. This will take a while. And that's that. Then the second one that came in last

Wednesday was from on behalf of Mr. Richmond, who served as the Chief of Police here one month and then was dismissed. His claim in the case is that he was fired after one month because he would not agree with the investigative techniques taking place in the police department and accessing records that he claimed they should not and could not do legally. And that's just that's brand new. We've got to alert the insurance company about the case, which we'll do this week. You have 30 days within which to answer a complaint like this. But that's not like the statute of limitations. Most of the time those who file answers are in excess of the 30-day limitation that's in the rules of procedure. But it, again, it's not like a statute of limitations. And lawyers call up the lawyer who filed a case and say, look, I've got such and such, I need more time to file an answer. And eight times out of 10, the answer is, sure, that's not a problem. So these are the two that have come in. I was told by the lawyers that the same lawyer has filed both of these cases and that was said a couple of months ago. There may be more. That's all I can tell you."

**Mayor Darnall:** Thanked Attorney Wheeler.

**9. Approve \$5,000 donation to the Millersville Public Library**

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll make a motion to approve the \$5,000 donation to the Millersville Public Library."

**Commissioner Gregory:** Seconded the motion.

**Mayor Atwood:** said he had a motion and a second and asked if there was any discussion? Being none, he called for a roll call vote. **"Ayes" were unanimous. Motion to approve a \$5,000 donation to the Millersville Library passes.**

**10. Approval of Resolution 25-R-06 to Declare Vehicles as Surplus Property and Authorize the Sale or Disposal of Property That Has Been Deemed Surplus.**

**ICM Gorham:** "We went through this before, but just to make it official, we prepared a resolution to declare these as surplus and just to get it on the record. They're the same vehicles we did last time, sir."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Alright. Do I have a motion?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll make the motion to approve **Resolution 25-R-06.**"

**Mayor Atwood:** announced he had a motion and asked if there was a second. **Commissioner Powell** seconded the motion. **Mayor Atwood called for a roll call vote. Ayes were unanimous. Motion for approval of 'Resolution 25-R-06 to Declare Vehicles as Surplus Property and Authorize the Sale or Disposal of Property That Has Been Deemed Surplus' passes.**

**11. Approval of Resolution 25-R-07 Approving the Purchase of a Knuckleboom Truck for the Solid Waste Fund for \$237,378 from CMI.**

**ICM Gorham:** "I went ahead and put this one on a resolution as well. This was the truck that was wrecked and we're getting the insurance settlement on it. The insurance settlement will be about \$132,000 with the insurance and the salvage as well. This will come out of the Solid Waste Fund."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Alright. Do I have a motion?"

**Commissioner McCain:** "I'll make a motion to approve **Resolution 25-R-07.**"

**Mayor Atwood:** "Do I have a second?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** seconded the motion. **Mayor Atwood** announced a motion has been made and seconded; he asked if there was more discussion.

**Vice Mayor Darnall.** "I do have more discussion...looking back when the previous truck was purchased, the plan to replace the truck was happening. It was planned to be replaced this year or next year. So...we might've gotten a little bit ahead of schedule, but we're getting a huge stipend from our insurance and salvage to cover the cost of



the new truck.

**ICM Gorham:** "It was, it was on a capital purchase plan already."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "And it's coming from Solid Waste Fund, not the general fund, which the general fund is the one that's had such distress to it. So, we have, we have money in the Solid Waste Fund."

**Mayor Atwood:** having a motion and a second, he asked for any further discussion; being none, he called for a roll call vote. **Ayes were unanimous. Motion to approve Resolution 25-R-07 passes.**

**12. Approve the City Manager to Extend an Offer To a New Police Chief**

**ICM Gorham:** "We have gone through a fairly extensive vetting process. I've made you aware of most of those things that we've gone through. We did the CPI (California Psychological Inventory), we did an assessment center, and I have sent you information on the candidate that I have selected. I just would like to run that by you for your approval as required by the personnel manager."

