

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2024

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 19, 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, and 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 the Clay Times Journal.

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

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward was absent.

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

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

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

Informational:

1. Wayfinding Signage- Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed Wayfinding Signage and Locations. Mayor Fetner stated that ALDOT has advised the city cannot put the signage on the buildings on the square. Mayor Fetner also advised we need to place the Welcome Center signs for City Hall. Council Member Cain advised the city needs directional signs for City Park and for the Wynn Building.

2. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed plans for Pavilion Drainage and picnic tables at the city park. Council Member Cain submitted a drawing for the Pavilion Drainage.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the submitted pavilion drainage plan for the city park. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, with all votes unanimous with the exception of Council Member Cantrell who was opposed.

3. Discuss speed breakers behind the Ashland City Library drive. Council Member Gaither advised there are a lot of Senior Citizens that use the drive behind the Library. Council Member Gaither stated that there are a lot of people that are using the drive to avoid the stop sign and driving at a high rate of speed. Council Member Gaither requested speed breakers be placed in the drive. Council Member Gaither requested Supervisor Stinson to look at the area and decide how many speed breakers would be needed for the next Council Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain reported on issues with the lights at the Stringfellow Pocket Park and proposed a new plan to hang the lights using posts instead of trees. Council Member Cain advised she would like the lights to be in place by October 15. Council Member Cain also reported on the Memorial Rocking Chairs. Council Member Cain requested a post be made about purchasing the Memorial Rocking Chairs. Council Member Cain also reported on a request from the Clay County Extension to place “Move More and Drink Water” signage at the city park.

Council Member Gaither reported the city may want to think about placing “No Smoking” signage in the City Park. Mayor Fetner advised he will get the City Attorneys to work on an ordinance. Council Member Gaither reported the bridges at the park have been pressure washed and requested the city to consider replacing the bridges. Council Member Gaither requested the city to consider a plastic wood-looking material to replace the bridges. Council Member Gaither thanked everyone who worked on the Watermelon Festival.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported the “Over the Limit Under Arrest” campaign. Chief Stanford also reported on training recently completed by Investigator House and a request to send Officer Billingsley to complete Firearms Instructor Training.

Fire Chief Lee reported on calls received since the last meeting. Chief Lee also reported on recent events attended by the Fire Department. Chief Lee also reported on recent hose testing and regular agenda items.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on work recently completed by the Maintenance Department. Supervisor Stinson also reported on a drainage issue at Williamson Field and plans to fix the issue.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported it is time to start working on budgets.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$32,133.51. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Edgar and Associates \$4,738.35 for audit field work and monthly compilations. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to send Officer Rashad Billingsley to firearms instructor school in Florence, AL, pay registration fees, and travel expenses. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to reschedule regular council meeting scheduled on September 2, 2024, to September 3, 2024, due to Labor Day Holiday. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to give Code Enforcement Officer Felix Ackles a two-step annual evaluation-based raise to Range 17 Step 3 effective August 17, 2024. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving for Council Members to attend the 2024 ALM Municipal Leadership Conference on October 30, 2024- November 1, 2024, pay registration (\$350/each), accommodations (\$135/night), and travel expenses. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay ESO \$1,294.12 for software updates and upgrades for Ashland Fire Department. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to give Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward a one-step annual evaluation-based raise to Range 16 Step 7 effective August 3, 2024. The motion died for lack of a second.

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

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

Mayor

Attest