

Owner's Responsibilities

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: MTAS-1465

First on the list of responsibilities for the owner is to define what is needed, what is wanted, and what is affordable. In order to better define the project, professional help may be needed; securing professional assistance will be an early task. Matching needs and wants to the available resources is always of major importance in construction. As part of the discussions with the various partners in the project, there must be an understanding about the meaning of quality. Without general agreement initially about what is acceptable in materials, safety, inspection, construction practices, time schedules, clean-up, disruption of services, and differing site conditions, there is potential for major disagreement. Just as you would monitor a home construction project, you should monitor a utility construction project to see that your interests are being met and that your money is being spent wisely. All of this owner involvement may take a significant amount of time, effort and expense, but it will be well worth the investment.

There are two general questions that can be used to guide this process:

- Are we doing the right project?
- Are we doing the project right?

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

Source URL (retrieved on 09/22/2019 - 8:54pm): <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/owners-responsibilities>