



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY
Regularly Scheduled Workshop Meeting
May 06, 2025, 6:00 PM
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greer called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Greer

Councilman Tim Adkins

Vice Mayor Chris Kerrigan

Councilman Michael Smith

Councilman Kevin Thompson

Councilman Tony Young

ABSENT

Councilwoman Binkley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Vice Mayor Chirs Kerrigan, to approve the agenda with changes. Removing line number 24 Speed Limit Discussion. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 1, 2025, Regularly Scheduled Workshop Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to approve the April 1, 2025, Workshop minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

Megan Wilburn: She was at the ball fields with other volunteers trying to get the ball fields ready with other parents and coaches for her children and other children to play ball. When there are volunteers putting in time that they do not have too, a city worker should not drive by and make derogatory remarks. Do not tell the volunteers they are doing a crappy job and drive off rather than give constructive criticism. It is not appreciated. She has played sports here all her life.

Councilman Thompson asked if the Council if they knew anything about this.

Councilman Young: I drove past and saw them working but did not say anything.

Councilman Thompson: Asked the department heads if they know about this.

Anthony Clark (Parks Director): Gave an explanation of events.

Alan Holloway: Mr. Holloway printed off photos for the council to look at as reference. The photos were taken at John's Park of the issues he thinks are a public Safety concern. He described things that he thinks can be fixed. He stated there has been a lot of neglect in the park. There are trip hazards in the park, there were 2 senior citizens trip getting off the bleachers from stepping in a big ditch. He feels if there was gravel put there making a clean transition from the bleachers to the ground it would resolve the issue. At the edge of the field the fence is rolled up and it is in the photos; we had a player going to get a ball that rolled under the fence in the area and got their foot stuck under the peeled-up fence. The fence should be fixed and touch the ground properly. In the rear of the concession stand there is a sink drain that ends directly into a creek. He would like to see some improvements, if we do not invest in our youth in this county, we are going to be really glad we have the brand-new county jail because that is where they are going to end up. He is tired of seeing neglect in this town.

Councilman Adkins: What would be the proper steps to talk about this moving forward? Would this be for the Council or the parks board? We want to make sure these issues are being addressed.

Councilman Smith: suggested addressing them during the budget meetings coming up.

Councilman Adkins: added that if they are going to be addressed, we need to make sure there is money in the budget to do so. Since it could be several more years before we open our sports complex.

Mr. Holloway: stated that he asked the parks director for the materials for repairs that he volunteered to make in 2002. Nothing has been touched since the fall of 2022.

Mayor Greer: stated we need to look into them now and see what we can do about it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. ATTORNEY: Jennifer Noe – ABSENT
2. PROJECT UPDATE: Josh Wright – Allen Nicholson gave the update for Josh Wright due to a scheduling conflict: Building is ready for the final punch list walk through. We are scheduled for that on May 13th, 2025. Allen stated that the mayor and himself did a walk through yesterday of all the furniture and it looks amazing. Parking lot binder is scheduled for May 8th. The current forecast calls for rain that day, if it rains the contractor will reschedule. After the binder is installed, they will put down topsoil. The monument sign will be rescheduled for May 16th. The new completion date will be May 23rd.
3. CITY RECORDER: Mary Molepske – Attended TAMCAR conference, a few public records requests for body cam footage and codes information, rescheduled meetings and advertisements due to a newspaper error, have been walking people through buildings for measurements so they can submit sealed bids, met with some companies for supplies to make the city uniform for ordering.
4. CODES DEPARTMENT: Allen Nicholson – Allen gave the council his update on paper – highlights are number of permits issued 13, number of inspections 30, number of property maintenance 72, since December we have collected \$ 23, 802.41 in revenue.
5. COURT DEPARTMENT: Cynthia Hollingsworth – ABSENT
6. FINANCE DEPARTMENT: Jamie Winslett – ABSENT – Kellie Reed spoke on some items for the budget to be completed. I have been working with Mayor, Allen, and Jamie on your budget. We have made it through the general fund for the proposed budget and projected budget and sat with all department heads. I have worked with Violet on Worker's comp renewals. I am currently working with water and sewer, and I have worked with Jamie to get the salaries projected for the year. We will then work on street aid and drug funds and hopefully be able to present something to you in the coming weeks.
Jamie Winslett: Emailed the finance report showing revenues versus expenses, fund balance, cash on hand and loan information and gave an update on the finance department. Gave update on what her departments are working on.
Vice Mayor Kerrigan: requested a list of what people are asking for in their budgets.
Kellie Reed: Advised she has a list and will email it to the Mayor and Allen to send out.
7. FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Walker – We answered 104 calls to the public, we have met with 170 businesses in town to update emergency contacts for calls, Getting business licenses for finance, recovered a body from the Cumberland River that came from Nashville, we cooked for the employee luncheon, tornado sirens sounded twice in the month of April, working on locations for the 2 new sirens, our firefighter mechanics have kept the trucks maintenance to save money, we installed 61 free smoke detectors at the Oak Manor Apartments, we had 5 car seat safety inspections and gave away 3 new car seats provided by our grants. We are taking applications for the next recruitment class.
8. HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT: Violet Black – Attended 2 conferences, MTAS – 3 pillars of HR and the public sector HR association. I have worked with the insurance company on the

collapsed bridge. I have worked with insurance on some injuries this month. I have been working with TCRS, and I have found that we were not doing things correctly. A city resolution cannot be made, and it must be a TCRS resolution, or it is not valid. Pay Study is completed and turned over to Mayor and Allen.

