

City of Dickson Policy for Naming Public Property

Purpose:

The purpose of naming or re-naming a building, road, alley, bridge, park or other city-owned or city-controlled property is to honor an individual, group, business, event or other entity for his/her/its civic, educational, financial, historical and/or cultural contribution(s) to the well-being and quality of life for the residents of the City of Dickson. This policy is in regard to naming requests submitted by a citizen or group and does not in any way affect or supplant the authority of the Mayor and/or the City Council of the City of Dickson to designate the name of city-owned or -controlled property, but may be used as general guidelines with regard to council decisions.

Criteria:

The criteria for naming of city-owned or -controlled property after an individual, group, business, event or other entity shall require that the following qualifications be considered:

1. For an individual:
 - A. Must have been deceased at least five (5) years. Exceptions can be made for law enforcement officers and military personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty or elected leaders with a significant record of service.
 - B. Have been a native of the City of Dickson, or;
 - C. Have been a resident for a significant period of time, or;
 - D. Have made a significant contribution through service, resources, talent, time, finances, material, land or other means to improve the quality of life for residents, or;
 - E. Have made a significant historic impact or positive influence, or;
 - F. Have provided civic leadership or volunteerism that clearly contributed to the betterment of the city, or;
 - G. Have contributed time, money or service to the city that was not part of his/her/their work, or;
 - H. Have been recognized in a field of expertise locally, statewide, nationally or beyond.
2. For a group, business, organization or other entity:
 - A. Must be centrally organized and/or operated within the City of Dickson, or;
 - B. Must be comprised primarily of residents of the City of Dickson, or;
 - C. Must have made a significant contribution of finances, resources, materials, time or other efforts that positively impacted the quality of life for city residents in a manner that would not have been feasible without such contribution, or;
 - D. Must have made a significant impact on the City of Dickson in a historical, educational or cultural context.
3. For an event:
 - A. Must have been historically significant to the City of Dickson, State of Tennessee or the United States of America, or;
 - B. Must have had a significant positive impact on the citizens of the City of Dickson, or;
 - C. Must have inspired patriotism or an increased sense of community in the citizenry, or;

- D. Must have been recognized by the federal, state, county or city governing body for its impact through legislation, declaration or proclamation.

Process:

- 1) A committee comprised of five residents of the City of Dickson shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall include one member of the Dickson City Council. The city attorney shall advise the committee on any legal aspects of the naming request.
- 2) A request to name a city-owned or –controlled property shall be submitted in writing to the committee and shall include a narrative of how the nominee meets the above criteria, an explanation why naming such property would be an appropriate honor or recognition to the nominee and the significance of such naming to the residents of the City of Dickson. Requests shall be submitted to the Office of the Mayor, 600 East Walnut St., Dickson, TN 37055.
- 3) In the event the request is to change the name of an existing street, alley or other property that will directly impact residents or businesses whose addresses are on said street, the request shall include a petition of signatures of each affected resident or business owner indicating his/her support or opposition to such request.
- 4) The request must meet the specifications required by the city, county and state’s public safety agencies and the United States Postal Service requirements for the naming and numbering of addresses.
- 5) The request must meet the specifications of the Geographic Information System (GIS) with regard to numbering, punctuation, spelling and foreign languages.
- 6) The request must not violate any city ordinance, state statute or federal law or any community standards regarding decency, vulgarity or morality, or discriminate against any segment of the population based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, genetic information, birthplace or any other factors defined by the United States government.
- 7) The committee shall review each nomination under the criteria and make a recommendation in writing for approval or denial to the Dickson City Council within sixty (60) days of receiving said request, unless it is necessary to seek more documentation, information or research regarding the request. The recommendation shall state the committee’s reason for approval or denial.
- 8) The Dickson City Council shall not be bound to vote in the manner recommended by the committee unless such recommendation includes legal prohibition(s) cited by the city attorney.
- 9) The Dickson City Council shall vote to approve or deny the naming request subject to the normal rules of conducting city business
- 10) The committee may recommend and the council may choose to make the requested naming for a defined period of time, at the conclusion of which the committee will review the status of such naming to ensure it continues to meet the city’s criteria and make a recommendation to the city council to extend or terminate the naming of the city-owned or –controlled property.
- 11) The committee may recommend or the city council may vote to rescind, change, alter or modify any naming made under this policy for legal or other reasons that might arise subsequent to a naming vote.

- 12) The naming of any structure, street, alley, bridge, park or other city-owned or –controlled property shall not be considered permanent and the committee and/or city council may consider renaming such property within the established criteria.
- 13) The Dickson City Council has final authority on the naming of any city-owned or city-controlled property subject to the laws of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America.