

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 03, 2025

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, Bobbie J. Steed, Kim M. Cain, 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 James “Jimmy” Lee, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, 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 Cain gave the invocation.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Informational Item Number 4. Discuss potential park change order. 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 Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Informational:

1. White Street- big truck traffic- Mayor Fetner advised this is off of Hwy 77 there was a traffic diversion onto White Street due to water lines being repaired. Mayor advised a truck hit a service line. Mayor Fetner advised citizens have asked for a “no big trucks” sign to be placed on the street. Chief Stanford explained two incidents that occurred recently. Council Member Gaither advised she doesn’t believe this is an ongoing issue and asked if we could put a sign that says “low hanging service lines”. Chief Stanford advised he will take a look at what signs are available.

2. Discuss hiring part-time temporary employees for parks and recreation/maintenance. Mayor Fetner advised we usually hire the same individual each year and asked the City Council if they want to advertise the position.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to advertise for a maintenance laborer for 2 weeks. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Discuss Mental Health Liaison Funding- Chief Stanford discussed funding that has been received over the past few years. Chief advised the funding has “dried up”. Chief Stanford advised the plan is to approach the City of Lineville and Clay County to ask if they would appropriate funds in their next budget cycle.

Council Member Cain made a motion for the City of Ashland to fully fund the position temporarily until additional funding is located. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

4. Discuss potential park change order- Mayor Fetner discussed the issue at the park where ground water has been discovered during the dirt work. Mayor Fetner advised of potential plans to repair the issue due to the cost given by the current contractor. Mayor Fetner advised we have discussed the city doing the work, and it has been discussed with the City Attorney, and they have advised we can do the work. Council Member

Cain asked if we know what the water is called? City Clerk/Administrator Wynn advised the water has not been labeled. Clerk Wynn advised we do not need to approve the quote given due to discrepancies. Council Member Cain asked if there was a way to enhance the area and move the road around? Maintenance Supervisor Stinson did not have a definite answer to Council Member Cain's question. Council Members discussed options and concerns.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither thanked the city for allowing the Black History Bowl to take place at the Wynn Building.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on upcoming events including Prom Promise

Fire Chief Lee reported on calls received since the last meeting and events including Prom Promise.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on the completed basketball season, and compliments received by visiting teams. Director Ward also reported on the upcoming baseball season. Director Ward also reported that he had looked into adding volleyball, but do to several obstacles, it would not be an option at this time. Director Ward advised that this fall Ashland Youth Sports will offer flag football.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on work recently completed.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$2,920.30. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to purchase a new pitching mound from BSN Sports at a total cost of \$1,399.99 for Williamson Field. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Empire Pipe and Supply \$4,700.00 for meter/vault for the Ashland City Park. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving payment to the Law Office of Greg Varner \$2,987.50 for January legal fees. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Court Clerk Robin Catrett and Magistrate Robyn Waters to attend 2025 AMCCMA Court Convention in Orange Beach, AL on September 24-27, 2025, pay registration fees, accommodations, and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to give Librarian Tina Nolen a one-step evaluation-based raise to Range 14 Step 9 effective March 1, 2025. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving the lease agreement with Gary Martin for cutting Industrial Park. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

1. Ordinance No. 2025-03-03-01- Smoking Ordinance was presented for the first reading.
2. Resolution No. 03-03-01-2025- CDBG Materials Resolutions (industrial park)

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Resolution No. 03-03-01-2025- CDBG Materials. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Mayor

Attest