

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2021

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on January 19, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. 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, Maintenance Equipment Operator Phillip Stinson, Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Mount Cheaha Baggers Frederick Boyd and Luke Ferguson, Tiffany Young with Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal

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

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

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item Number 15: Approval to advertise with the Clay Times Journal in a magazine congratulating Clay County Christian Academy at a total cost of \$300.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

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

Informational Items:

1. Tiffany Young addressed the Mayor and Council with an update on Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Fetner requested the Clay County Chamber to organize a Christmas Light tour map for the 2021 Christmas season. Mayor Fetner also requested the Clay County Chamber to research broadband opportunities for Clay County.
2. Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson updated the Mayor and Council on the purchase of a Street Sweeper for the City of Ashland. Supervisor Robinson stated he has looked at several, but has yet to make the purchase with funds previously approved by the City Council.
3. Police Chief Stanford addressed the Mayor and Council to advise a 10U Travel Ball team, the Clay County Diamond Dolls, is being started, and there will be 14 children. Chief Stanford requested permission to utilize the softball field for practice and games. Chief Stanford advised parents are willing to assist in maintenance of the fields if necessary.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving the Clay County Diamond Dolls to utilize the softball field for practice and games. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

4. Mt. Cheaha Baggers, Frederick Boyd and Luke Ferguson, addressed the Mayor and Council to ask what it would take to allow Mt. Cheaha Baggers to use the Wynn Building for Cornhole Tournaments. They advised these events would bring money into the county.

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Council Member Cain made a motion approving Mt. Cheaha Baggers to use the Wynn Building twice a month at \$50.00, and to use the city square once a quarter for Cornhole Tournaments. Council member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain reported the Library is working on a summer program.

Council Member Gaither did not report.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Fire Chief Thompson did not report.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items. Chief Stanford explained Employee Mann made it to the Police Academy, lost confidence, and decided it was not for him. Chief Stanford stated Employee Mann was a probationary employee, and he is recommending his termination. Chief Stanford also explained due to Employee Mann not giving sufficient notice, the city is required to pay the tuition for Employee Mann for the Police Academy. Chief Stanford also discussed the recent arrest of a Clay County Bus Driver and explained the investigation is ongoing at this time.

Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson reported on the Lucas Building. Supervisor Robinson advised Mr. Mike Kerr and himself looked over the building, and his assumption is that Hurricane Zeta winds compromised the structure further. Supervisor Robinson stated Mr. Mike Kerr no longer feels he can safely use his equipment to demolish the building. Supervisor Robinson's suggestion is for the City to use the funds designated for the demolition to hire someone to work under the Maintenance Department on an hourly rate to take the roof and floor of the property out by hand and dispose of it.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported the Covid Reimbursement of \$58,000.00 has been received. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn also advised several people have asked about the Watermelon Festival, and the Council needs to decide if the event is going to take place this year and set a date.

New Business:

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the bills received since the last meeting in the amount of \$10,941.02. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to purchase a Lenovo Thinkpad from Southern Data Automation for Ashland Municipal Court at a total cost of \$1,119.98. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to accept the resignation of Maintenance Supervisor Lester Robinson effective January 31, 2021. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Clay County Health and Wellness Center \$2,000.00 for yearly membership for City Employees. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Southern Software, Inc. \$649.00 for annual support. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Item Number 6 Youth Sports Program died for lack of any motions.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase Electric Fireplace and Ice Machine for Ashland Senior Center at an estimated cost of \$3,000.00. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy \$1,000.00 for Officer Jordan Mann's tuition. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to purchase tires from Tire Hub at a total cost of \$713.12. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous. (Maintenance Department)

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to terminate Jordan Mann as a probationary employee effective January 5, 2021. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay Bice Motors in Alexander City to repair 2016 Dodge Ram pickup truck (Code Enforcement) at a total cost of \$532.46. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to purchase LOREX camera system and allow Chris Smith to install them on the Square at a total cost of \$5,140.00. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous. (homeland security grant)

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Edgar and Associates, LLC. \$1,700.00 for monthly compilation and 2020 Audit Fieldwork. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to pay Municipal Workers Compensation Fund \$17,220.00 for annual workers compensation insurance renewal. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to advertise with the Clay Times Journal in a magazine congratulating Clay County Christian Academy at a total cost of \$300.00. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Mayor

Attest