

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 02, 2022

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, May 02, 2022 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 (arrived at 5:49 P.M.). Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, City Attorney Spencer Waddell, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Code Enforcement Officer Tony Hubbard, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, Leigh Ann Mask, Patrol Sergeant Adam Otwell, 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 Steed gave the invocation.

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

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

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the previous special called work session minutes. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

1. Public Hearing Zoning Ordinance. (Comments/Concerns, etc.)

Mayor Fetner, City Attorney Spencer Waddell, and Code Enforcement Officer Tony Hubbard gave a synopsis of the Zoning Ordinance and changes to zoning in certain areas. Mayor Fetner opened the floor up to the public for comments and concerns. There were no comments and concerns to address.

2. U. S. Department of Agriculture (Food Safety Division) – Hiring Event 05/10/2022- Request rental fee waived for use of Wynn Building.

Council Member Cain made a motion to waive the Wynn Building rental fee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Division for a hiring event on May 10, 2022. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

3. Law Enforcement Day- May 19, 2022 at noon at the Clay County Farmer's Market.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner reported on an architect for the Urban Park. Council Member Gaither explained the architect advised the City Council to come up with a plan.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported on May Day on May 05, 2022 at the Wynn Building from 8am-12pm. Council Member Gaither also reported on regular meeting items.

Council Member Cantrell had not yet arrived for committee reports.

Police Chief Stanford reported on the resignation of Patrol Sergeant Adam Otwell and retiring K9 Officer Boyd. Chief Stanford also reported on agenda items concerning RVCRI Grant. Chief Stanford reported when the items he is requesting are put into place, it will change the way they are able to solve crimes. Chief Stanford also reported on new hire recommendations for several dispatcher positions, and the termination of a dispatcher that failed to meet expectations of the position. Chief Stanford report on noise complaints and advised he is going to reach out to the City Attorneys for advice on enforcing the noise ordinance.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported the Rebuild Alabama project has been completed, and reported on repairs at the City Library. Supervisor Stinson reported on agenda items.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on the May Day event. Administrator Wynn also reported the league conference is next week May 11-14.

Fire Chief Thompson reported on false alarms for the fire department and gave an update on applying for a grant.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported on the baseball season, which has 2 weeks remaining, and gave an update on tennis court resurfacing quote for repair and basketball goals.

New Business:

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the bills received since the last meeting in the amount of \$13,972.68. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to accept the resignation of Patrol Sergeant Adam Otwell effective May 03, 2022. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Patrol Sergeant Otwell reported to the Mayor and City Council and thanked them for allowing him the opportunity to serve the City of Ashland. Sergeant Otwell thanked Chief Stanford for allowing him to serve under him for the past 8 years.

Council Member Cain made a motion to retire K9 Officer Boyd effective May 03, 2022. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to open and advertise for two weeks a Police Officer position with Ashland Police Department. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to allow East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Grant (LWCF) for senior park equipment with a 50% match. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Clay County Drug Court. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Clay County District Attorney. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Paragon Services USA, LLC. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to purchase security cameras from CDW-G at a total cost of \$8,361.76 (to be reimbursed by RVCRI grant). Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to give Library Aide Madison Morris a 2-step evaluation-based raise to Range 1 Step 6 effective April 16, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to purchase a 3810 Bushhog ROW Cutter through Sourcewell from Huddleston Equipment Sales at a total cost of \$20,186.00. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to hire Leigh Ann Mask as full time Police Dispatcher with starting pay of Range 9 Step 1, effective May 09, 2022. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to dismiss/terminate Natalie McCormick from the position of Police Dispatcher effective May 02, 2022 (probationary employee). Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to hire Kayla Carter as a full time Police Dispatcher with a starting pay of Range 7 Step 1, effective May 04, 2022. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to purchase equipment from FUSUS, and enter into agreement for services at a cost of \$12,099.00, with reoccurring cost of \$5,299.00 every year thereafter. (First three years reimbursed by RVCRI Grant). Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Chief Stanford explained the system will include a monitor that will pullup the cameras in the area of a call when an Officer is dispatched to an area where a camera is located, it will also allow the police department to pull footage from past incidents to help solve crimes that may occur.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to purchase a camera trailer from ECAM Secure for \$33,439.21. (Reimbursed by RVCRI Grant). Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Chief Stanford explained this is the same type camera that has been utilized at the County Fair and the Watermelon Festival. Chief Stanford advised this will give us full camera coverage of any area.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to purchase restroom partitions from Southern Pipe & Supply at an estimated cost of \$4,489.63. Council Members Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to hire Stanford Simmons as a temporary part-time Laborer at a pay of Range 6 Step 1 with a start date of May 03, 2022 and an end date of October 31, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous with the exception of Council Member Ballard who was opposed.

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving Ordinance 2022-04-18-01 Back to School Tax Holiday. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Fetner-Yea

Council Member Ballard-Yea

Council Member Steed-Yea

Council Member Cain-Yea

Council Member Gaither-Yea

Council Member Cantrell-Yea

Ordinance 2022-05-02-01 Zoning Ordinance was presented for a first reading.

Council Member Cain made a motion to suspend the rules to consider Ordinance 2022-05-02-01 Zoning Ordinance on the first reading. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Fetner- Yea

Council Member Ballard- Yea

Council Member Steed- Yea

Council Member Cain- Yea

Council Member Gaither- Yea

Council Member Cantrell- Yea

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Ordinance 2022-05-02-01 Zoning Ordinance. Council Member Cain seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Fetner-Yea

Council Member Ballard-Yea

Council Member Steed-Yea

Council Member Cain-Yea

Council Member Gaither-Yea

Council Member Cantrell-Yea

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

Mayor

Attest