**Mayor Atwood:** "All right. I would like to call for a motion."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll make a motion that we approve the city manager to extend an offer to a new chief of police." His motion was seconded by **Commissioner Gregory.**

**Mayor Atwood:** "I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?"

**Commissioner Powell:** Asked about salary.

**ICM Gorham:** "That will be discussed, but it'll be within the range of what we can afford. I have discussed it with the candidate...in generalities, but it'll be within what we can afford."

**Commissioner Powell:** "What were the generalities?"

**ICM Gorham:** "It was between the amounts that were posted..."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Okay. So, it's between what was posted, and he has not discussed anything outside of what was posted... That's really what I was getting at. Okay."

**ICM Gorham:** "We're not going outside of our budget."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Alright. Any further discussion? If not, I'll call for a vote."

A roll call vote was taken. **Ayes were unanimous. Motion to approve the City Manager to Extent an Offer to New Police Chief passes.**

**ICM Gorham:** "One quick question. Would you like to meet him?"

**ICM Gorham** introduced Millersville's new Chief of Police to the commissioners and the assembly. He was welcomed cordially by all.

**Police Chief Hale:** "I'm glad to meet you and I'm excited about the opportunity. We're going to do good things. I'm looking forward to the accreditation. I led that through the Nolensville Police Department. That was very big for us. I'm very policy driven. I know that's something that I definitely want to bring here, as well as the community outreach. I did a lot of community outreach in Nolensville with the senior insurance program. I actually went and got one of our pastors in town (to serve as Chaplain). And now we do a program where we check on our senior citizens once a week with our Chaplain. I would like to bring that here, as well as do some 'coffee with the cop,' some things like that...and definitely start working toward the accreditation...get the policies moving forward. We've got a good group of guys from the people that I've talked to so far. I'm so excited, thankful, and grateful. I appreciate it."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Thank you."

**ICM Gorham:** "Thank you. We do have a police chaplain. We'll get you together with him..."

**13. Discuss and Approve Changing Over to Paymentus for Our Utility, Tax, and Court Payments.**

**ICM Gorham:** "We have been discussing the payments and everything for a good while. I spoke with White House Utility District to find out what system they used, and they use Paymentus. I'm not sure if this is going to make Ms. Debbie (**Deborah Chadwick, Chair of our Planning Committee**) happy, but it's because I found out some things that White House utility does that I'm not sure we're going to want to do. But I'll go through this with you. Paymentus works with a number of municipalities currently. Tyler processes our payments; they are the company through which we have our accounting software. Paymentus works through the Tyler system so they can mesh with them without any problem. Dolores and I and Kelsey were in on a Zoom call where he (Paymentus representative) showed us their dashboard and demonstrated how to use it."

"...I spoke with the office manager for White House Utility. They're evidently very good with their servicing. They're very ready to speak with us. They've got technicians on call that we can call. Actually, when I told him that I was presenting this tonight, he said he would be by the phone if I wanted to call him and ask him some questions... So, they're very ready to service us. We have a lot of problems. I spoke with Kelsey (**Kelsie Charter, Office Manager**) about this, and I've talked with Judy (**Judy Florendo, City Recorder**) and Dolores (**Delores Farrell, Finance Director**) about it. Of course, we have a lot of problems with people sending in checks and they get here late – sometimes due to mail problems. So, we charge them a late fee. But then they say they sent it in time, and we have to refund them the late fee. So, we have lots of problems with these situations. If you look through the paperwork here, they post it within 24 hours of when it comes to us; their dashboard is very quick in getting the information to us. If you look at all their setup on the second page, everything will cost the city nothing, which is very good. Even better, they are also going to provide us with three new card readers. The card readers we have now will not work with their system. So, they're going to give us new card readers. They'll do outbound messaging. So, if we need to send something out, they'll do that."

