

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 19, 2020

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on October 19, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Billy J. Smith, 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, Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Municipal Judge Megan Miller Yates, Ms. Caitlyn Glenn, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order, and Council Member Billy J. Smith gave the invocation.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of Informational Item 8: Auction- Street Sweeper, Regular Meeting Items Number 8: Approval to pay East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission \$306.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter dues, Item Number 9: Approval to terminate James T. Mastin from his position of Police Officer as he is a probationary employee, Item Number 10: Approval to give Maintenance Equipment Operator Jeston Jennings a two-step evaluation-based raise to Range 8 Step 7, Item Number 11: Approval to purchase 6 tires for the Fire Department Rescue Truck from Tire Hub LLC. at a total cost of \$1,702.02 (paid from Fire Department Tax Fund), Item Number 12: Approval to purchase a wheel for the Fire Department Rescue Truck from Long Lewis Ford at a cost of \$372.49 (paid from Fire Department Tax Fund), Item Number 13: Approval to pay Daniel Tucker \$264.40 for damage caused to vehicle by Maintenance Equipment, Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders and Other Business Item Number 1: First Reading of Ordinance Number 2020-10-19-01. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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

Informational:

1. Set Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Consideration: Mayor and Council discussed in Planning Meeting to allow new City Attorney to review the Ordinance before going forward.
2. Christmas Dinner Update: City Clerk/Administrator Wynn advised we are exploring other options and will update later.
3. Municipal Judge Megan Miller Yates addressed the City Council. Judge Yates thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to come and speak, and for allowing her to be the Municipal Judge for the past 7 years. Judge Yates explained her practice merged with another law firm and since the merger she has become increasingly busy. Judge Yates advised she has made the tough decision to no seek reappointment as the Municipal Judge for the City of Ashland to allow her more time to focus on her family and her private practice. Judge Yates advised the Court Staff and all Officials of the Municipal Court do an outstanding job, and if her services are ever needed, she would be happy to assist. Judge Yates also advised she would be available to ensure a smooth transition to the incoming Court Officials.
4. Discuss Future Planning Meetings (as needed or standing meetings): Mayor Fetner and Council Members decided to not have a standing planning meeting. If a planning meeting is needed it will be a called meeting. Mayor Fetner advised the City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn to ensure the Organizational Meeting/ Rules of Procedure reflect this change.

## Informational:

5. Discuss date for Volunteer Day for Christmas Decorating: Mayor Fetner, Council Members, and Maintenance Supervisor Robinson discussed a date for the Volunteer Day. Volunteer Day will be November 19, 2020.
6. Kim Cain, Sunday on the Square: Council Member Cain advised the Merchants on the Square will be hosting a Christmas Open House on November 8, 2020. Council Member Cain requested approval from the Mayor and Council to have the event, and asked to use city tables, and left-over hand sanitizer for the event. Council Member Cain requested the North Side of the Square be closed for the event. All Council Members agreed.
7. Update on Organizational Meeting and Swearing-In Ceremony: Mayor Fetner advised the Swearing-In Ceremony will be at 9:00 A.M. on November 2, 2020 at Ashland City Park. The Organizational Meeting will follow at Ashland City Hall at 10:15 A.M.
8. Auction- Street Sweeper: Maintenance Supervisor Robinson explained the need for a Street Sweeper, and also explained he had budgeted \$25,000.00 for the purchase of a Street Sweeper. Supervisor Robinson explained there is an upcoming auction that has a sweeper that may fit what we need. Supervisor Robinson also explained he had been in contact with Lineville Maintenance Supervisor Rusty Taylor, and he has expressed Lineville is also interested in a street sweeper. If both cities combined resources a street sweeper could be purchased together. Supervisor Robinson explained he would like permission to attend the auction with Lineville's Maintenance Supervisor and also requested approval to bid up to \$25,000.00 on behalf of the City of Ashland.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson to get with the City of Lineville and to bid up to \$25,000.00 on behalf of the City of Ashland for the purchase of a street sweeper. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

## Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Smith advised he has enjoyed working with everyone.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported on the Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Ashland Senior Center on October 23, 2020 at Ashland Wynn Building for \$5.00 per plate.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett thanked Judge Yates for serving as the Municipal Judge and advised it has been great working with her. Clerk Catrett also expressed the need for video equipment for the Municipal Court to ensure the incoming Judge and Court Staff could conduct hearings with defendants who are jailed.

Fire Chief Thompson discussed agenda items including damage to the Rescue Truck and the need for tires and a wheel.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items by explaining his recommendation for Item Number 6 would be Jennifer Parker with a start date of October 17, 2020 under the City Council's Covid-19 Resolution. Chief Stanford also explained Item Number 9 by stating the Officer did not meet the standards of a Police Officer for the City of Ashland, and he was still a probationary employee.

Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson advised his department has been very busy. Supervisor Robinson explained agenda Item Number 4 stating concrete was poured in four locations, which had the Maintenance Staff stretched thin. Supervisor Robinson explained Item Number 13 is a window that was damaged by debris from the Side Arm Cutter. Supervisor Robinson also gave an update on the CDBG project which will need to go to bid due to the County Bid not going through.

New Business:

Council Member Smith made a motion to pay the bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$7,020.99. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving for Ashland Municipal Court to purchase equipment and pay labor for installation of video conference equipment at Ashland City Hall and Ashland Wynn Building Court Room at an estimated cost of \$2,000.00. (paid from court account). Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither advised this video equipment will also aide in safety for all personnel involved in transporting inmates for hearings. Court Clerk Robin Catrett advised the equipment will not be left in the court room when court is not in session.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Alabama Law Enforcement Agency \$1,650.00 for LET'S Access and SNAP Entry. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Brown's Concrete & Construction, Inc. a total of \$640.00 for 4 ¼ yards of concrete with 1 yard (\$120.00) paid from CDBG. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to pay Clay County Historical Society annual appropriation of \$1,500.00. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to hire Jennifer Parker for dispatcher, effective October 17, 2020 with recommended starting pay of Range 6 Step 1. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Smith made a motion approving to promote Officer Cecil Chappell to temporary full-time effective 10-16-2020 - 04-16-2021 at current rate of pay. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission \$306.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Dues. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to terminate James T. Mastin from his position of Police Officer as he is a probationary employee. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to give Maintenance Equipment Operator Jeston Jennings a two-step evaluation-based raise to Range 8 Step 7. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to purchase 6 tires for the Fire Department Rescue Truck from Tire Hub, LLC. at a total cost of \$1,702.02 (paid from Fire Department Tax Fund). Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase a wheel for the Fire Department Rescue Truck from Long Lewis Ford at a cost of \$372.49 (paid from Fire Department Tax Fund). Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Daniel Tucker \$264.40 for damage caused to vehicle by Maintenance Equipment. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders, and More:

Ordinance Number 2020-10-19-01 was presented for the first reading.

There begin no further business Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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Mayor

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Attest