

Minutes of the Middle Tennessee Public Purchasing Association March 20, 2008



President Brian Wilcox called the meeting to order at 11:56. He welcomed and wished everyone a Happy Purchasing Month. He then introduced the following honored guests –

Bill Whitson

Mayor Richard Fulton

Trustee Charles Cardwell

Members of Mr. Bill Whitson's family, Sam and Pam Whitson and Joe Whitson

Brian then asked that other guests be introduced and they were:

Charles Harrison

Ed Jones

Jay Dooley

Dan McDougal

Joe Wiggins

George Street – a member that does not get to attend frequently

Brian then introduced himself again.

Brian asked Angie McDonald, Amanda Cochran and Quinn Nowlin, MTPPS Purchasing month committee, and Kim Hopkins as VP of Programs, to come to the front and he thanked them all for their efforts in planning the program and organizing MTPPA's Purchasing Month celebration.

Kim Hopkins then introduced the guest speaker Bill Whitson who talked about his experiences in purchasing and the formation of Metro government.

- The consolidation of Nashville and Davidson County was first voted on in 1958 and failed. It was voted on a second time in 1959 and passed.
- Metro Government actually started in 1963 at which time he started as Metro's Assistant Purchasing Agent, coming from the Board of Education.

Some of the accomplishments he is proud of are:

- In 1963 Metro had one contract on file and when he left there were many for such things as drugs, auto parts, and other items
- Self Insurance program under Mayor Fulton
- Started an Inspection program in Metro
- First computerized Purchasing system in the 70's

After Mr. Whitson completed his program, MTPPA member and Metro Purchasing Agent Jeff Gossage presented Mr. Whitson with a plaque containing his CPPO Certificate (64th to be issued in the nation) and commemorating some of his other achievements. He also announced that Metro Purchasing was renaming its training room the “Bill Whitson Training Room” and that the plaque would be placed in the room.

Charlie Cardwell and Mayor Fulton both made brief comments.

Brian again thanked all guests and dignitaries and announced that there was cake in the back of the room for everyone.

Announcements: Next month’s meeting would be at MNPS Central office on Bransford Avenue in the old cafeteria.

The meeting adjourned about 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Hackett, Secretary