

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 07, 2022

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 07, 2022 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, and Tommy Cantrell. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, Chris Elliott, Tony Jones, Tiffany Young, Chris Jackson, Sam Brereton, Patsy Sullivan, Daniel Lowe, Dana Travis, and Beth Jackson with the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal.

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

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

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the agenda with the omission of Item Number 9: Approval to purchase two camera trailers from ECAM Secure at GSA pricing of \$62,370.44 to be reimbursed by RVCRI Grant, and Item Number 11: Approval for Chief Joseph Stanford to attend Problem Oriented Policing Conference in Ann Arbor, MI, pay travel expenses, and be reimbursed by RVCRI Grant. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Informational:

1. Arts League- Tony Jones addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning “Winter Nights Under the Lights” event in December. Mr. Jones explained the Arts League does Summer Sizzle in July in Lineville, he explained in 2021 the Arts League hosted an event at the Ashland City Park that was a success. Mr. Jones advised he would like to see a scaled down version of Summer Sizzle in December at the Ashland City Park. Mr. Jones advised the event would be at no cost to the city. All Council Members agreed to allow the Arts League to host the event at the City Park every Thursday in December.

2. Ballfield Back Stops and Fields. Park and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward explained the quote was for Williamson and the T-Ball field. Mr. Ward advised the back stops would make everything look uniform and could potentially increase participation in the Youth Sports Program.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving for Hurst Construction to build back stops at Williamson Field and the T-Ball Field at an estimated cost of \$15,739.05. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Tiffany Young and Board Members with Clay County Chamber of Commerce addressed the Mayor and City Council with an overview of all committees, organizations, and programs the Chamber of Commerce is involved with. Mrs. Young gave an overview of upcoming events including the Clay County Fair, Tiger Flight Program, Oldies Under the Stars, and Auction held in the Fall. Mrs. Young explained both the Fair and the Auction is held in Ashland which brings in tax dollars.

4. Hazard Mitigation Grant (Storm Shelter Grant) 25% match. City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn addressed the Mayor and Council concerning opportunities for a Storm Shelter Grant. Clerk Wynn advised she needed an idea of where the Council would like to place the storm shelters before she applies for the grant. Council Members discussed potential locations for the storm shelters.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving the city apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant with a potential 25% match for Hazard Mitigation Grants (Storm Shelter) if awarded. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

5. Fuel Pumps- AGL

Mayor Fetner and Chief Stanford explained an issue with the card holder at the fuel pumps owned by AGL, which required a new card holder to be purchased. Mayor Fetner discussed the cost of installing the card holder.

Chief Stanford explained an option to get a government fleet card which can be used at 95% of all gas stations in the United States. Chief Stanford advised the same taxes would be removed as they currently are through AGL. Chief Stanford explained the fleet cards would be at market price the day of purchase less the taxes. Chief Stanford advised whatever the city decides to do, there needs to be a contingency plan in the event the fuel pumps at AGL aren't working.

Mayor Fetner expressed his opinion on the subject by stating he believes the city should help AGL with the fuel system card holder cost, and go ahead and get around 3 fleet cards in the event the pumps are out.

Council Members expressed concerns and asked questions about the cost of the fuel system card holder. All Council Member agreed to continue with AGL and get fleet cards for backup.

6. League of Municipalities Annual Convention- May 11-14, 2022 (Tuscaloosa)

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving for 6 Representatives from the City of Ashland to attend the Annual League of Municipalities Convention on May 11-14, 2022, pay all registration and travel expenses. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

7. Library Windows- Maintenance Supervisor Stinson gave an update on the current windows. Mayor Fetner requested Supervisor Stinson to get a price to replace all windows at the City Library.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner advised the Water Department is applying for a 10-million-dollar grant for the water system in the City through the rescue funds.

Council Member Ballard did not report

Council Member Steed did not report

Council Member Cain thanked employees for helping with the Retirement Celebration for Librarian Tina Nolen, and Maintenance Supervisor Stinson is going to update on the flower beds.

Council Member Gaither reported Hurst Construction did the pre demolition on the Urban Park today, and it will begin soon.

Council Member Cantrell did not report

Police Chief Stanford reported on break-in at the Masonic Lodge and issue at the City Cemetery which has resulted in extra patrols at the cemetery. Chief Stanford reported on a meeting with the Children's Policy Council concerning the mental health crisis in our county. Mayor Fetner asked about putting cameras in the cemetery. Chief Stanford advised there isn't power in the cemetery, but if the Council wants the expense of installing power, then he could look into the cost.

Fire Chief Thompson reported on calls responded to by the Fire Department. Chief Thompson advised the members are currently attending training in Lineville tonight.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on the demolition process at the Urban Park. Supervisor Stinson advised the paving project begins tomorrow (Tuesday). Supervisor Stinson introduced Mr. Chris Elliott as a potential new hire.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on the Basketball Program.

Court Clerk Robin Catrett reported on agenda items.

City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn did not report.

New Business:

Council Member Cain made a motion approving the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$10,395.49. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Robin Catrett a 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 16 Step 7 effective February 5, 2022. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving a Lease Agreement with Gary Martin. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Court Clerk Robin Catrett and Magistrate Sarah McKemie to attend the 2022 Regional Court Seminar on April 07, 2022, pay registration fees of \$195.00 each, and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Court Clerk Robin Catrett and Magistrate Sarah McKemie to attend a Seminar for Municipal Clerks and Magistrates in Madison, AL on May 6, 2022, pay registration fees of \$150.00 each, and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to hire Chris Elliott as Equipment Operator at a pay of Range 8 Step 5 effective February 8, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to give Library Aide Maria Tibbits a 1-step evaluation-based raise to Range 3 Step 4 effective January 22, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to pay T & T Landscaping \$600.00/day to cut shrubbery and put out pre-emergent for City flower beds. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell advised they think it may take 2 days to complete the project.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approval to extend Dispatcher Natalie McCormick's probation for 90 days. Council member seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Ordinance, Orders, and Other Business:

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

Mayor

Attest