"They're going to print our bills for free. All we have to pay for is postage. Currently we're paying Tyler to print the bills; I'm not sure exactly how much it costs us each month. The charge for ACH and E-Checks is currently \$1.25... White House Utility absorbs those fees. They don't charge them to the customers because they're a very large corporation. They also do not charge anything if somebody does an ACH if they sign up for automatic billing. So, that's just a way to encourage people to automatically pay their bills without having to come in. But this will allow a lot of different ways for people to pay. They can pay by text, they can pay by many different ways, and it'll help us out. It'll help alleviate some of the issues that the ladies in the front have with refunding overdue payments and things like that. So, I just wanted to bring this to the commission and ask for permission to go ahead and change over to Paymentus. We can run both of them at one time while we're doing the transition, while we're learning, but they're going to have somebody teach our ladies in the front office how to use the system. They're going to do everything to help us go through the transition from one system to the other."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Do we know how many paper checks we receive per month for bills?"

**ICM Gorham:** "I think Kelsey had given me that at one time, I want to say it's 200 to 300."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Do you know how many hours it would take Kelsey to process 200 checks?"

**ICM Gorham:** "They go through three zones because we bill three different times a month. I would say probably 16 hours."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "If we absorb the ACH check cost and everyone swaps to it, we're going to be better off. But if we absorb it and no one swaps, well we only absorb what people go to. I'm seeing that we're going to save more than \$1 in salary or hourly time spent for every person that changes over, it's going to take more than one hour of labor to process a check. I'm okay with absorbing that and having our people doing more valuable work."

**Commissioner Powell:** "What's the startup cost for this if they're bringing people in? So, there's no cost to the city?"

**ICM Gorham:** "There is no startup cost. They make their money on the back end from the transaction fees."

**Commissioner Powell:** "What's the contractual term with the city?"

**ICM Gorham:** "I will have to ask Chris Cody that. I don't know because when we spoke, he did not mention a contract cost. I'll check with him on that."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Okay. And you're good with this and how it interacts or doesn't with Tyler? I want your opinion."

**Finance Director Farrell:** "I think that this is a better move for us. I think it's going to be easier for the girls and we will be able to incorporate court and tax payments."

**Commissioner Powell** responded, "Okay."

**ICM Gorham:** "I've already checked with him on that and they will give us a section that will do court and tax and utilities. So, we can do all three of those in the system."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Have you asked the front office ladies?"

**ICM Gorham:** "The front office ladies are looking forward to me talking to you all about it."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "We don't want to do something that they would hate."

**ICM Gorham:** "Kelsey and Lisa were in the meeting with us; they were asking more questions than we were because they know the system more than we do; and they really loved what they were hearing."

**Commissioner Powell:** "If we can free up time for employees so that they can then focus on other things and automate and get some efficiency out of this, then I'm okay with that."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll make a motion to approve changing over to Paymentus for our utility, tax, and court payments."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Do I have a second?" **Commissioner Gregory** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Atwood:** "Okay. I have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?"

**Commissioner Powell:** "Is this, is this going to solve Ms. Chadwick's problem?"

**Deborah Chadwick:** "No, it doesn't because when I would go to pay the sewer bill, I am going to pay it through my bill pay at my bank. My bank is still going to send a paper check. I don't want to sign up for the system and have to add a dollar to my sewer bill every month. So, my paper check still has to be processed."

**Commissioner Powell:** "So it solves a problem for the city, but it doesn't solve the problem that we're still looking to solve. I understand."

**Ms. Chadwick:** "Because it's not a check. It's an EFT."

**Commissioner Powell:** "So that it's an ACH and that problem still remains for us to fix. Okay. But, but in terms of trying to solve your problem, we did find a better solution for the city as a whole."

**Ms. Chadwick:** "It is if citizens want to pay an extra dollar and sign up for this system and put their bank information out there for this system to work, to use it, you know, that's on them. It's my personal preference not to do that. And I'm like a lot of other citizens who don't want to do it"

**Commissioner Powell:** "Okay. So maybe we'll have to have some marketing and education materials that we can send out. How are we going to communicate this to the public? Ms. Chadwick makes a very good point. There are a lot of people that may not want to use this because they're unsure of it. So how are we going to communicate the benefits of this to the residents so that way they can make an educated choice?"

