ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 15, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 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 Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Amy Morris, Kevin Baker, Brandy Haynes, Crystal MaGuire, David Davis, and Tammy Andrews 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 Heath gave the invocation.

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

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

Informational:

1. Brandy Haynes with Clay County Chamber of Commerce introduced Crystal MaGuire as the new Executive Director the Chamber. Director MaGuire updated the Mayor and City Council on upcoming events hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

2. David Davis requested to host a tent revival in Ashland City Park on July 9-11, 2026.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve David Davis to host a tent revival at Ashland City Park on July 9-12, 2026. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed hiring someone to check and clean the park bathrooms/empty trash on weekends. Mayor Fetner explained the City of Ashland is experiencing growing pains with the additions to the city park. Council Member Ballard expressed concerns with hiring young people for the job. Ballard stated if the teenagers are not supervised, they aren't going to do the work.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to open and advertise for the position part-time parks and recreation laborer. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous with the exception of Council Member Ballard who was opposed.

4. Update on playground equipment for Ashland City Park. Mayor Fetner advised the city is researching financing for playground equipment and sunshades for the park including applying for an RC&D Grant.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford did not report.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported on Second Saturday on the Square. Council Member Gaither advised we need to work on getting the community to attend.

Mayor Fetner asked if the city will be entering something in the 250 events parade.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items including hiring two Police Officers. Chief Stanford advised the Police Department has been very busy.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on upgrades to the field truck.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on the progress of the headwall on County Road 31.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on ball season including the success of the recent T-Ball tournament.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on upcoming audit field work.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of $24,988.78. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approving to hire 10-12 laborers at $10.00 per hour to assist with preparations for the Watermelon Festival. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Southern Data Automation $1,675.00 for firewall (36months) for Ashland Police Department. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to purchase signage for Ashland City Park from Creekside Signs and Graphics at a total cost of $1,675.00. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to give Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward a 2-step evaluation raise to Range 16 Step 8 effective July 4, 2026. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving Chief Stanford to attend AACOP Summer Conference in Orange Beach, AL, pay for accommodation, and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to hire Certified Officer Tristen Oleson as Patrol Officer for Ashland Police Department effective June 18, 2026, at a rate of $22.53/hr. (police officer pay scale). Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion approving to hire Kevin Baker as Non-Certified Provisional Officer for Ashland Police Department effective June 17, 2026, at a rate of $18.00/hr. (police officer pay scale). Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to give Sawyer Spratlin a 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 17 Step 6 effective June 6, 2026. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to pay $2,000.00 appropriation to Cheaha Regional Library. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinance, and Other Business:

1. Resolution No. 06-15-01-2026: (Act 2026-608: Local Unit Retirees and Beneficiaries of Deceased Retirees)

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve Resolution No. 06-15-01-2026: (Act 2026-608: Local Unit Retirees and Beneficiaries of Deceased Retirees). Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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Mayor

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Attest