



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY

Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting

November 09, 2021 6:00 PM

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Allen called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Steve Allen

Vice Mayor Daniel Anderson

Councilman Tim Adkins

Councilman Gerald Greer

Councilman Roger Jackson

Councilman Chris Kerrigan

Councilman JT Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the agenda. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 21, 2021 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes
2. October 12, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the September 21, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes and the October 12, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kay Meek - Ms. Meek stated that she was here to talk about the Meals on Wheels program. She stated that she had e-mails from some of the Council members that were interested in what happened with the program. She presented the council with a petition and copies of all health inspections. Ms. Meek stated that they were never told about this and that it was the Mayor's and Ms. Melissa Womack's decision to remove the program from the center. She stated that they would like to know why it was removed and why the seniors cannot eat at the center anymore. Ms. Meek stated that the seniors are not able to get their meals at the church and their health is declining from not being able to socialize. She stated that the center is not the same as it was and people are not congregating. Ms. Meek stated she would like it to be investigated.

Ruby Johns - Ms. Johns stated that she has been associated with the Center and Meals on Wheels since the late '80s and there has never been a problem until last year. She stated that she knows COVID shut everything down but when it opened back up the director came in and moved the stove and refrigerator out and found dirt. Ms. Johns stated that is why they put the program out, but the kitchen was never dirty. She stated that she came to the center every day to eat and now she has nowhere to go. She stated that she would like them to see to it that it gets brought back so they have something to do.

Carrie Reed - Ms. Reed stated she is a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, and she does not represent them or MidCumberland. She stated that she wanted to let the Council know that it is true that the seniors are declining since they no longer have anywhere to go. Ms. Reed stated that she was at the center when the program was there and the people in that kitchen were working their tails off. She presented the council with suggestions to reinstate the program at the center and stated it would give them an idea of what is needed to be done to get it back. Ms. Reed stated that they do not understand why it was put out and they would appreciate anything the council could do.

At this time, Mayor Allen asked Councilman Tim Adkins to lead the pledge and prayer.

REPORTS

3. City Attorney

At this time, Ms. Jennifer Noe called for an Attorney-Client meeting and all members of the council exited the room. The time was 6:13 p.m.

The meeting resumed with all council members present at 6:34 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Soccer Club Proposal

Mr. Sampson stated that Mr. Saeid Kiani was here to speak on behalf of the soccer club proposal since the Council asked him to return for this month's meeting. Mr. Kiani stated that the last time he was here he spoke about long-term plans which would be to create an opportunity like Seigel Park in Rutherford County. He stated that Ashland City is in a great position geographically to have a facility like that and that it would bring a great economic impact here. He stated that short term plans would be for the City to agree to a cooperative use agreement for Riverbluff Park. Mr. Kiani stated that they would like the opportunity to utilize the facility more, make improvements, and have more activities. He stated that they would like to bring a women's soccer team to the area as well. Mr. Kiani stated that he wants Ashland City to consider beginning the process here at Riverbluff Park for the time being as a stepping stone to future plans. Vice Mayor Anderson stated that something would need to be worked out with the Cheatham County Soccer Association.

5. Catfish on the Cumberland Request (Chamber of Commerce)

Ms. Misty Keenan presented the council with some information sheets and stated that Catfish in the Cumberland came out of the Tourism Committee to look for opportunities that would create a retail event that would draw people within a two-hour radius around Cheatham County. She stated that it is a two-event combo with a catfish tournament in the morning and then a concert in the evening. Ms. Keenan stated that they are looking at some larger name bands to draw in a larger crowd. Councilman Kerrigan stated that there was a concern about shutting down the park. Ms. Keenan stated that it is a ticketed event so she would like to close the entire park. Ms. Sherry Ehrenberg stated that she looks at it as a way to benefit the Town but looking at the big picture it is going to benefit Cheatham County. She stated it will attract hundreds to thousands of people and can be an annual event which creates exposure and revenue. Ms. Ehrenberg stated Ashland City is an ideal place to host this type of event. She stated that it will have a return on investment and businesses will see an increase in patrons. Ms. Ehrenberg stated that this will be a family fun event and it will be a great contribution. Councilman Adkins asked about maintenance and security and if that is something that the chamber would provide. Ms. Keenan stated these are conversations they have not had yet because they wanted to know that the council was interested before wasting too much time. Councilman Adkins asked how much this would cost. Ms. Keenan stated they are looking at around \$35.00 to \$45.00 per person. After much discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Greer, to move forward with the event and work out the details. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

6. Dog Park Update

Mr. Sampson stated that he wanted to give an update. He stated that the fencing is supposed to go in this month and they are planning for a grand opening in December.