9. PARKS DEPARTMENT: Anthony Clark – Food Truck Monday started with good response, spring sports are in full swing, working with insurance about the bridges and working with Justin for the cameras at River bluff park. Trail grant meeting, playground safety class completed and working towards Summerfest starts 4 weeks from tonight. Nashville Symphony will play on June 14th at 7:30 pm at River bluff park.
10. POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Matlock - Monthly report emailed to council. Filled the last open officer position. The last 3 that went to the academy are finishing training to get out and to work.
11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Billy Harris – Mowing season has started, picking up brush, pothole repair, paving is moving forward, water and sewer is working with pleasant view to connect on valley view. We had a bid opening last week. Sewer plant is starting training this week and we should be in the new plant by June.
12. TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT: Justin Wheeler – Big projects are moving forward, finalized river bluff internet, city hall should be getting completed in the next few days. Fiber and modem installation new city hall, modem at training grounds is connected.
13. THRIVE 55+ DEPARTMENT: Tammany Carter - We had 1, 442 member check-ins, they are lower but there has been a lot of updates on the building and parking lot. 256 member meals in April. Submitted GNRC reports. Worked on a day trip in June, planned picnic this Friday, I worked on the grant for project diabetes, we will be having a ribbon cutting June 26th at 8:30 to show the refreshed building for the 30 years. Looking for an instructor to replace Phoenix. Painting the town purple is coming up in June and we will also have a walk on June 20th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. ORDINANCE 639: Budget Amendment \$ 45,372.00 - New Patrol Car -2nd Reading – Chief Matlock stated that this is to replace the patrol car that was totaled from hitting a deer.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Bruce's Buddies - Jody Vann – Jody Vann was absent from the meeting. He is added to the City Council meeting next week.
16. CONTRACT: Fire Contract with the County – Chief Walker stated that what they are paying us for our rural service is going to increase just a little, they are increasing the part time people in the new contract. The total is \$ 469, 877.79 and it helps them and helps us.
17. CONTRACT: Elevator Service and inspection - Station 1 – Chief Walker - The state inspector comes to inspect our elevator every 6 months, and we are supposed to have it maintenance and tagged. We have to hire a company to inspect it so the inspector can come and inspect it. Cost of the service is \$ 90.00 per month.
18. CONTRACT: Annual Fire Alarm Inspection and Monitoring - New City Hall & Continued for Fire Station 1 & Fire Station 2. – Chief Walker – Continued monitoring for both fire stations and the new city hall and we have to keep the alarm monitored and serviced in all businesses.
19. TCRS rates for 2025/2026 - Violet stated that TCRS gives 7.5 percent for each employee and the minimum is 7.14 and we would just need to decide to keep this rate or go higher.
20. TCRS - Hazardous Duty Cost – This was the study you approved for the hazardous duty employees and the rates are on here, it is currently on the 7.14 percent, which is required by law, this would be over the current rates that we are already doing for Fire and Police.

