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THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Council asks ICE, National Guard to leave

Annie Goldman
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

The Memphis City Council on Oct. 20 passed a resolution calling for U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement and the Tennessee National Guard to leave Memphis. The Guard and ICE have been involved in Memphis Safe Task Force operations for the past year.

The resolution, which passed with 9 yes votes and one member abstaining, was originally brought to the body by Council members Yolanda Cooper-Sutton and Michalyn Easter-Thomas. The

resolution has no legal power, but simply reflects the wishes of the elected officials.

In an Oct. 6 committee meeting, Easter-Thomas said the resolution comes following a recent ICE raid in which 121 people were detained at a bar in Berclair, and around the one-year mark of the Memphis Safe Task Force’s presence in Memphis.

“The city in the last 12 months has seen nothing but strife, issues, raids, killings since we’ve had them in our city...” she said. “It’s just about time that we’re able to take control of our city back from federally mandated state and

federal occupation.”

Easter-Thomas called on the City to partner with residents and community-based organizations to develop sustainable public safety initiatives, but did not elaborate with specifics.

Councilman JB Smiley Jr. and Councilwoman Jerri Green pledged their support before the Oct. 20 vote, and Warren called voting in support of the resolution a “no-brainer.” A handful of people gave public comment pushing for the item, and a visible majority of the audience expressed support.

Two people were escorted out of the meeting after shouting from the audi-

ence during discussion of the resolution.

But some Council members pushed back.

Councilman J. Ford Canale said the City must uphold the law, and since the Council doesn’t have the authority to remove the agencies from Memphis, he doesn’t want to give people false hope.

“We can have a heart for those that get torn away from their families, while also standing with law enforcement and upholding the rule of law,” he said in the committee meeting.

See RESOLUTION, Page 3A



Attendees hold up signs or put their thumbs down to signal their opposition to comments being made regarding data centers Oct. 20 during a Memphis City Council meeting in City Hall. CHRIS DAY/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Data center moratorium fails with City Council tie vote

Annie Goldman and Jack Armstrong
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Memphis City Council declined to pass a moratorium on data center development in Memphis after a vote resulted in a 6-6 tie during an Oct. 20 meeting.

Councilwoman Yolanda Cooper-Sutton was not present for the vote.

Members of the crowd broke into protest after the vote, as the meeting hit its five-hour mark. The Council did pass an ordinance regulating data centers, but its contents were not immediately clear. A mid-meeting substitution made it so that members of the public — and some Council members — did not know what they were voting on.

“Councilmembers were trying to read the ordinance on the spot,” Councilman JB Smiley Jr. said after the meeting.

Councilmembers left immediately after the vote, and it wasn’t immediately clear what the next steps are for data center regulation.

Earlier in the meeting, Councilman

Jeff Warren made a motion to hold the moratorium until the next meeting but didn’t have the rest of the Council’s support.

The vote followed a lengthy Oct. 20 meeting that included impassioned public comment from the audience. Council members had six data center-related items on the agenda, and the re-ordering of the ordinances and a last-minute substitution made the meeting difficult to follow.

The Oct. 20 meeting came two weeks after a tumultuous Oct. 6 City Council meeting made national headlines. Protests erupted after the Council voted to punt a vote on the data center moratorium at that meeting, and the meeting was abruptly gavelled into a recess.

The Council issued a handful of bans for “disruptive behavior,” and a legal battle ensued.

Nearly 40 people gave public comment on the moratorium during the Oct. 20 meeting. Many speakers told Council they were not following the wishes of the people and were putting residents at risk by letting the vote drag out.

Several speakers said Council members’ stances on this moratorium could kill their chance at reelection. As one speaker put it: “If you vote ‘no,’ you gotta go.”

At least two people were escorted out of the meeting after shouting from the audience during discussion of a resolution calling for the removal of the National Guard and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from Memphis. That resolution passed 9-1.

Council moves forward with other data center policies

Crowd members, packed into the Council chambers, held up signs as Council discussed ordinances related to the regulation of data centers.

Council advanced two ordinances related to data center development — one which updates zoning codes relative to data centers and a second which adopts a land-use framework for data centers and other “resource-intensive uses.”

See MORATORIUM, Page 2A

ITT Goulds Pumps manufacturer to open plant

Corey Davis
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A global pump manufacturer has plans to expand in Tennessee by opening a multimillion-dollar facility in Memphis.

New York-based IIT Goulds Pumps is looking to establish its first footprint in the state with plans to invest \$31 million and create 57 new manufacturing and distribution jobs in Shelby County, according to a Greater Memphis Chamber news release.

ITT Goulds Pumps plans to occupy a facility at 5633 Mineral Wells Road, which will help the company expands its distribution, advanced warehousing and inventory management capabilities to serve major industrial, energy and water markets nationwide.

ITT Goulds Pumps currently operates a Memphis area facility at 8890 Commerce Dr., Southaven, MS. ITT Goulds Pumps chose Memphis to accommodate surging customer demand across North America, a Greater Memphis Chamber news release said.

“Memphis is winning because our strategic advantages, world-class logistics infrastructure, and skilled industrial workforce are unmatched,” Duncan Williams, interim president and CEO of the Greater Memphis Chamber said in a release.

“When a global industrial powerhouse like ITT Goulds Pumps chooses to bring \$31 million and high-quality advanced manufacturing jobs to Shelby County, it signals clear market confidence in our region’s momentum. We are proud to welcome ITT Goulds Pumps to the Digital Delta and stand ready to support their long-term growth as they build their future here.”

ITT Goulds Pumps — which was founded in 1848 — is part of ITT Inc.’s Flow Technologies segment, bringing nearly two centuries of industrial innovation to the Memphis market. The company is touted as widely recognized and a respected brand in the global pump industry, while serving customers in the energy, mining, power, chemical, pulp and paper, water and wastewater and general industrial markets.

ITT Goulds Pumps is also an industry leader in both mechanical pump design and the adoption of smart technologies.

