



TOWN OF BRIGHTON

139 NORTH MAIN * POST OFFICE BOX 277 * BRIGHTON, TENNESSEE 38011

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

November 14, 2022

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chapman Washam at 9:00a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present

Stephanie Chapman-Washam, Mayor
Melissa Sartain, Vice Mayor
Eunice Foster, Alderman
Alderwoman Kristin Gardner

Absent

Shane Greer, Alderman

Others Attending:

Mr. Eckel, Eckel Law & Associates
Mike Durham, Brighton Police Chief
Doylen Baskin, Brighton Police Department

Guests:

Sarah Crocker, 145 Ben Lane, Brighton, TN 38011; Dave Huffman, 669 E
Kenwood Ave, Brighton, TN 38011

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Resignation

Alderman Greer presented his letter of resignation at the Board Meeting on November 8, 2022. **Vice Mayor Sartain made a motion to approve Alderman Greer's resignation. Alderman Foster seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.**

Brighton Police Chief

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Police Chief Durham previously received a letter regarding Chief Durham's actions at the November 8th Board Meeting while he is currently on a 90 day probation.

Alderman Foster made a motion to terminate Chief Durham base on insubordination and neglecting duties. Alderwoman Gardner seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Sartain was given the floor. She had a list of things mentioned to them after the probationary period began.

- First of all I want to say that with our attorney and the Board, we did set a work schedule for SRO's to figure out our situation so that our schools would be covered. That's first and foremost what we did do. That plan changed during the 90 day probationary period.
- The public disrespected the Mayor and the Board at a public meeting and blasted all across social media.
- All officers have complained to the Board about lack of leadership within the police department and chaotic working conditions and were instructed not to communicate with the current governing board.
- Officers told the Board they had asked to attend training and to do different things and they were told "no" because there was no money in the budget.
- Multiple complaints or observations from chiefs and other officers from other municipalities wondering why our chief is not involved in community operations, chief meetings, etc.
- We received a report as a Board on yelling at the Mayor where the Captain was a witness to it.
- We were made aware that the office was cleaned out over the weekend and the probationary letter was hanging on the wall and photos ripped up. We did have other police officers calling us asking if there was still a Chief.
- The Mayor also received calls from the principal on Friday I believe just basically saying that our Chief was walking around showing the probationary letter; asked to meet with her, saw the social media posting; whether or not if Chief was ok; what was going on?

So there were a lot of things that have happened and none of us have taken this decision lightly. I have to take advice that I gave Alderman Greer a few years ago and that was to remember our decisions are not for our self but for the Town we are elected to serve. Going forward, I have a lot of respect for Chief Durham and still after all of this. I appreciate and I'm grateful for many things that he has done on his time outside as scope of Chief. However, the disrespect and lack of leadership has made much of this null. We must remember what's best for Brighton as we have been told to do going forward. And I don't know the rate we are going that it is.

All approved. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Sartain made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Foster seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:07a.m.

Stephanie Chapman-Washam, Mayor

Tammy McKinney, CMFO