



# TOWN OF BRIGHTON

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

## SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

6:30 PM

### CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sarah Crocker at 6:32p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Ms. Ann Blackmon gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

#### Present

Sarah Crocker, Mayor  
Stephanie Chapman-Washam, Alderwoman  
Shane Greer, Alderman  
Kenny Hall, Alderman  
George Smith, Alderman

#### Absent

**Others Attending:** Leah Hayse, Brighton Town Clerk; Emily Hazlerig, Brighton Town Clerk; Mike Durham, Brighton Police Chief, Blaine Max, Brighton Police Sergeant; M.O. Eckel

**Guests:** Sarah Brown, The Leader; Ann Blackmon, 164 Shady Lane

### NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor requested to meet with the newly appointed Judge, Lauren Raynor-McDaniel, concerning changes she made at her first court appearance. Judge Raynor-McDaniel will be offering first time offenders (case by case basis) traffic school that is held at the Tipton County Justice Center. The cost of the class would be \$75.00. That fee would be paid to Chad McCommon or Jeff Fletcher at the Tipton County Justice Center. Once they bring the certificate of completion back, then it will be dismissed with court cost. That fee would be paid to the Town of Brighton. There was discussion about Brighton offering traffic school. The Town would have regulations to meet in order for that to happen. If those choosing traffic school fail to show their certificate prior to or at the next court date, they will be coded as Failure to Appear and in default. If for some reason the offender could not get into the traffic school that particular month, they are allowed one continuance.

Looking at the statute, Judge Raynor-McDaniel does not believe the Town has the ability to enforce

juvenile offenders. Those would have to go to Stephen Shopher. He can dispose of the ticket any way he sees fit. He can also designate community service. If the statute happened in Brighton, he can make them do community service in Brighton. She will talk with Mr. Shopher to see if there would be any cost to the Town and if there would be any liability to the Town. Alderman Greer asked how other municipalities are able to keep juveniles in their court. Mr. Eckel, Town Attorney, said that there are some city courts that may have concurrent jurisdiction with General Sessions Court and are acting appropriately. After speaking with Melissa Ashburn, MTAS Attorney, she verified that Brighton is no longer on the list of city courts with concurrent jurisdictions with General Sessions. An elected judge would get General Session jurisdiction. An appointed judge would have to meet the requirements of the statute. This all changed in 2004. Alderman Greer asked if our previous judge had General Session jurisdiction. Mr. Eckel said she was the judge for so long that she was probably grandfathered in. Alderman Greer asked what the Town needed to do to keep those in our jurisdiction. Mr. Eckel said the short version is (1) you will have to get the approval of the County Executive, (2) the District Attorney will have to agree to provide a part-time Assistant District Attorney (which will be paid by the Town of Brighton) and (3) Security. The statute spells out a longer version.

Mayor Crocker was confused about the “hearings” being held in court by Judge Raynor-McDaniel. Judge Raynor-McDaniel replied that any person that is brought before a court has the right to a hearing. They have the right to cross examine any witnesses that could testify against them. In this case, it would be the officers. She listened to both the complainant and the officer. If the officer could articulate that the complainant was guilty, then they were fined guilty. If the officer was not in court, the hearing was continued until the next court date so the officer could be attendance.

Zero tolerance cases would be no insurance and school zone offenses.

The Town of Brighton currently allows 30 days to pay. Judge Raynor-McDaniel said if the person just can't pay within that 30 days then allow them another 30 days. Alderman Greer asked if they would need to come back to court to explain why they can't pay. Judge Raynor-McDaniel said they would not need to do that.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Greer. All approved. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.

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**Sarah Crocker, Mayor**

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**Tammy McKinney, Recorder**