

RESOLUTION 2017-010

A RESOLUTION HONORING ROBERT S. "BOB" PATTERSON, WHO
SERVED AS BELLE MEADE CITY ATTORNEY FROM 2006 TO 2017

WHEREAS, ROBERT S. (BOB) PATTERSON has served loyally as City Attorney of the City of Belle Meade since October 18, 2006, and

WHEREAS, none of the current Commissioners were given the right of refusal to work with this Esteemed Attorney, (one of which was elected the month following Mr. Patterson's appointment), yet ALL have been made better by his efforts, opinions, "nudging" and legalese with, in and for the City, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson in his personal life is a non-licensed/wannabe architect, is an indefatigable and exceptional gardener and uses his avocations to enhance his legal skills and arm twisting to better the City, and

WHEREAS, the duties required of a City Attorney are not proportional to the size of the city, as the City of Belle Meade presents the same (no, certainly greater) issues of governance, politics, long range planning and allocation of scarce resources as cities many times its size and, more importantly, these duties require taming of egos to which there are no equals anywhere, and

WHEREAS, in addition to those duties required of anyone involved in the governance of a city, the City of Belle Meade presents unique challenges to those charged with preserving its substantial assets, both tangible and intangible, and

WHEREAS, in addition to those duties routinely required of those who assume such responsibilities, he has faced angry and irrational Commissioners and citizens in many venues regarding City policy and "minor" situations which in fact are major to each, has given advice and counsel to Commissioners and citizens in the midst of and as a result of floods, and has helped create Federally mandated, unfunded "popular" stormwater fees, upheld laws of the City and created laws (some beloved and many others), and encouraged the pestilence of litigation upon the direction of Commissioners and supported Satellite Cities within the great Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, and

WHEREAS, he has valiantly led the effort to preserve the beauty of our fair city while planting beautiful gardens at his Belle Meade residence, being "one page ahead" of the Board of Zoning Appeals as he advises the Board unfailingly and with brilliance and forethought, keeping in mind and reminding all who will listen of the ever present "unintended consequences", and

WHEREAS, he has contributed to the public discourse of current events and governmental affairs on which this great Country was founded now more than two hundred years ago, eschewing the anonymity of the internet (founded by a Belle Meade resident) in honor of the proud traditions of the Constitutional debates of 1787 and today's Sunshine Laws, of which he

has struggled to keep the Commissioners from violating on numerous occasions, using few but well-chosen words and the raising of eyebrows aplenty, and

WHEREAS, having undertaken these serious duties, fully understanding the burden of exercising their discretion in deciding matters that excite legitimate debate, and exercising the courage to guide the Commissioners in resolving important issues for the long term benefit of all of our citizens, he has contributed daily much to the welfare of this City and its citizens always with the caveat of "is the issue a political one" or a real decision, and

WHEREAS, he has made these contributions using his unique combination of intellect, experience, wisdom, judgment, finely tuned political instincts, public trust, business acumen, not to mention the ability to field random calls at all hours of the day and night about matters not within his control or purview nor which are truly legal issues, and

WHEREAS, Bob advised many during the course of his service and had tough duties in the "trenches", including his primary assignment as corralling the Commissioners, officials and others and keeping the City "legal"; guiding, reigning in and counseling the Board of Zoning Appeals; "codifying" the "Less than 40,000 square foot" zoning ordinance and ultimately FAR exceeding it with the Floor Area Ratio ordinance, thereby further "clarifying" the Zoning Ordinance; advising the Board of Building Code Appeals and strengthening its role, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of his leadership and counsel, the City of Belle Meade has been well-managed fiscally through volatile economic times while preserving public services, improving its infrastructure and assuring the general satisfaction of its very demanding citizens (general being a loose term), and

WHEREAS, while Bob has been compensated, he has spent unknown personal time understanding, investigating and researching the issues as a legal advisor as well as an interested and affected citizen, without monetary compensation, acting as an involved and responsible steward of this City's assets while always planning for its future, and

WHEREAS, Bob Patterson has served this City with selfless devotion and time-consuming effort, is highly regarded by Commissioners and staff and respected as a leader in our community and the greater Nashville community for his invaluable contributions to this City, and

WHEREAS, his contributions to the City of Belle Meade will always be appreciated, his presence in the future missed, and his sacrifice for the benefit of our fair City always celebrated;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of his many contributions to the City of Belle Meade, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Belle Meade, Tennessee the following:

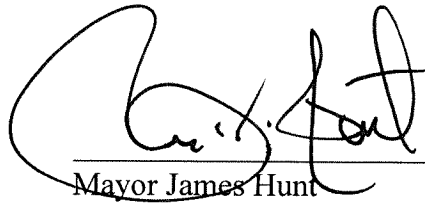
SECTION 1. The City of Belle Meade, while bemoaning the retirement of its selfless public servant, Bob Patterson, recognizes his many contributions and wishes him the best in his retirement from service to this city, and

SECTION 2. The City of Belle Meade, acting through vote of its Commissioners, recognizes, lauds and applauds Bob Patterson upon his retirement as City Attorney of the City of Belle Meade and thanks him for his lasting contributions and enduring legacy of service to its citizens. We do affectionately dub him "*the Chicken Coop Lawyer*" in fond recognition of his earliest foray into City concerns and politics.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after the date of its adoption, the welfare of the City of Belle Meade requiring it.

Date of Adoption:

August 23, 2017



Mayor James Hunt



City Manager Beth Reardon