

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 5, 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, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, and Ray Stansell 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 Gaither gave the invocation.

Council Member Gaither 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 Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

1. CMO Training in Birmingham- June 25, 2026- Mayor Fetner advised a headcount is needed.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving registration and travel expenses CMO training on June 25, 2026 for all Council Members. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

2. Update on employee health insurance. - Mayor Fetner gave an update on employee health insurance concerning the next budget.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner reported on adding more Christmas decorations for next season. Mayor Fetner advised those hired will remove the decorations at the park. Mayor Fetner reported on Cleanup Day which will be Earth Day. Mayor Fetner we are going to pursue all schools in the county and SIFAT. Mayor Fetner reported an upcoming meeting with Highway Director Cooper. Mayor Fetner also reported a representative from Alabama Power will be here this Thursday around 1 P.M. to discuss lighting to the Industrial Park and the City Park. Mayor Fetner also reported on an idea to have a grand opening of the splash pad around Memorial Day.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford did not report.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported on Christmas decorations and requests for leaving them up for a longer time. City Clerk Wynn advised there is a heavy cost for the Christmas lights and the fact that it wasn't budgeted to leave them up. Council Members agreed to remove the snowflake lights now and take all other decorations down next week.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford did not report.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on researching the purchase of a pumper truck. Chief Nelson advised the Fire Department is helping the Rescue Squad with lift assist.

Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on the upcoming basketball season and schedule, a sidewalk that is needed for the ADA play equipment. Director Ward presented ideas for the sidewalk for the City Council to make a decision.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported a full staff after the holidays.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$23,943.75. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion approving to pay Municipal Software Group \$1,800.00 for annual software and support for Municipal Court. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay the Law Office of Greg Varner \$4,333.00 for November legal fees. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to pay Williams Fire Apparatus \$2,259.58 for brush truck repair. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to hire Cody Murray as a certified officer with a starting pay of Range 17 Step 2 effective January 15, 2026. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made motion approving to purchase a 2026 Dodge Durango PPV from Stiver Dodge on State Bid for \$51,324.24. Council Member Gaither 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 the meeting. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.