

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2023

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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 F. Gaither, and Tommy Cantrell. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Assistant Police Chief/Investigator Shanon House, Fire Chief James “Jimmy” Lee, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, City Attorney Spencer Waddell, Mr. Donald Harris, and Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn called roll and deemed a quorum present. Police Chief Stanford, and Park & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward were absent.

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

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving the agenda. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving the previous regular meeting minutes. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

1. First Responder’s Dinner (Set Date- 10/17 or 10/24)- Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the date of the First Responder’s Dinner and tentatively set for October 17, 2023.
2. Municipal Leadership Institute- November 8-10, 2023 at Perdido Beach Resort- Mayor Fetner advised we need to know how many Council Members want to go.
3. Reschedule Public Hearing (09/05/2023)- City Clerk/Administrator advised there was a confusion with the local paper concerning advertising; therefore, the advertising process had to start over to comply with publication requirements.
4. Veteran’s Day Celebration (11/9/2023)- Mayor Fetner discussed the Veteran’s Day Celebration.
5. Transportation Plan- Discussed resubmitting the same plan as 2022-2023.
6. Zoning Ordinance regarding Tiny Homes- Attorney Spencer Waddell and Donald Harris discussed the potential rezone of certain property within the City of Ashland.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner reported a virtual meeting with ALDOT on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. Mayor Fetner commended everyone on their work on the Watermelon Festival.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain thanked everyone for the work to complete the Stringfellow area in the City Park and reported on Jr. fire soul group funding through the Community Foundation.

Council Member Gaither reported on issues with the speaker system at the City Park.

Council Member Cantrell reported on soccer signups and the soccer season.

Assistant Police Chief House did not report.

Fire Chief Lee reported on recent calls since the last regular meeting, the Watermelon Festival, and the Clay County Rodeo. Fire Chief Lee also advised the Fire Department is available to help with any storm cleanup.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson thanked everyone for helping with preparations for the Watermelon Festival. Supervisor Stinson also reported on the Robinson Building.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on the 2023-2024 budget.

New Business:

Council Member Cain made a motion approving current bills received since the last meeting in the amount of \$18,120.73. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to give Kathy Freeman an evaluation-based raise to Range 4 Step 9 effective July 22, 2023. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Insite Engineering \$2,885.17 for landscaping architect- park upgrades. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Alabama League of Municipalities membership dues and wait to decide about becoming members of the National League of Cities. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to give Youth Sports/Parks & Recreation Director Raquil Ward and evaluation-based raise to Range 16 Step 6. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Greg Varner and Associates \$4,649.25 for May legal fees. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Greg Varner and Associated \$2,724.00 for June Legal fees. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to accept the resignation of Senior Center Kitchen Aide Sherry Coryell effective September 9, 2023. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to transfer Senior Center Van Driver Kathy Freeman to Senior Center Kitchen Aide effective date TBD. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to open and advertise the position of Senior Center Van Driver. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to reschedule regular council meeting scheduled for September 4, 2023, to September 5, 2023, due to Labor Day Holiday. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to pay the Ashland-Lineville Airport Appropriation of \$2,500.00. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase in-car camera system from 10-8 Video at a cost of \$2,510.00 for Ashland Police Department (2023 Tahoe). Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to hire Felix Ackles as Code Enforcement/Animal Control at Range 17 Step 1, effective August 21, 2023. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to hire Dalton Brown as Part-Time Dispatcher at a pay rate of Range 10 Step 1, effective August 9, 2023. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Chris Smith \$4,550.00 for speakers/sound system in the park. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving W&W quote (\$7528.00-2 units) for a/c units in newly acquired building (Robinson Building) next to City Hall. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolution, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

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