

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2020

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on May 18, 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, 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, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Fire Chief Brett Thompson was absent.

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

Before approving the agenda Mayor Fetner discussed a few items that may need to be added to the agenda.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. Renewal of Certificate of Deposits and whether the City Council would like to move one of the Certificate of Deposits from First State Bank to First Bank of Alabama in an effort to support both establishments: Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed this at length and decided to add the item to the agenda.
2. Having Planning Meetings during the State of Emergency: Mayor and Council discussed and decided to address this at the next regular meeting on June 01, 2020.
3. Airport Appropriations: Mayor Fetner explained the City of Ashland appropriates funds to the Airport each year. Mayor Fetner asked if the Council would like a representative from the Airport to come address the Council concerning the appropriation. Council Members expressed they would like a representative to address them at a later date.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of Item Number 7: Approval for the City of Ashland to withdraw a Certificate of Deposit from First State Bank, and give Mayor Fetner and City Clerk/ Administrator Wynn authority to determine which deposit to withdraw. Item Number 8: Approval to open withdrawn Certificate of Deposit at First Bank of Alabama. Council Member Cain 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.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Smith did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported on an upcoming Chiefs of Police conference in July, 2020. Council Member Gaither explained Chief Stanford will not be able to attend this year. Council Member Gaither expressed she is aware the City of Ashland is trying to be conservative with funds at this time, but advised of the value of sending someone to this training. Council Member Gaither said the cost is usually around \$1200.00 for registration, meals, and lodging. Council Member Gaither advised she would like the Council to consider sending the Assistant Chief, Chase Jordan.

Council Member Cantrell did not report until later in the meeting to advise that Youth Sports All Stars and World Series have been cancelled to allow time for a regular season.

Police Chief Stanford reported on the value of sending someone to the Chiefs of Police conference, and stated if the Council wished to send someone it could be approved at June 01, 2020 meeting. Chief Stanford reported on potential plans for intersections within the City specifically the intersection at 2nd Ave N./2nd St NW. Chief Stanford explained the location of East Central's new building is going to increase traffic. Chief Stanford advised Maintenance Supervisor Robinson has a plan that would only eliminate 1 parking space at the City Library. Chief Stanford also advised he visited East Alabama Metro Crime Center last week. The crime center has 30 agencies involved, and they assisted the Police Department with the suspicious death case. Chief Stanford advised the agency offers a mutual aid/memorandum of understanding, and there is no financial obligation. However, the Police Department would be required to supply either a sworn or unsworn body to work at the agency one day a week. Chief Stanford explained the agency can provide resources to the department such as support, forensic services, network opportunities, and case agency support. Chief Stanford explained the District Attorneys office has expressed interest, and that the City of Lineville and the Clay County Sheriffs Office may also be interested in participating. If all other agencies commit, we would be required to supply either a sworn or unsworn body to work at the agency one day every two weeks.

Mayor Fetner asked Chief Stanford to get more information and present it at the next Council Meeting.

Maintenance Supervisor Robinson reported on the intersections at 2nd Ave N./2nd St NW and the intersection of 4th Ave N/Clark Road. Supervisor Robinson explained a 3 way stop at each location would make both areas safer, and there would be an expense of hopefully no more than \$1000.00.

Mayor Fetner advised to add the intersections and stop signs to the next agenda.

Maintenance Supervisor Robinson also advised the bench at the Stringfellow Park has been placed, the drainage on 3rd Ave S has been prepped to be reworked, right of way cutting is nearly finished, the department hauled 7 limb loads to the landfill last week, and the department started cleaning street gutters last week. Maintenance Supervisor Robinson also stated that the CDBG Grant that the City was awarded should go to bid by late July.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn advised the 2019 audit should be available at the end of this week, the Planning Commission meeting is next Tuesday, May 26, and an architect for Alta Pointe will be present to submit plans for their building, and that City Clerk Wynn and Assistant City Clerk Catrett started working on the voters list today.

Assistant City Clerk Catrett advised the Council to let us know of anyone who may be interested in serving as a poll worker for the upcoming election.

Informational:

Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the Watermelon Festival.

Council Member Cain made a motion due to COVID-19 to postpone the 2020 Watermelon Festival to next year. Council Member Steed seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the dangerous crosswalk on the square in front of Ashland Pharmacy. Supervisor Robinson explained the State will not allow us to put up signs, or paint the crosswalk. Supervisor Robinson advised at this time our hands are tied with what we can do, and he suggested we reach out to our legislature for help in the matter.

Mayor Fetner explained he would reach out to Senator Price and Representative Hurst.

Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the City Parks. Mayor Fetner advised that by direction of Governor Ivey, we should not open the parks at this time.

Council Member Steed made a motion to leave all public buildings closed to the public as is until next Council Meeting on June 1, 2020. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program (TAP) Grant: Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson discussed ADA sidewalk from Old City Hall down to the City Park. Maintenance Supervisor Robinson advised that the engineer was working on design of the sidewalk and estimated it to be a \$200,000 - \$300,000 project.

New Business:

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last council meeting in the amount of \$4,793.66. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Book Systems, Inc. \$895.00 for Libraries Atrium Express Subscription which is a budgeted item. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Edgar and Associates \$1,165.00 for monthly financials and audit work. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Southern Generator Services \$400.00 for initial generator startup. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to purchase uniforms for the Maintenance Department at an estimated cost of \$450.00 for new employee and seasonal employee. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Item Number 6: Open Public Buildings died for lack of a motion.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving the City of Ashland to withdraw a Certificate of Deposit from First State Bank, and give Mayor Fetner and City Clerk/ Administrator Wynn authority to determine which deposit to withdraw. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to open withdrawn Certificate of Deposit at First Bank of Alabama. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Mayor

Attest