

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 2022

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 16, 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, and Annette F. Gaither. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Librarian Tina Nolen, Mr. Chance Jones with the Clay County EDC, and Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Council Member Cantrell and Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward was absent.

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

Informational:

1. Mayor Fetner introduced Mr. Chance Jones as Representative for the Clay County EDC. Mr. Jones addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning plans for the Clay County Economic Development Council. Mr. Jones advised it is a team sport and he will need a lot of help from the cities, county, and communities.

2. Stringfellow Health Fund Grant Agreement- Splashpad Grant; City Clerk/Administrator advised the city was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,843.75, quite a bit less than the requested \$50,000.00. City Clerk Wynn advised she needs to know what the city would like to do, if they would like to move forward. Mayor Fetner advised this isn't enough to complete the project and there are other projects that are more pressing. All Council Members agreed not to accept the \$9,843.75 grant to allow the city to work on more pressing projects.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain thanked the city for the opportunity to attend the Annual League Convention, and spoke about the Retail Strategies Brokers.

Council Member Gaither reported on complaints about striping on Owens Road. Council Member Gaither advised the county hired the contractor to complete the work and they hoped they could get it corrected.

Police Chief Stanford reminded the Mayor and Council of the Exchange Club's Law Day at noon this Thursday and everyone is invited. Chief Stanford also reported the Police Department was awarded a grant from Stringfellow for a Mental Health Liaison, and he will be working with other agencies to implement a plan. Chief Stanford reported on new hires, and agenda items including Item Number 8, Chief explained if the changes are not approved the money will not be spent. Chief Stanford also reported on the resignation of Phillip Bickers. Chief Stanford also reported Item Number 2 should be a Tahoe. Chief Stanford answered questions concerning the purchase of the 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe. Chief Stanford advised if we approve the purchase of the 2023 Tahoe tonight, we are putting our name on the item, but we are not locked into purchasing the item.

Fire Chief Thompson reported on an upcoming yearly training schedule. Chief Thompson reported on new members that will mainly be day time volunteers.

Librarian Tina Nolen advised they appreciate all the repairs going on at the library. Librarian Nolen reported on Summer Reading, and the ongoing installation of the pollinator garden. Librarian Nolen also reported on a stage at the pollinator garden, which is a budgeted item. Librarian Nolen advised she believes they can get it done within the budget. Librarian Nolen also advised Alta Point will be at the library this Wednesday discussing how things you eat affect your mind. Librarian Nolen also reported on the request to hire Allison Linn.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on current projects including right of ways, the City Library repairs, the Wynn Building restroom project, and reported the Rebuild Alabama Project is complete.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

New Business:

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$19,472.32. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to order 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe for Police Department at a total cost of \$34,959.76. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to apply for Nature Sacred Enhancement Grant through Northeast Alabama Community Foundation. (No monetary match, in-kind labor required) Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain explained the grant.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to hire Allison Linn as a Part-Time Library Aide with a starting pay of Range 1 Step 1 effective May 17, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Investigator Shanon House an evaluation-based raise to Range 16 Step 7 effective May 27, 2022. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase 5 CCTV boxes from Vetted Security at a cost of \$27,707.38 (to be reimbursed by RCRVI grant). Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Littleton Electric to provide and install 4 poles for security cameras at a total cost of \$30,000.00. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to enter an agreement and pay Vetted Security \$5,000.00 annually for Automatic License Plate Readers contingent upon approval of grant modification. (if approval reimbursed by RCRVI Grant). Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to accept the resignation of Phillip Bickers from Uncertified Police Officer effective May 10, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders, and Other Business:

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

Mayor

Attest