

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2022

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 18, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, 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 Phillip Stinson, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Librarian Tina Nolen, Library Aide Bethany Owens, Cheryl Coleman with Library Board, Tiffany Young with Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Council Member Bobbie J. Steed was absent.

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

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

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

Informational:

1. Ballfield Backstops. Council Member Cantrell discussed an estimate to build two backstops for two fields. Council Member Cantrell advised this would be helpful in getting the city away from leasing fields for use. Council Member Cantrell advised the backstops are the beginning, and the estimate was over \$15,000.00. Council Member Cantrell wanted to make sure the Council wanted to proceed due to the cost of the backstops.

Mayor Fetner requested drawing/report for the next Council Meeting.

2. Tiffany Young with Clay County Chamber of Commerce addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning Chamber News. Mrs. Young advised the annual dinner has been cancelled for this year. Mrs. Young advised she will have fair dates next week.

Council Member Gaither asked if there were any other events planned. Mrs. Young advised there are not any planned.

3. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed water hook-ups for food trucks in the lot next to City Hall. Mayor Fetner requested Council Members to view the lot and give feedback at a future date.

4. Discuss Library Director/Assistant Director Positions. Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed changes to Library positions. Mayor Fetner advised Librarian Nolen has decided to retire. Council Member Cain advised of a plan to move forward after the retirement of Librarian Nolen. Council Member Cain advised after 30 days Librarian Nolen can come back part-time, and we would need to promote Library Aide Bethany Owens to an Assistant Director so that duties could be split. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn explained the financial aspects of the plan.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Cain reported on the Frontier Days event on March 12-13, 2022. Council Member Cain advised they will need some support for traffic and other things.

Mayor Fetner requested Mrs. Jordan to come address the Council concerning the event.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on end of year/monthly stats for the Police Department. Chief Stanford advised he will start submitting those each month at the request of Mayor Fetner. Chief Stanford advised he is working with Oxford concerning the EMAC program. Chief Stanford advised he and City Clerk/Wynn have been working on the grant. Chief Stanford advised he is fully staffed, but some employees have been out with Covid.

Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson reported on current and completed projects. Supervisor Stinson advised he has two more interviews to conduct before making a recommendation on a new hire.

Fire Chief Thompson did not report.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reminded the Council Members of Advocacy Day which is tomorrow.

New Business:

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$15,849.43. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Greg Varner and Associates \$3,805.50 for October and November Legal Fees. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. \$16,944.00 for annual workers compensation insurance premium. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to remove Raquil Ward off of probation and give him a one-step raise to Range 16 Step 2 effective January 8, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Clay County Health & Wellness Center \$2,000.00 for City of Ashland Employee Memberships beginning January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Greg Varner and Associates, P.C. \$2,121.00 for December attorney fees. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to accept Tina Nolen’s resignation/retirement effective January 31, 2022. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to hire Tina Nolen as Part-Time Library Director at a pay of Range 11 Step 9 with a start date of March 3, 2022. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the new position and job description for Library Assistant Director. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to give Bethany Owens a promotion to Part-Time Library Assistant Director at a pay of Range 11 Step 2 effective January 22, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to pay Alabama Law Enforcement Agency \$1,650.00 for LETS Access and Snap Entry for 10/01/2021-12/31/2021. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to purchase communications equipment for First Net at an estimated annual cost of \$1,426.48 for the Police Department. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Chief Stanford advised that these items include hotspots for patrol units and one cellular device for dispatch.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Ordinance, Orders, 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.

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Mayor

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Attest