

SOUTH FULTON CITY COMMISSION  
SOUTH FULTON, TENNESSEE  
October 17, 2005

AGENDA

- A. Meeting with Railroad Museum Board

MINUTES

The South Fulton City Commission met on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. with the Railroad Museum board.

Present were D James, R Haskins, C Moody, T Pettigrew, K Dillon, D Beadles. Also present were Charles Thompson, James "Rabbit" Cruse, Lois Birk.

Mr. Thompson stated the railroad board never had any intention of the museum costing the City of South Fulton anything. He stated the RR board spent about \$7000 in the museum – wiring, lighting, shelves, cabinets. He stated they have not worked in the museum recently because of not knowing if the commission would allow them to continue with the museum.

Mr. Cruse stated there is nothing in South Fulton or Fulton to draw tourists to the area. He stated the railroad museum could do that. He stated he has had several teachers inquire as to when the museum would be open for classroom tours. He stated museum would have RR Crossing signals that work, Operation Life Saver program, Kids Corner – TV/VCR programs, lots of history, City of New Orleans train set is in operation.

Ms. Dillon stated the commission concerns have been the expense to the city, length of time for museum to open and no major improvements in the museum.

Ms. Birk, Chamber of Commerce Director, stated RR Museum board will have volunteers for tour buses. She stated the State of Tennessee Tourism has grant money available for publicity, brochures, etc. She stated it would be a misfortune if the museum did not become a reality because of a series of misunderstandings.

Mr. Cruse stated the museum could be up and running in about a month. Mr. Thompson stated they would advertise for additional items and volunteers.

Mr. Moody stated problem he sees is that public opinion is not interested in the railroad museum.

Mr. Cruse stated there is a lot of public interest from surrounding areas. Mr. Thompson stated they would provide liability insurance in the museum. He stated there would need to be something in writing.

South Fulton City Commission  
October 17, 2005  
Page Two

Mr. Haskins stated an agreement should have been drawn up and they should pay for their utilities.

Mr. Thompson presented a copy of a one-year lease agreement at the cost of \$1.00 per year. He stated they would need access through the big bay door, area would be measured off and description provided.

Mr. Thompson stated there is a railroad museum board in place to make decisions. He stated the board is willing to work with the city commission and appreciates the city giving this space for the museum.

The city commission toured the museum and agreed to take request under advisement.

Commissioner Moody stated Buck (James Buckingham) came to his home and was upset that the newspaper printed that he was fired from the police department.

Ms. Dillon stated she had faxed a letter signed by Police Chief to newspaper. She stated she had also met with Ms. Buckingham, provided her with copy of the tape, personnel files and a verbal apology.

Ms. Dillon stated the Chamber of Commerce pays \$100 rent per month. She also stated the bond option was most desirable – lease-buy (city would sell building to public entity that can borrow a 30-year bond, make bond payments and at end of thirty years, buy back the building for \$1 or \$10)

#### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moody moved to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. Mayor James seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carries.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
RECORDER MAYOR