**ICM Gorham:** "I'll get with Chris tomorrow and see what kind of marketing information they've got and see what they can do,"

**Commissioner Powell:** "Because I would like for everyone that's not at this meeting and doesn't just watch these to be able to understand that we're switching over to this and then be able to make that decision themselves and not have to call city Hall with a thousand questions. That would be my preference."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Have we done any review to understand the cost difference between this and Tyler?"

**ICM Gorham:** "Yes...as far as the costs for the customers?"

**Mayor Atwood:** "No, for the city."

**ICM Gorham:** "Yes...this is going to cost us less because of the printing costs that we go through every month and plus, we're going to do away with that part of the Tyler software that we're using."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Right. I understand we're going to save money. Have we actually run the numbers to understand what this will save us?"

**ICM Gorham:** "I have not, I haven't broken down that portion of exactly what it's going to be. I can try and get those numbers and email them to you if you want me to."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Yeah. I think it's worth knowing...at least calculating on the front end...and then we should see on the back end that that's actually an okay thing."

**ICM Gorham:** "I can try and run that."

**Commissioner Powell:** "That's kind of why I was asking about the contractual term as well. So, if we're looking, are we seeing if we're going to save however much money on the back end; or, will we do that in x amount of years? And if not, is it worth it to look for a different solution? But are we locked into a contract based on that?"

**ICM Gorham:** "That's fine. If you want to hold off on this, we can. If you want to approve it, then I'll get you that information before we change over."

**Mayor Atwood:** "So what was the contract term? Did we know that?"

**ICM Gorham:** "I'm not sure."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Okay. I would prefer to know myself...I would like to hold off until we understand what we're signing up for. Is this a year deal? Is it a three-year deal? A five-year deal? What is our 'out' with them?"

**Commissioner Powell:** "I'm with the mayor. And then when we have a better understanding of how we can communicate this with that information, I think that would be beneficial before we approve it in mass. I think it's a good idea. I'm not against the system at all. I just have the same concerns as you. I want to kind of have those answers before we just go ahead and pull the trigger on it."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll withdraw the motion and make a new motion to move this to the May work session. Do you think you will have this information together by the May work session?"

**ICM Gorham:** "Yes."

**Commissioner Powell:** "We'll need more than just the contract. We'll need the calculations. We'll need that marketing communications material."

**ICM Gorham:** "I can get it together by then. That's fine."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Okay. I have a motion to move this to the work session. Do I have second?"

**Commissioner McCain** seconded the motion. **Mayor Atwood** asked if there was any further discussion. Being none, he called for a vote. **Ayes were unanimous. Motion to withdraw the first motion to approve changing over to Paymentus for our Utility, Tax, and Court payments, and changing it to a new motion to move it to the May work session, passes.**

#### **14. Update on the Plan for Clean Up Day**

**ICM Gorham:** "Jerry and I have discussed this, and we think that the best way for us to move forward on it is to start the cleanup week or period and have it done roadside in front of each house and do it for a week or however long it takes them to pick up for every house. They're going to do it starting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May... they're going to start at one area and they're going to move through the city, picking up everyone's household items, whatever they have separated out... at the roadside."

**Commissioner McCain:** asked if folks need to call that in or are they just going to drive around looking (for where to make a pickup).

**ICM Gorham:** "...They're going to drive around every street and every road...but we need to have it out by the fifth..."

**Commissioner Powell:** "What's the timeframe?"

**ICM Gorham:** "The fifth,"

**Commissioner:** "Until when?"

**ICM Gorham:** "Through the 12<sup>th</sup> which is the following Monday. If they don't get it all, they're going to continue. They're planning on doing it the fifth through the 12<sup>th</sup>, which is a week."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "How are we planning on communicating this to all the residents?"

**ICM Gorham:** "We'll put it out on all the social media. We'll try and get something out on the utility bills."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Do we have time to get signs at the city entrances? That's typically how I would find out when this would happen before I was on the commission."

