

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 02, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 02, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, Traskey Ford, Jessica Heath, Annette Gaither, and Tommy Cantrell. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chesley Wynn, Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Chance Jones with the EDC, Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal, Missy Riley, Aaron Benefield and family, and Deontre Rowell.

Not present were Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett and Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward.

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

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order, and Traskey Ford 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 the previous regular meeting minutes. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

- 1.) Mayor and Council discussed Clean-Up-Day Update. April 22, 2026 will be the day for roadside clean up. Mayor requested for Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson to reach out to SIFAT about helping. It was also decided to reach out to CCCA and FACS about helping as well.
- 2.) Pam Kemp with Second Saturday was not present but she had requested that Ashland Fire Department provide food for the event. It was discussed that the Fire Department would not be able to provide the food but that a list of food trucks with their contact numbers could be provided.
- 3.) Missy Riley requested the fee waived for rental of the Wynn Building on March 19, 2026 for two meetings for Suicide Awareness. She advised they will have one meeting at lunch and one meeting in the evening on that day.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to waive the rental fee of the Wynn Building on March 19, 2026 for the Suicide Awareness meeting. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

- 4.) Chance Jones with EDC spoke about Amendment 772. Mayor and Council discussed Amendment 772 and a new business that is requesting to use Amendment 772 for sales tax rebates for a period of 7 years. Mayor advised he will speak with the city attorney and the attorney with Alabama League of Municipalities. Mayor and Council agreed they needed time to look into the request more.

Committee Reports:

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford did not report.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported that Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward went to Montevallo and picked up the Liberty Tree and Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson will be planting it. The work on the walkways onto the bridges in the City Park has been completed.

Council Member Cantrell reported that Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward advised that the 12U and 10U Basketball teams won their respective Basketball Championships and that the 8U team came in 2nd place. Council Member Cantrell also advised that there has been 112 kids sign up for Baseball/Softball this year.

Police Chief Stanford reported on officers on the agenda to be hired and introduced the candidates to the Mayor and Council.

Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters did not report.

City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn reported that Mayor will be signing a proclamation for Central High School of Clay County regarding the Alabama 250 celebration on March 03, 2026 at 3:30 at City Hall if the council would like to attend for a picture.

Fire Chief Nelson reported that pump test maintenance will be done on the fire trucks and that three trucks will be taken to Williams Fire for routine maintenance work. He also reported that the Fire Department has responded to several brush fires.

Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson reported that the Maintenance Department should be starting to cut grass in the next week or two.

Mayor Fetner reported that he met with ALDOT and that the County will be doing the work on the side of Hwy 9 at the Industrial Park. Mayor Fetner also reported that Ingram Construction is currently doing work for the County right now but should be finishing up soon and starting work for the City.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$9,004.8. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve to pay Fincher Fence \$7,847.00 for fencing at the food truck park. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve for District Attorney Joe Fiquette to install security doors and cameras at the Old City Hall Building at no expense to the City. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to hire Aaron Benefield as a Certified Police Officer at Range 16 Step 2 effective March 16, 2026. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to hire Deontre Rowell as a Provisional Police Officer at Range 14 Step 1 effective March 16, 2026. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to hire two part-time laborers from previous applicants/employment—Stanford Simmons and Troy Buchanan in March and give them a pay raise to \$14.00 per hour. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to open and advertise to hire for one part-time laborer. Council Member Ford 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