

CITY OF ASHLAND
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, Jessica Heath, Annette Gaither, and Tommy Cantrell. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Council Member Traskey Ford and Fire Chief Josh Nelson were absent.

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

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

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

Informational:

1. Reminder to complete Statement of Economic Interest.
2. Clean-up Week worker/s decision- Mayor advised Maintenance Supervisor to speak with his employees about working the site during the event.
3. Urban Park Update. - Council Member Gaither gave an update on plans for the Urban Park. Mayor Fetner asked Council Member Gaither to get an estimate for the project.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner requested the Urban Park to look nice for upcoming proms. Mayor Fetner also reported on discussion with realtors working with the potential business coming to the old Hardees building.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items including being short staffs and Chief Stanford and Investigator House are covering shifts until the positions are filled.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on current road work. Supervisor Stinson also reported on getting the cameras on the square operational. Supervisor Stinson also reported on drainage issue on 2nd Ave.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward reported 10 teams for baseball/softball which is growth from prior seasons. Director Ward also thanked the sponsors for the program. Director Ward also reported on opening the Splash Pad on May 16, 2026, with an event. Director Ward also reported on fence work, sunshade, and signage for the Food Truck Park. Director Ward also advised Clay County Football League has requested to utilize the soccer field for the program and moving all the games to Ashland.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$21,830.11. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Municipal Worker's Compensation Fund \$2,710.68 for final audit billing. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Isiah Williamson effective March 17, 2026. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving of 2026 contract with Clay County Economic Development Council. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to pay half of the Ashland Elementary Gymnasium water bill with the City's portion being \$1,519.52. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to pay Brown's Concrete and Construction \$9,600.00 for sidewalk and handicap ramp at Ashland City Park. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to give Librarian Tina Nolen a 2-step evaluation raise to Range 15 Step 9 effective March 14, 2026. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to give Police Chief Joseph Stanford a 2-step evaluation raise to Range 24 Step 9 effective March 14, 2026. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to hire Dexter Terrell as a Part-Time Library Aide at a pay of Range 5 Step 1 effective March 17, 2026. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to hire Stanford Simmons as a Part-Time, Seasonal Laborer for Parks and Recreation at Range 9 Step 5 effective March 17, 2026- October 31, 2026. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business:

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

Mayor

Attest