21. Insurance Rate Discussion: BC/BS and Lincoln – Violet stated that if we stay with BCBS the rates have gone down 1.75 percent. This would not reflect a change to our employees and would only change the amount the city would put in for employees. We have a meeting with our insurance committee and have not heard any drawbacks from it. That is for our medical insurance. We also looked into life and disability insurance. We currently use Lincoln, and it is an administrative nightmare. The girls have been having problems balancing so I asked our broker to bid that out. He presented Mutual of Omaha, Keeping the same coverage of \$ 15,000 is still a lower premium than our current rate with Lincoln. The premium with Lincoln is \$ 28,000.00 and if we go to Mutual of Omaha it would be \$ 19,000.00 for the same benefit of \$ 15,000 and would save the city \$ 8,877.82. If we increased the benefit for the employee to \$ 25,000.00 the insurance would rise to \$ 8,152.30.
22. RESOLUTION 2025-21: LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – Mary stated this is a retainer agreement to hire this firm to file a claim for the city in a class action lawsuit to recover possible funds for contamination of our water source with a chemical called PFAS. There is no fee required to be paid but they would receive one third of the money if they are able to collect on our behalf.
23. Speed Limit Discussion - Councilman Michael Smith – Removed from the agenda at the start of the meeting.
24. Parks Advisory Board Update: **Councilman Michael Smith** – He gave a summary of plans for this summer and ideas moving forward. The Farmers Market will start this Saturday and will run through September 27th. We are currently planning 3 concerts in the park. The first one will be the Symphony on June 14th. In July we will have a cookout in coordination with another symphony to try to attract more people. The third will be a concert in August. We have food truck Mondays that will run from April through July. We are planning 2 movies at the park events. One is September and one in October. We would like the one in October to be a Halloween theme. Caldwell Park – we would like to do a walk of fame that is like the book walk that we have and it would be a way to be able to display musicians and would have kiosks at different parts of the trail and as you go through and read about different musicians that are local to Ashland City. We talked about next year doing a community garden. We would need to add bathroom facilities and there is no water source out there. That is something that we want to think about for Caldwell Park moving forward. The park has a lot of potential, and we would like to do something with it. We would like to have a Heritage Festival that would focus on the founding of Ashland City and Cheatham County. The reason we thought of doing it next year is because it will be the 170th year celebration of the founding of Cheatham County. We have a lot of interest from the community businesses and the police and fire departments. We will most likely form a committee within the Parks Advisory Board of local Businesses and people who would like to be involved and help then put that together to be a real community event. We would also like an Artisan festival in the spring sometime. It would be similar to the one in Nashville and it would be either a 2- or 3-day event.
- Mayor Greer:** asked if there were any grants that would possibly help us in getting Caldwell Park built up?
- Councilman Smith:** Yes, we are going to look at grants for the projects. They will also look at local businesses that want to be involved in helping with the park. We could also have a fund raiser to put toward it. It will be a cost to do it right and we will need a water source and bathroom facilities, and we don't want the city to have to bear the cost.
- Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** Asked if we still have the rough drawings for Caldwell Park.
- Anthony Clark:** He may have them, and it would be for a pavilion and a couple of bathrooms.
25. CONTRACT: Jenkins and Mauldin CPA – This is a contract to extend the service for another 6 months. The cost would be around \$ 39,000.00. There are several findings that we are finding through the budget process and the Mayor, and I have discussed this with Kellie and Jamie and believe this would be in our best interest. They also have to finish closing out the 2024-2025

books to get them prepared for the audit. The way things were entered into Tyler will take James and Casey time to get it straightened out.

26. **CONTRACT:** Cintas - supplies for all city buildings – **Mary Molepske** – I have met with a couple of different companies. Cintas covers uniforms, Rugs, Air Fresheners, Paper Towels, and Toilet Paper, Cleaning products and can provide trash bags if they are requested. There are some items they do not handle. I met Kelson and they provided everything but the uniforms including napkin holder and paper plates and plastic wear for the lunchroom area. This would change all of our buildings to go through the same universal ordering process, which would also help the finance team not to have so many different companies to go through.

Councilman Thompson: Have we reached out to any other companies like paper and twine?

Mary Molepske: I have and these 2 had the best offers because they are both affiliated with Omnia and so are we and so they both offer bigger discounts on the products for that reason. I have found out that even if we just keep the uniforms and rugs through Cintas, it will still be less with a new contract because of the relationship with Omnia.

27. Kelson - Supplies for City Buildings – Addressed it together with Cintas.
28. CDBG - Pump Station Bid Award – We had our bid opening last Thursday for the pump station. There were 3 bidders. Billy reviewed the Bid totals and made the recommendation of the lowest bid, and we will have to pay \$130,000.00 to complete the pump station project.
29. **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE:** Change of Ownership - Jackson Liquors – They are not actually changing owners they are only adding the additional person to the existing license.
30. **ORDINANCE 640:** Budget Amendment – for the FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025- 1st Reading – There are 2 different expenditures in this one budget amendment. The first part is for \$ 101,970.00 for the overage on the water tank bid. The council had allocated \$ 750,000.00 to City Hall but it was not put in the budget. It was reported to USDA and they have received the money but it was not added to the budget. Jamie has found out that we are allowed to take money from a department and move it to another department to offset some of the costs. We just have to notify the council of the move. Thrive 55+ has \$211,750.00 in it that was allocated for Josh Wright for the continuation of the Senior Center Project. We would like to move because Clint's public works vehicle money did not get moved over into the new budget for 2024-2025 and it would also cover the contract for the CPA. Another portion of that would cover the water/sewer truck.

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

NONE

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

NONE

OTHER

Councilman Thompson: asked about the 111 Boyd Street Ordinance

Allen Nicholson: Mr. Emad and Mr. Martin have decided to pull that until July. We are Working with them a little closer to try to come up with some other concepts. We are working on a different proposal with the engineers. We wanted to give them their rights as property owners and work with them. They would like to bring something before you that will work better.

Councilman Smith: asked if the sign will be changed so that people are aware of that.

Allen Nicholson: I will pull the sign and repost it. Ms. Mary will advertise it 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Councilman Thompson: asked if Oak Circle will be on the paving plan this year. He showed pictures of large potholes with cones blocking part of the street.

Billy Harris: Went over the streets on the list and advised that Oak Circle is a private road and does not think we would be responsible for repairing it. Allen and Billy will confirm it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

MAYOR GERALD GREER

CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE