

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday September 21, 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, Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal, Officer Cody Mauldin, Heather Mitchell, and Crystal Mcguire with Clay County Chamber of Commerce.

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

Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, and Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward were absent.

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

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Cantrell 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:

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner thanked the community for supporting the businesses and the Town of Ashland.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford did not report.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell reported that Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward has ordered the flag pole for the city park and that both soccer and flag football were going great.

Police Chief Stanford reported on the price of sending a new uncertified officer to the police academy vs. hiring a certified officer and buying their contract from another agency. He also introduced Officer Cody Mauldin and Heather Mitchell. He also reported that Ashland Police Department is in the process of becoming an accredited office.

Magistrate/City Hall Aide Waters did not report.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on the grant class she and Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett attended last week on playground equipment and that they will be going to a class for the

Stringfellow Grant on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Clerk Wynn also reminded the mayor and council about the Mainstreet meeting on 9/30 at the EDC office.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on the work that the maintenance department has been doing the last few weeks.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$17,109.03. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve to pay Tekconnect \$2,100.00 for business license software. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve to pay the City of Roanoke \$12,330.00 for Officer James Mauldin's buyout of employment time and academy training expenses. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve acceptance of resignation from Van Driver Asheley Lee effective September 15, 2026. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve to hire Devin Lowe as Van Driver for the Senior Center at a pay of Range 7 Step 1 effective September 22, 2026. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve paying the Law Office of Gregory Varner \$5,589.50 for August 2026 Attorney Fees. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve giving Code Enforcement Officer Felix Ackles an evaluation-based raise to Range 17 Step 7 effective 09.12.2026. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve to hire Heather Mitchell as a Police Officer at base pay, no incentives, effective October 1, 2026. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

1. Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-01: An ordinance to amend official holidays.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to suspend the rules to consider Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-01 at its first reading. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and roll call vote was as follows:

Council Member Ballard: Yea

Council Member Ford: Yea

Council Member Heath: Yea

Council Member Cantrell: Yea

Council Member Gaither: Yea

Mayor Fetner: Yea

Motion to suspend the rules passed.

Council Member Ford made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-01. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and roll call vote was as follows:

Council Member Ballard: Yea

Council Member Ford: Yea

Council Member Heath: Yea

Council Member Gaither: Yea

Council Member Cantrell: Yea

Mayor Fetner: Yea

Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-01 passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-02: An ordinance for a one-time pay increase for city employees in connection with the Watermelon Festival.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to suspend the rules to consider Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-02 at its first reading. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and roll call vote was as follows:

Council Member Ballard: Yea

Council Member Ford: Yea

Council Member Heath: Yea

Council Member Gaither: Yea

Council Member Cantrell: Yea

Mayor Fetner: Yea

Motion to suspend the rules passed.

Council Member Heath made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-02. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and roll call vote was as follows:

Council Member Ballard: Yea

Council Member Ford: Yea

Council Member Heath: Yea

Council Member Gaither: Yea

Council Member Cantrell: Yea

Mayor Fetner: Yea

Ordinance No. 2026-09-21-02 passed unanimously.

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

Mayor

Attest