

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2020

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on March 16, 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, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson, Librarian Tina Nolen, Senior Center Director Jeanette Johnson, Assistant Police Chief D. Chase Jordan, Fireman/Water Department Maintenance Josh Nelson (17:51), Library Aide Bethany Owens (17:59), Sherry Poe and Karen Triplett with Cheaha Regional Library, Luella Craig, and Keifver Smith 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 Smith gave the invocation.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of Item Number 12: Approval to open and advertise for two-weeks the position of full-time dispatcher., Item Number 13: Approval to replace windshield on Unit 170 (2017 Tahoe) at a total cost of \$259.99 with Safelite Auto Glass., Item Number 14: Approval for Clay Service and Electronics to repair the fan and fan motor on Unit 172 (2012 Dodge Charger) at a total cost of \$440.00. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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

Informational Items:

1. Sherry Poe from Cheaha Regional Library addressed the Council regarding the need for a new Book Mobile. Ms. Poe explained they are currently writing a grant to purchase a new Book Mobile and need matching funds of \$35,000.00. They currently have \$26,000.00 and request the Council to consider giving a donation to Cheaha Regional Library to assist with matching funds.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to donate \$1,000.00 to Cheaha Regional Library to assist with matching funds to purchase a new Book Mobile. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

2. Mayor, Council, and Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson discussed the caution light located at Highway 77 and 2nd Ave South. Supervisor Robinson explained the State DOT has confirmed the caution light can be removed, but the caution light located at Highway 9 and 2nd Ave South needs to be upgraded. Supervisor Robinson explained the cost to upgrade that light will be \$1,000.00, and the State will handle all of the labor.
3. Ms. Luella Craig addressed the Mayor and Council to request permission to utilize Westside Ballfield for a tent revival for two weeks in May of this year. Mayor Fetner advised Ms. Craig to come back to the Council Meeting on April 6, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency and the request from the CDC to limit gatherings.
4. The Mayor, Council, and all City Supervisors discussed a response plan to COVID-19 in the planning meeting.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Smith did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain reported the bench for the Stringfellow pocket park will be delivered Wednesday. Council Member Cain explained the ceremony may be postponed to a later date in response to the COVID-19. Council Member Cain also explained meetings she has recently attended on Economic Development. Council Member Cain also informed the Council she has been asked to be an Ambassador by the RDC.

Council Member Gaither reminded everyone that April 1, 2020 is Census Day and encouraged everyone to be sure to participate. Council Member Gaither suggested the City place an ad in the newspaper encouraging citizens to participate in the Census. Council Member Gaither advised she will be going to the local radio stations to speak about the Census also.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Fire Chief Thompson advised everyone the Fire Department responded to a fire at Ashland Heights on March 9, 2020. Fire Chief Thompson read a letter from the Ashland Housing Authority commending the Fire Department on their response to the structure fire.

Police Chief Stanford advised the Police Department has been very busy, and they are working through issues.

Maintenance Supervisor Robinson reported the flower beds on the square are cleaned out. Supervisor Robinson discussed tree removal on 4th Ave, and drainage problems that will be addressed once the ground has dried enough. Supervisor Robinson discussed a flatbed trailer and truck hitting the red light at the corner of Britches and Bows that has been repaired. Supervisor Robinson also advised phase 1 of the Bull Durham sign is completed.

City Clerk/ Administrator Wynn advised the Mayor and Council of the arrangements for Goodwater Mayor Graham.

Water Department Maintenance Josh Nelson advised the Mayor and Council to please ask citizens not to flush any type of body wipe. Mr. Nelson explained the Water Department purchased \$12,000.00 in sewer pumps, but the body wipes are causing problems with the sewer system.

New Business:

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the bills received since the last council meeting in the amount of \$12,282.67. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion authorizing ALDOT to upgrade caution lights at intersection of Hwy 9 South and 2nd Ave South to LEDs with a maximum expense to the City of \$1,000.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to hire Phillip Stinson as Senior Equipment Operator for the Maintenance Department at a pay of Range 9 Step 5 and a start date of March 30, 2020. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion to give Senior Center Van Driver Kathy Freeman a one-step raise to Range 3 Step 3 and remove from probation effective 03.09.2020. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to purchase radio, equipment, and installation for 2020 Tahoe for the Police Department from Mobile Communications America at a total cost of \$849.50. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase equipment to outfit the 2020 Tahoe for the Police Department from Frontline Outfitters at a total cost of \$7,783.00 (does not include stripe package). Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Police Chief Stanford a 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 18 Step 8 effective March 20, 2020. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Magistrate Sarah McKemie a 1-step evaluation-based raise to Range 7 Step 6 effective March 21, 2020. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to purchase HP EliteDesk 800 G3 Business Mini PC from Amazon for the Police Department at an estimated cost of \$599.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to give Senior Center Manger Jeanette Johnson a 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 7 Step 5 effective March 23, 2020. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Valent Group \$50,470.00 for general insurance annual renewal (4/3/2020-4/3/2020) (decrease of \$1,630.00 for removal of Post Office). Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to open and advertise for two-weeks the position of full-time dispatcher. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to replace windshield on Unit 170 (2017 Tahoe) at a total cost of \$259.99 with Safelite Auto Glass. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Clay Service and Electronics to repair the fan and fan motor on Unit 172 (2012 Dodge Charger) at a total cost of \$440.00. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Mayor

Attest