

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 4, 2024

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 4, 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, Assistant Police Chief Shanon House, Fire Chief James "Jimmy" Lee, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, 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 Ballard made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Informational:

1. Rezone Request recommended by Planning Commission- Public Hearing set for April 1, 2024. Council Member Gaither made a motion to set a public hearing for April 1, 2024 to hear public comments regarding the request for rezone. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

2. Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Campaign- Assistant City Clerk Robin Catrett explained the Clay County Exchange Club will be doing a Child Abuse Prevention Campaign during the month of April in Ashland and Lineville. The Exchange Club would like to place 12-14 inch pinwheels around town and at Ashland City Hall. They will also have signs with a slogan for the campaign. The club will place and remove the pinwheels and signs.

Council Member Cain made a motion to allow the Clay County Exchange Club to place pinwheels and signage for Child Abuse Prevention at City Hall, planters on the square, and Ashland City Library for the month of April. Council Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Setup meeting with Bob Cole for Urban Park Design- Mayor Fetner discussed a date for a meeting.

4. Watermelon Festival Meeting- March 7, 2024, 2 P.M.

5. Concrete pad next to City Hall for table area- Mayor Fetner stated that after speaking to the Council and an Architect, it has been recommended to make a design that will be permanent. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed options and directed Maintenance Supervisor Stinson to come up with a price on pouring a larger concrete pad for tables and other uses.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain reported that April is the month of the Cleanup Weekend. Council Member Cain also reported on Clay County Pickleball Facebook page.

Council Member Gaither gave an update on the EV Charging Station.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Assistant Police Chief/Investigator House reported on new hires at the Police Department, and the new mobile command center. Assistant Chief House invited the Council to tour the command center and stated that the exterior will be wrapped.

Fire Chief Lee reported on calls received since the last meeting and recent control burns. Chief Lee reported on upcoming classes and advised the Fire Department will be serving breakfast at Ashland Elementary School on March 7. Chief Lee also reported on the Easter Egg Hunt.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on CDL training for Sawyer Spratlin and himself. Supervisor Stinson also reported on agenda items including repairs to the plumbing at Ashland City Hall.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on the upcoming baseball/softball season. Director Ward advised there is a total of 82 signed up. Director Ward also reported on a plan for Westside Ballfield and fencing for the tennis courts at Ashland City Park.

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 \$9,603.31. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay the Law Office of Gregory Varner \$7,184.00 for January legal fees. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to table hiring Stanford Simmons for more discussion. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous with the exception of Council Member Cantrell who voted "No" on tabling the item.

Mayor Fetner reported, in the past, the city has rehired a seasonal part-time employee based on the recommendation of the Supervisor.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving the voting delegates for Alabama League of Municipalities annual conference Voting Delegate Mayor Larry J. Fetner, 1st Alternate Voting Delegate Annette Gaither, 2nd Alternate Voting Delegate Dianne Ballard. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to hire Jana Bland as Van Driver for the Senior Center at a pay of Range 6 Step 1 effective March 5, 2024. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor Fetner thanked Council Member Gaither for filling in at the Senior Center.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to give Librarian Tina Nolen at 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 14 Step 8 effective March 2, 2024. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to pay John Hearn Plumbing \$7,570.50 for sewage pump to repair toilet at City Hall. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to pay John Hearn Plumbing \$2,317.50 for replacing cast iron pipe with PVC at City Hall. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

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

Mayor

Attest