**Commissioner McCain:** "We have a free lit up sign outside."

**ICM Gorham:** "We probably can, we can probably get some signs out there."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Well, I'm with Carla, too. Can we utilize the city sign and the community center sign too...and broadcast those because they're both on that road? I would use that sign as well."

**ICM Gorham:** "Yes, we can put it on that sign. We're having trouble communicating with the community center sign, but I'll try and see if we can get that worked out too."

**Mayor Atwood:** "So...one of the questions we had last time that I don't feel has been answered yet...is, if we say it needs to be out by the fifth and somebody accidentally sets it out on the seventh, what happens if Jerry's crew has already gone by that particular address?"

**ICM Gorham:** "We'll do our best to get it picked up. They can call in if they miss the pickup and we'll do our best to get it picked up."

**Commissioner McCain:** "It would just kind of roll to a bulk pickup instead of a spring-cleaning pickup."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "My biggest concern with this change is that we create 'trash city' where it takes us a month to get it all picked up."

**ICM Gorham:** "It shouldn't take that long. Jerry and I talked about it and he said he thought they could pick it up in a week or, just over a week to 10 days at the most."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll cross my fingers. I'm nervous about that."

**Commissioner Powell:** "But I think this is a good test case. It is. We'll see how it goes. And we will need some good lessons learned from Jerry after this on how this goes and where we can improve this plan for the next time for fall."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Alright, any further questions? Alright, Item #15."

#### **15. Update of FY26 Budget Proposal**

**ICM Gorham:** "I have given you the budget proposal for the entire budget. If you would take them home and digest them, the proposal is going to need some adjustments. I was scrambling to get it in, and we found some things that needed to be adjusted in Tyler INCODE. So, there are some adjustments that I need to make and some adjustments that we'll all need to make. It's not got everything in there. The ones with the revenue accounts are going to need to be looked at and we're still going to have to set the tax rate of course and things of that nature. So, we've got to look at the state revenues and all. I've given you a rough draft of the budget, but I know you haven't had time to look at it. So just take it home and look at it and review it. I can send it to you on digits if you want me to as well if it's easier for you to look at it there."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Do we need to schedule a workshop?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Yes."

**Mayor Atwood:** "I would assume so."

**Commissioner Powell:** "... I assume we're going to need at least two. So, when would we like to schedule the first one? We're already in April, so I assume we should probably schedule one the beginning of May and then toward the end of May or the beginning of June because we're going to have to approve this sooner rather than later for the comptroller. I would rather go ahead and get these on the calendar so we can get the proper public notice out and we can execute these however long they take. Then we can block off the appropriate time on our calendars because they will take a while."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I can see the projection of revenue into the general fund. I can't quickly find the total appropriated out of the general fund. Do you know roughly where we're at now?"

**ICM Gorham:** "We're still about the same. I haven't adjusted the expenses a whole lot. I think there's a lot of things that we can adjust..."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'm going to be a hard sell on anything that comes with a tax increase. I think we're going to have a lot of fun at a workshop."

**ICM Gorham:** "I understand. And we've got to set the tax rate period. I mean, it doesn't have to be raised. I'm just saying we've got to set the tax rate..."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "Yeah, I'm going to be strongly opposed if the check to the town, the check to each house goes up at all."

**Commissioner McCain:** "I don't think any of us would be jumping for joy."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I know we have big plans and big aspirations and it's going to be fun to make it fit."

**Commissioner Powell:** "That's where long-term planning comes in...the goal is never to raise taxes, and I do not want to raise taxes... I'm with you. I'm a hard sell on that. I would rather initiate some long-term planning where we have a plan to get where we want over a period of time. I think your fee schedule, when we get to a further

agenda item, helps us get there. But, if we can, if we can schedule the workshops, I think that'll lead us down a good path of discussion of where we need to be."

**Mayor Atwood:** "Any further discussion?"

**Commissioner Darnall:** "Does anyone have a preference of availability? I know previously, Commissioner Gregory, you've done them on Saturdays."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "We need to follow public notice requirements. That's what got Millersville into trouble last year and I don't want to repeat the same mistakes and face the same lawsuit."

