

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 20, 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 Chesley Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Peggy and Calvin Scott, Tom Smith, Crystal McGuire with Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward was absent.

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

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item Number 10 Approval to pay Alabama League of Municipalities \$1,493.00 for annual membership dues. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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

Informational:

1. Christmas Parade and Christmas Lights in the Park. – Mayor Fetner and Council Members discussed the Ashland Christmas Parade and Christmas Lights in the Park. Mayor Fetner asked Council Member Gaither to check with the Clay County Arts League to see if they are interested in putting the light displays up.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner reported Happy Birthday to Council Member Gaither. Mayor Fetner advised if there is anything that needs to be done before the festival to let us know. Mayor Fetner also advised Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Ward is currently at summer camp with the Army National Guard.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford did not report.

Council Member Heath reported on the sign for Ashland City Park.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on the graduation of Officer Tre Rowell. Chief Stanford also reported on agenda items including partially funding a resource officer for Ashland Elementary School. Chief Stanford has discussed this with Mayor Fetner and City Clerk Wynn. Chief Stanford advised the Police Department is preparing for upcoming events.

Assistant City Clerk Catrett reported on the Watermelon Festival.

Fire Chief Nelson reported on the rescue truck and a request to replace the cabinets at Ashland Fire Department.

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported on recent work completed and on the assistance of the extra laborers. Supervisor Stinson advised the sod has been installed and is being watered regularly.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn did not report.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$19,631.92. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Edgar and Associates \$1,786.25 for audit planning and monthly financials. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion approving to give Chris Elliott an evaluation-based raise to Range 12 Step 8 effective July 18, 2026. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to promote Dispatcher Heather Hill to Senior Dispatcher and adjust rate of pay to Range 12 Step 6 effective 07.04.2026. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to terminate Kevin Baker from position of provisional police officer effective July 10, 2026. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to accept the resignation from Zachary Huddle effective July 10, 2026. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve School Resource Officer job description. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to open and advertise for School Resource Officer position. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clay County Board of Education regarding the School Resource Officer Program at Ashland Elementary School. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ford made a motion to pay Alabama League of Municipalities \$1,493.00 for annual membership dues. Council Member Cantrell 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. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor

Attest