

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 08, 2020

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on September 08, 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, 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, Melissa Willis and Meaghan Robertson with the Clay County Extension, and Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Council Member Bobbie J. Steed and Fire Chief Brett Thompson were absent.

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order, and Council Member Cain gave the invocation.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item Number 13: Approval to open the position of dispatcher and advertise for two-weeks. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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

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

Informational Items:

1. Mrs. Melissa Willis from the Clay County Extension addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning a possible budget appropriation to the extension office.

2. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed opening the Wynn Building for rentals.

Council Member Cain made a motion to open the Wynn Building for rentals and to work around the restroom renovations. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed opening all city building.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to open all city building and require masks to be worn upon entry. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

4. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the First Responders Dinner. The dinner will be held at Ashland City Park on October 08, 2020.

5. Annette Carter to discuss a Prayer Vigil at Ashland City Park on September 26, 2020 was not present at the meeting.

Informational Items:

6. Mayor Fetner and Council discussed Trunk or Treat. Trunk or Treat will be held October 29, 2020. Police Chief Stanford was given permission to organize event.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Smith did not report.

Council Member Cain reported on an interview with the Susie Stringfellow Foundation concerning the Open Spaces Sacred Places pocket park. Council Member Cain also gave an update from Ashland City Library. Librarian Tina Nolen received a \$1,000.00 grant and purchased items to assist the Library in combating Covid-19.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda item 11. Police Chief Stanford advised the Byrne Jag Grant is a 100% grant with no matching funds, and, if awarded, he would purchase needed equipment for the Police Department.

Maintenance Supervisor Robinson reported on changes next door to City Hall, tree removal for CDBG, grass cutting, and a plan to bush hog before the first frost.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on the progress of direct deposit for payroll, with the first deposit for employees scheduled this week. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn advised she would also be working on a Covid-19 expense reimbursement request this week.

New Business:

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the bills received since the last council meeting in the amount of \$10,630.93. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Ashland Housing Authority \$5,800.00 for labor of Wynn Building bathroom demolition and renovation. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase supplies at an estimated cost of \$20,000 for Wynn Building bathroom renovations. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving the FY 2020-2021 Budget. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to accept Dispatcher Stephanie Smith's resignation effective August 27, 2020. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to purchase a Honda HRX217K6HYA 21inch Push Mower at an estimated cost \$750.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve Adam Otwell to attend Annual Central Alabama Police K9 Training October 26-30 at a cost of \$320.00 in Jefferson County, AL and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to pay Lett's Do Cars \$398.00 for repair of employee vehicle (damaged while parked a Maintenance Shop). Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to give City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn a 2-step evaluation raise to Range 19 Step 8 effective September 7, 2020. Council Member Smith seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to accept the low bid from C M Kerr for demolition of Old Horn Café. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving for Police Chief Joseph Stanford to apply for Byrne JAG grant through the Traffic Safety Division of ADECA. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Virtual Academy Solution Agreement with Virtual Academy, a Division of Savant Learning Systems, Inc. and the Ashland Police Department for virtual training. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Chief Stanford explained cost is \$35.00 per Officer and will allow the Department to get CEU's virtually.

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

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders, and more:

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Resolution No. 09-08-01-2020 Electing to Provide Tier I Retirement Benefits to Tier II Plan Members & Approval of Employer Plan to Increase Tier I Member Contribution Rates. Council Member Cantrell 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.

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Mayor

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Attest