

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2024

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, Bobbie J. Steed, Kim M. Cain, Annette F. Gaither, Tommy Cantrell. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Fire Chief James (Jimmy) Lee, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, and Ray Stansell with Clay Times Journal.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn called roll and deemed a quorum present.

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order, and Council Member Cain gave the invocation.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the previous regular council meeting minutes. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council member Ballard made a motion to approve minutes from special called work session on 03.12.2024. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

1. Speed Breaker Procedure- Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the proposed Speed Breaker Procedure. Mayor Fetner advised we can talk about this procedure more at the next meeting.

2. Cleanup Event- Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed a Cleanup Event for April. Mayor Fetner requested we set a date for the event. Council Member Gaither stated we did the event the week before Earth Day which would be April 15-20, 2024. City Clerk/ Administrator Wynn advised Alabama Power requested information for promoting the event.

3. Clay County Chamber Annual Meeting- April 23, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.- Mayor Fetner advised he has a table and invites the City Council and staff to the event.

4. Spring Auto Swap Meet/Car Corral- May 17-19, 2024.

Council Member Cain made a motion to allow the Spring Auto Swap Meet/Car Corral to take place on city property. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner reported on the new Dollar General location. Mayor Fetner commended citizens for property cleanup.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items including Leads Online agreement which will give the Police Department access to a pawn shop database. Chief Stanford also reported that he was selected for a Fellowship for new policing policies. Chief Stanford advised it will require travel to Chicago and London.

Fire Chief Lee reported on calls received since the last council meeting, recent training, participation in a rib cookoff, and the Easter Event scheduled for March 23, 2024 and the Jr. Firefighters program.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson gave an update on CDL training for employees of the Maintenance Department. Supervisor Lee also gave an update on tree removal and plumbing issues at City Hall.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

New Business:

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$18,906.23. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the annual renewal of Intuit QuickBooks Software at a total cost of \$1,699.00. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay the Law Office of Gregory Varner P.C. \$2,701.00 for February attorney fees. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn explained the uses for Opioid Funds received from a recent lawsuit. Clerk Wynn explained the formula on how much of the funds can be used for the Mental Health Liaison position.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve using Opioid Funds to fund a percentage of the Mental Health Liaison position's salary/benefits. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Senior Center Director Jeanette Johnson a two-step evaluation-based raise to Range 10 Step 8 effective March 15, 2024. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to give Police Chief Joseph Stanford a two-step evaluation-based raise to Range 22 Step 9 effective March 15, 2024. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving the Leads Online Agreement with Ashland Police Department, Clay County Sherriff's Office, Lineville Police Department, and the Clay County District Attorney's Office with the City of Ashland to pay \$1,500.00 for the first year of the contract. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous. Chief Stanford advised the city will pay upfront and invoice the other entities.

Old Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to hire Stanford Simmons as a Temporary Part-Time Laborer for the Parks and Recreation Department at a pay of Range 8 Step 5 effective March 19, 2024, through October 31, 2024. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

There being no further business, Council Member Cantrell made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor

Attest