

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 16, 2021

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021 in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, 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, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Parks & Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, and Tammy Andrews with the Clay Times Journal.

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

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

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item Number 14: Approval to pay Chris Smith \$290.00 for camera and installation at Ashland City Park., and Informational Item Number 9: Park Updates, Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Informational:

1. Mayor Fetner and City Council discussed County Road 31 striping of road summer of 2022 in budget (less than \$5,000.00). Mayor Fetner explained the county Road Department is going to be striping County Road 31 and they could do the city portion for less than \$5000.00. All Council Members agreed to add the striping to the 2022 budget.

2. Mayor Fetner advised several Council Members have spoken about installing speed bumps around town. Council Member Cain brought up speed surveys prior to installing speed bumps to determine the location they were needed. Police Chief Stanford explained a survey has been conducted in the past, which included an Officer running radar and logging every speed during certain time frames. Chief Stanford advised there is nothing that states the city cannot install speed bumps. Council Member Ballard advised people are not paying attention to signs in Westside advising to slow down. Chief Stanford explained the signs would be digital and would show the driver the speed.

3. Tiffany Young (absent) with Clay County Chamber of Commerce- discuss using City portion of Industrial Park for Equipment Auction and Clay County Fair. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn spoke on behalf of Tiffany Young by stating the EDC is going to sell the property that is usually used for the Clay County Fair. She requested use of the City's portion of the Industrial Park for the Clay County Fair and an Equipment Auction.

Council Member Cain made a motion to allow use of city portion of Industrial Park for Equipment Auction and Clay County Fair, if it has not sold. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

4. Discuss Sesquicentennial Celebration for the City of Ashland. Mayor Fetner requested input on a plan for the celebration. Mayor Fetner requested a meeting to plan the event.

5. Old Horn Café Building- discuss rebid or keep Hurst Construction's original awarded bid. Mayor Fetner advised the property was abated over the weekend. Mayor questioned the Council if they want to continue with the original bid or rebid it. Council Member Steed asked why are we questioning the bid. Mayor Fetner advised the contract wasn't signed, but if they will honor the bid, they can continue with the project.

6. Street Light Update. Chief Stanford advised they have identified some streets that need lighting to include 45<sup>th</sup> Street East, 70<sup>th</sup> Street West, 8<sup>th</sup> Street/King Ave. Chief Stanford advised if the Council notices some that are out, if they will let the Police Department know, they will tag them for repair.

7. Grant for Outdoor Exercise Equipment- East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. - Council Member Gaither explained East Alabama doesn't have any money available, but they do have some grants they could go after with a potential 20% grant. Council Member Gaither explained they just need permission to apply for grants.

Council Member Cain made a motion to allow East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission to apply for grants on behalf of the City of Ashland for exercise equipment. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

8. First Responder's Dinner-Mayor Fetner and Council discussed potential dates and food for the event.

9. Park Updates- Mayor Fetner advised we all know there are some improvements to be made. Mayor Fetner requested Parks & Recreational/ Youth Sports Director Ward to get some prices on basketball goals for the Tennis Courts. Council Member Cantrell advised this has been looked into in the past, the Council needs to agree on the type goals and pricing. Mayor Fetner asked if pressure washing would make the Tennis Courts look better. Council Member Cain asked if Mr. Ward had gotten a price on fencing. Mayor Fetner checked on resolving issues with roots in the park. Mayor Fetner also advised concrete is going to be expensive. Council Member Gaither reported on the camera directions at the city park, she stated Chris Smith looked at the camera and suggested adding one camera to the area with issues. Mr. Ward advised he filled in the sink hole and will check it again at a later date. Mr. Ward advised he believes it is from the ditch line where the pipe was installed.

#### Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner congratulated the City of Ashland on the Watermelon Festival, he stated he wanted to have and after action with constructive criticism for tomorrow at 3 P.M. Mayor also congratulated the Clay County Cattleman on a successful Rodeo.

Council Member Ballard asked about when the streets would be completed. Mayor Fetner advised he spoke with GMC and every time he speaks with them, they say two weeks.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain did not report.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on work Code Enforcement Officer Tony Hubbard has been doing. Chief Stanford reported on the Rodeo.

Fire Chief Thompson reported on the Christmas Parade, and recent calls.

Park & Recreation/ Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward reported there are 55 kids signed up for soccer, he advised he will meet with Rusty Taylor and Jeffery Harris tomorrow to work on a schedule.

City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn reported on the expected arrival date of the Christmas Tree, budget, and the Planning Commission meeting.

## New Business:

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$11,772.63. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to pay Hero's Painting \$1,650.00 for painting for trim on upper part of City Hall Building. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve the Wellborn Tax Abatement Extension through August 5, 2022. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to pay Clay Service & Electronics \$823.94 for camera installation and low beam light repair on Police Department patrol vehicles. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion approving to pay Book Systems, Inc. \$895.00 for Ashland City Library. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Overdrive, Inc. \$1,500.00 for Ashland City Library. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase 3 tasers, cartridges, battery packs, and holsters from Gulf State Distributors at an estimated cost of \$4,395.00, to be reimbursed by the Byrne JAG Grant. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to remove Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson from probation and give a two-step raise to Range 16 Step 3 effective August 21, 2021. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to purchase bush hog wheels from Ashland Auto parts at an estimated cost of \$685.00 plus freight. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Shred-It an estimated \$1,200.00 for onsite disposal of outdated records. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay annual Firing Range Usage Fee to Hubbard's Hollow Shooting Range at a cost of \$600.00 for the Ashland Police Department. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to purchase parts from Talladega Tractor in the amount of \$256.00 for lawnmower repair. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to pay Mobile Communications America \$5,095.91 for equipment and installation to outfit the 2021 Silverado. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion to approve to pay Chris Smith \$290.00 for camera and installation at Ashland City Park. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

## Old Business:

Council Member Gaither made a motion to not become members of the National League of Cities at a cost of \$563.00 for 09.01.2021-08.31.2022. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders, and Other Business:

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

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Mayor

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Attest