**Mayor Atwood:** "So we have decided to paint the signs on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I don't know how anybody would feel about convening...at noon or one o'clock on that Saturday since we kind of had that open. I don't know if you all had the whole day open. We didn't really discuss that. But if we painted signs in the morning, it shouldn't take more than a couple hours. We could start early, go home, get cleaned up, come back that afternoon for, the initial round and then based on those results, pick another day."

The commissioners discussed possible times when they could all be available to meet and paint the "Welcome to Millersville" signs plus get together for a budget workshop. They settled on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM for the workshop and tentatively for May 3<sup>rd</sup> to paint the signs.

**16. Update on Additional Revenue Proposal, First Reading of Ordinance 25-815 to Adopt New Fees Associated With the Operation of the City, Planning and Zoning, Building Permits, Signs, Park, and Fire Department Fees.**

**ICM Gorham:** "As I mentioned to you in an email, we have reviewed fees from White House, Goodlettsville, Greenbriar, Coopertown, Springfield, and I sent those all to you. We tried to come up with something that's kind of in between. I also sent you our previous fees, and these are somewhere in the middle of those, not over them; although there may be one or two that are. We are currently subsidizing some of the developments, because we're not charging enough for our fees. We're paying our engineer when he reviews fee reviews, subdivision plats or developments or industrial developments, things like that. We're paying him more than the developers are paying us. And so, we've got to fix that. What we have proposed here covers a lot of that. You can see the items in red are the things that we're changing and proposing. If you notice on the second page, the engineer review fees are developer funded completely for whatever the engineer charges is what the developer pays. We're not going to have to pay anything additional. So, they'll pay us the permit fees and things like that, that we've got set for. But everything else will be paid directly to us; they'll pay exactly what the engineering charges us. A couple of things that we didn't have that we found in other cities, like the fireworks tent, we had had those in other places. But we do want to be able to go down and have our fire department inspect those, make sure they're safe. They'll conduct a couple of inspections when they're setting up and then while they're operating to make sure they're doing everything safely. So, if there's any questions that you have about any specific fees, I'll be glad to address those. But hopefully, this will help us to cover some of the costs that we've been enduring or experiencing. The building inspection fees - again, some were something else where we were charging, like \$125; and then, if our building inspector had to go back for reinspection, we weren't getting anything additional, so we put a reinspection in there again. We're just trying to cover our costs. We're not wanting to subsidize these. Pending your questions..."

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "And I've reached out to the city manager. We got the before and after of everything except the community center rentals, and he is looking that up and expecting to provide that to us. I'm okay on the first reading as is, but I'm going to want to consider that before we have the second reading."

**ICM Gorham:** "Right. And I've actually gotten those, but I didn't bring them out here tonight, I apologize, but I'll send them to you all. And I've also got some comparisons with Goodlettsville and White House, on their rates. We did talk about that. One of the things that I want to look at is changing it to maybe a shorter rental. One of the things I heard was that our rental was too long and it cost too much for somebody to rent a large space. So, I'm looking at that as well. I'll send a proposal for that before the second reading."

**Commissioner Powell:** "Any information from Brian Holma on short term rentals and fees and inspections associated with that? You don't have to give an update really on that right now, but I would like to talk about that on the next work session. I don't think it needs to be included in this."

**ICM Gorham:** "I'll get with him. He and I have talked very briefly about it, but not to any extent."

**Commissioner Powell:** "So, okay. I would like more information on that so we can move forward with some type of regulation in the future. I would like some more information on the next work session."

**Mayor Atwood:** "All right. Do I have a motion on the first reading of **Ordinance 25-815**?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll make a motion to approve on first reading **Ordinance 25-815**."

**Commissioner McCain:** "I'll second it."

**Mayor Atwood:** "I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "There's one typo on the second page. The last Excel cell that's blocked in "mut", let's correct that to "must".