7. Canoe/Kayak Access Structure Update

Mr. Sampson stated that Ms. Patty Schultz came before Council a few months back for approval to install this and she is waiting on a response from the core to move forward.

8. Ordinance: Budget Amendment #3 (GNRC)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE 21/22 FISCAL YEAR. Ms. Martin stated that this was the second and

final reading and it would increase the expense amount by \$30,835.00 for the GNRC grant. A

motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, Seconded by Councilman Adkins. Voting Yea:

Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Redistricting Wards Discussion

Ms. Pam Frejosky stated that she was there on behalf of the Election Commission. She stated that they are in the middle of redistricting the County and the Comptroller is assisting with that. Ms. Frejosky stated that the redistricting is done every 10 years and the City is not required to act, but the City is currently out of balance due to growth. She stated that once it is complete they will need to send new voter registration cards to all citizens that are affected. Most of the expense will be on the County if done this way. Mr. John Thomas on behalf of the Comptroller's office presented maps to the council. He stated that the district needs to be under 10% in deviation and currently, district 2 is over by 6.7%, and district 3 is short by 7.63%. Mr. Thomas presented 2 options to the Council. A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Greer, to choose option 1. All approved by voice vote.

10. Speed Limits

Chief Ray stated that there needs to be a speed limit set on Smith Street and Spring Street. He stated that there is currently not a speed limit posted and they have received several complaints from residents about people speeding through there to avoid traffic. Chief Ray stated that he felt 15 MPH was best. A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Smith, to set the speed limit to 15 MPH on Smith and Spring Street. All approved by voice vote.

11. PT Fire Pay Increase Discussion

Chief Walker stated that he is asking to increase the Part-Time Firefighter pay from \$15.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour but they are not asking for more money. He stated that they are going to use the money they have in their part-time budget. Chief Walker stated that they are having a hard time getting anyone to work and neighboring departments are paying \$18.00 per hour. A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to increase the part-time pay to \$18.00 per hour. Ms. Jennifer Noe stated that a salaried employee does not make that much currently. Chief Walker stated that salaried employees have downtime and work 24 hours a day so, in the long run, their salary is a lot more than what a part-time employee would make. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

12. U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement

Ms. Martin stated that this was an annual agreement for the gage in the Cumberland River that we share with the County. Chief Walker stated that they had raised the agreement by a third and they did not budget that much money for it so they had turned it down. He stated they raised it without any warning and did not want to agree if it was still more than last year. A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, seconded by Councilman Jackson, to defer to the next meeting. All approved by voice vote.

13. New Job Description

Ms. Martin stated that this was the new job description for the open building and codes position. She stated that they are having a hard time finding someone qualified so they changed the requirements of the qualifications. She stated that this would allow someone to obtain their certifications while on the job. A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the job description. All approved by voice vote.

14. Repeal Ordinance #389

Ms. Martin stated that this was an Ordinance that established an IT Committee. She stated that it was established because at the time our IT employee was contracted, but now we have an IT department. Ms. Martin stated that they are wanting to repeal this Ordinance and replace it with an IT policy.

At this time, Councilman Jackson excused himself from the meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to repeal Ordinance #389. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

15. Resolution: Updating the Personnel Policy - Section III Leave

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY UPDATING SECTION III. LEAVE OF THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURE MANUAL GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY. Ms. Martin stated that this was to add "Even Years" to Election Day. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson,

seconded by Councilman Greer, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

16. Resolution: Establishing an IT Policy

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE, TO ESTABLISH AN IT POLICY. Ms. Martin stated that this is to establish the IT Policy. She stated that this will change leadership and it will move the IT department under Recorder and away from Fire. A motion was made by Councilman Greer, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

17. Resolution: Updating the Personnel Policy- Section IX Misc Policies

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY UPDATING A PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURE MANUAL GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY DELETING SECTION 9, MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES: USE OF CITY COMPUTERS AND CELL PHONES IN ITS ENTIRETY. Ms. Martin stated that this was to remove this section from the employee manual in its entirety since it is now established in the IT policy. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

18. Resolution: Health Benefits for PT Employees

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES WHO WORK MORE THAN 30 HOURS PER WEEK. Ms. Martin stated that this will set the time frame for part-time employees that work an excess of 30+ hours that have to be offered benefits. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

