

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 19, 2021

The Ashland City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Member 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, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, Parks and Recreation Director Raquil Ward, K & A Theatricals, Keith and Amanda Kraft (via zoom), Natalie McCormick, Ray Stansell with the Clay Times Journal, Mike Sparks with Clay County Economic Development Council, and Attorney Tony Hamlin (6:00 P.M.).

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

Fire Chief Brett Thompson 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 Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

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

Informational:

1. K & A Theatricals, Keith and Amanda Kraft, addressed the Mayor and City Council via zoom concerning the Ashland Theatre.
2. Mike Sparks with Clay County Economic Development Council addressed the Mayor and City Council Concerning the Executive Director position at the Clay County Economic Development Council. Mr. Sparks would like to encourage the city to budget an appropriation to the Clay County Economic Development Council to help make the Executive Director position a full-time position.
3. Donation to Clay County Board of Education. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning requests for donations to certain organizations within the Clay County School System. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn explained the city is not allowed to designate a donation to one group although a request is allowed, but the city can donate to the school system to be used where the school system decides.
4. Council Member Cain made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to Clay County Board of Education. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous. Council Member Cantrell stated he would like to revisit the issue each year, not to do an appropriation.
5. Proclamation- Designation of Human Trafficking Free Zone. Police Chief Stanford explained this Proclamation designates the City of Ashland a Human Trafficking Free Zone. Chief Stanford also explained victims of human trafficking have come from our area, and human trafficking is a huge problem in Alabama.
6. Discussed placement of Directional Signage. Council Member Cain addressed the Mayor and City Council concerning the placement of directional signage for the City of Ashland. Council Member Cain presented photographs of possible locations. Mayor Fetner asked if the City Council is okay with putting the signs on the red-light poles pending ALDOT approval.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report.

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Steed did not report.

Council Member Cain gave an update on the rocking chairs for the city square. Council Member Cain also discussed the Wagon Train and a Frontier Day. Council Member Cain explained Mrs. Robertson at Ashland Elementary School expressed interest in a project-based learning program centered around the Wagon Train and Frontier Day. The date of the next Wagon Train is March 12-13, 2022. Council Member Cain also gave an update on the signage proposal to Alabama Department of Tourism. Council Member Cain also gave an update on murals for the City Square.

Council Member Gaither reported on a proposal for senior exercise equipment for the City Park.

Council Member Cantrell reported on agenda items.

Police Chief Stanford reported on agenda items including Item Number 5: training for Investigator Shanon House and Item Number 10: completing the Homeland Security Grant from 2 years ago. Chief Stanford explained there is \$10,000.00 still available for use. Chief Stanford also introduced Natalie McCormick and requested the Council to hire her as a Dispatcher. Chief Stanford also reported on Item Number 13 concerning "Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative."

Maintenance Supervisor Stinson reported the Housing Authority is still working on the restrooms in the Wynn Building and updated the City Council on the light pole replacement for the City Square.

Parks and Recreation Director Ward reported everything is going well, and that he is still learning the job.

City Clerk/Administrator Wynn reported on the need to open a new account for the American Rescue Plan funding, the last Watermelon meeting will be July 22 at 9 A.M., and a Planning Commission Meeting will be July 27 at 5:15 P.M. City Clerk/Administrator Wynn updated the City Council on the vehicle policy.

New Business:

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the bills received since the last meeting in the amount of \$14,119.38. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion approving to pay East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission \$304.20 for quarterly membership dues. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to remove Stephanie Freeman from Ashland Baseball/Softball for Youth Checking Account at First State Bank and to deactivate debit card associated with the account. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to add Raquil Ward to Ashland Baseball/Softball for Youth Checking Account at First State Bank and allow Mr. Ward to be issued a debit card for the account. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Shanon House to attend Southeastern Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar at Opelika, AL, September 27<sup>th</sup>- October 1<sup>st</sup>, pay registration fees of \$350, pay hotel accommodations at \$96/night, and reimburse travel expenses. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to open an account titled American Rescue Plan Funds at First Bank of Alabama. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving to hire 3 temporary employees at a pay rate of \$8.00 per hour to assist with the Clay County Yellow-Meated Watermelon Festival. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to pay \$575.00 to East Alabama Portable for restrooms and handwashing stations for the Watermelon Festival Events. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cain made a motion approving to pay Southern Data Automation \$1,167.98 for a laptop for the Parks and Recreation Department. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to pay excess of grant for Access Control System from Johnson Controls for the Police Department at an estimated cost of \$800.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Steed made a motion to pay Tire Hub LLC. \$2,085.76 for 4 sets of tires for Ashland Police Department. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to hire Natalie McCormick as a Dispatcher for the Ashland Police Department at Range 7 Step 2 effective July 22, 2021. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Chief Stanford to apply for Office of Justice Program "Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative" Grant. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Frontline Outfitters to install cameras and radar in 2015 Chevy Tahoe (Patrol Unit 178) and 2020 Chevy Tahoe (Patrol Unit 179) at a total cost of \$720.00. Council Member Cain seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Ordinances, Orders, and Other Business:

Council Member Gaither made a motion approving Ordinance Number 2021-07-06-01 an ordinance to lease city owned property that is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes. Council Member Cain seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member Ballard – Yea

Council Member Steed – Yea

Council Member Cain – Yea

Council Member Gaither – Yea

Council Member Cantrell – Yea

Council Member Cain made a motion approving Ordinance Number 2021-07-06-02 an ordinance levying a privilege or license tax upon persons, firms, and corporations engaging in the business of renting or furnishing rooms, lodgings, or accommodations to transients in the City of Ashland, AL. Council Member Steed seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member Ballard – Yea

Council Member Steed – Yea

Council Member Cain – Yea

Council Member Gaither – Yea

Council Member Cantrell – Yea

There being no further business Council Member Cain 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