**ICM Gorham:** "We'll get that fixed."

**Mayor Atwood:** "All right...roll call vote."

**Ayes were unanimous. First reading of Ordinance 25-815 passes.**

- 17. First Reading of Ordinance 25-816 an Ordinance to the Amend Millersville Zoning Map, Changing the Zoning for the Property Located at 1010 Steerman Drive and Identified on Robertson County Tax Map 126 as Parcel 052.00 From Heavy Commercial (HC) to General Commercial (GC)**

**Mayor Atwood:** "Do I have a motion?"

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** made a motion to approve **Ordinance 25-816**. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Gregory**.

**Mayor Atwood:** "Okay, I have a motion and a second for the first reading **Ordinance 25-816**. Is there any discussion?"

**Commissioner Gregory:** "The Planning Commission recommended approval on April 8th for this rezoning."

**Commissioner Powell:** "What is the purpose of changing from heavy commercial to general?"

**ICM Gorham:** "These are properties...just off 31W and they really shouldn't have been zoned heavy commercial in the first place. They should have been commercial because they are storefront properties."

**Commissioner Gregory:** "That is Mr. Crouch's property."

**Mayor Atwood:** asked if there was any further discussion. Being none, he called for a roll call vote.

**Ayes were unanimous. Motion for First Reading of Ordinance 25-816 passes.**

- 18. First Reading of Ordinance 25-817 An Ordinance to Amend the Millersville Zoning Map Changing the Zoning for the Property Located at 1047 Slaters Creek Road and Identified on Sumner County Map 121 as Parcel 053.00 From Industrial to General Commercial.**

**Mayor Atwood** asked for a motion. **Commissioner Gregory** made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 25-817**, and it was seconded by **Commissioner McCain**. The mayor asked if there was any discussion.

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I am very good friends with one of the people who is intending to develop this. It is not a conflict of interest, but it could be perceived as one. So, I'm going to abstain from voting on this."

A discussion followed among the commissioners about why the property was being rezoned. They were unable to arrive at consensus because the information they were given to consider was incomplete. They had Mr. Frank Fox approach the podium to speak about the matter. He did offer some clarification, stating the property has an Airbnb on it but there are plans to convert the property into soccer fields. Within the context of the discourse, no solid evidence was presented to support the rezoning of the property located at 1047 Slaters Creek Road from Industrial to General Commercial.

**Mayor Atwood** called for a roll call vote on the first reading of **Ordinance 25-817**; the commissioners voted as Follows: **Commissioner Gregory, Aye; Commissioner McCain, No; Mayor Atwood – Aye;**

**Vice Mayor Darnall, abstain; Commissioner Powell, No.**

**2 Ayes, 2 no's, 1 abstain. Motion failed.**

In Summary:

- A) Ordinance 25-817 to rezone 1047 Slaters Creek Road from industrial to general commercial failed due to concerns about zoning implications for an Airbnb and soccer field project.
- B) Commissioners requested additional background information from the planning commission for further review at the May work session.

**19. City Manager Comments**

**ICM Gorham** said he had no comments.

**20. Commissioners' Comments**

**Vice Mayor Darnall:** "I'll be brief. We had an excellent Easter event. I want to thank everybody that was involved and I'm sorry if I leave you out, but, Dawn, Denise Police, Fire and Wellhouse Church. I know all played significant roles in that. Well done team!"

**Commissioner Powell:** "I want to echo what commissioner Darnell just said, that the Easter event was great and we have one of the best community center volunteers that I've seen. Denise, you did a great job and in helping out Don and I thought it was a great event, and my son had a great time there. And just about the EMS issue in the fire station, I hope that we've clarified a lot of things tonight and I hope we are looking at moving forward with the county on a much better solution - one for the residents around here. I think that the air has been cleared in my opinion, and I think that we all can move forward on an equitable solution that's best for EMS firefighters and the residents that receive those services.

**21. Adjournment.**

**Mayor Atwood** Asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Vice Mayor Darnall** made the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Judy Florendo**  
**City Recorder**  
**Millersville, TN**