19. Resolution: Updating the Wage and Salary Policy

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY UPDATING THE WAGE AND SALARY POLICY GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY. Ms. Martin stated that this will add the job title for Building and Codes Official to the payable. A motion was made by Councilman Adkins, seconded by Councilman Greer, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

20. Resolution: Initial Resolution Authorizing Interim New Fire Hall Financing

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCURRENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS BY THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE, OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,560,000, BY THE EXECUTION WITH THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, OF A LOAN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE INTERIM FINANCING FOR THE TOWN'S NEW FIRE HALL AND TO FUND THE INCIDENTAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES RELATED THERETO. Ms. Martin stated that this is required to start the interim financing process for the new fire hall. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

21. Resolution: Authorizing Loan and Loan agreement for New Fire Hall Interim Financing

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN PURSUANT TO A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE, AND THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,560,000; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SUCH LOAN AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SAID LOAN; APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND BY SUCH PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SAID LOAN AND THE PAYMENT OF SUCH INDEBTEDNESS; CONSENTING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE TOWN'S OBLIGATION UNDER SUCH LOAN AGREEMENT; AND, CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS. Ms. Martin stated

that this was required to start the interim loan financing on the new fire hall. A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the Resolution.

Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

22. Ordinance: Budget Amendment #4 (Fire and Police)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO ACCEPT A BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE 21/22 FISCAL YEAR.

Ms. Martin stated that this budget amendment is for a first reading and is for \$1000 for the donation to police for uniforms, \$49,993 for the SAFER grant received for fire, and \$25,000.00 requested from fire for the pole barn that is to be reimbursed. A motion was made by Councilman Adkins, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the budget amendment. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

23. Ordinance: Amend Ordinance 561- Land Use Regulations

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY, TENNESSEE BY DELETING ARTICLE III., SECTION 3.150 STANDARDS PERTAINING TO TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND THE SECTION RESERVED.

Ms. Martin stated that this is for a first reading and it is needed now that we amended section 3.140 of the Zoning Ordinance. She stated that now the 2 sections are conflicting with each other and we need to remove 3.150 in its entirety and leave a placeholder in its section for future use. A motion was made by Councilman Greer, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the amendment. Voting Yea: Mayor Allen, Vice Mayor Anderson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Greer, Councilman Jackson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Smith.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS
EXPENDITURE REQUESTS**

24. Request to Bid: Sewer Rehab

25. Request to Bid: Sewer Treatment Plant

Mr. Biggers asked if the request for sewer rehab and the request for the sewer treatment plant could be voted on together. He stated that this is a request to bid the sewer rehab and the sewer treatment plant. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve both requests. All approved by voice vote.

26. Request to Bid: Mowing Contract

Mr. Sampson stated that this is a request to bid the mowing contract. A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, seconded by Councilman Adkins, to approve the request. All approved by voice vote.

27. Award Bid: Public Works and Police Department Roof Replacement

Mr. Biggers stated that he was requesting to submit the low bid. Councilman Jackson stated that he was concerned about the price difference. Mr. Biggers stated that he spoke to the contractor with the low bid after the opening and the bid was correct. A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Adkins, to reject the bids and start over. All approved by voice vote.

28. Award Bid: Fencing at Tennis Court

Mr. Sampson stated that he was requesting to accept the bid received for \$23,880.00. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to accept the bid. All approved by voice vote.

OTHER

Councilman Tim Adkins thanked all involved with the Trunk or Treat. He stated it was a huge success and he hopes it is something the City could do every year.

Councilman Adkins asked about the Comprehensive plan. Mr. Sampson stated that he is working on it and will have it ready to present in February.

Councilman Adkins asked about the seasonal permit as well. Chief Walker stated that the planning commission is working on it.

Councilman Adkins stated he would like the council to think about possibly moving the city election to align with the county election.

Councilman Jackson asked how much it would cost to feed the seniors at the center. Councilman Adkins asked if it was something we could add to the December workshop. Ms. Noe stated that it was a good idea. A motion was made by Councilman Adkins, seconded by Councilman Greer, to discuss meals at the senior center at the next workshop meeting. All approved by voice vote. Ms. Batts stated that they have been working to get Kathy's Kitchen up and going and it would cost \$5.00 a plate on Mondays and Wednesdays. She stated that she has had several people offer to donate to cover plates for people to eat. Ms. Batts stated that they have 6 tables set up every day for people to come and sit as well.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, seconded by Councilman Greer, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

MAYOR STEVE ALLEN

INTERIM CITY RECORDER ALICIA MARTIN, CMFO