



**TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY**  
**Special called City Council Meeting**  
**February 04, 2025**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE**  
**REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORKSHOP**  
**MEETING**  
**Minutes**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Greer called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Gerald Greer  
Vice Mayor Chris Kerrigan  
Councilman Tim Adkins  
Councilwoman: Nicole Binkley  
Councilman Michael Smith  
Councilman Kevin Thompson  
Councilman Tony Young

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the agenda. All approved by voice vote.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. City Hall Change Orders

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to close the public hearing. All approved by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

NONE

**PUBLIC FORUM**

NONE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2. Contract Amendments for City Hall

**Attorney Noe** started and asked Josh Wright if he would like to speak about some of the change orders for the new city hall.

**Josh Wright** asked which change orders she is referring to.

**Attorney Noe stated:** Change order # 25 and Change order #30

Josh Wright: we had submitted a Monument Sign to the mayor, Allen and Ms. Jennifer and it was free of charge to the city for the design. I volunteered in a meeting when the mayor mentioned he wanted it to look like city hall and the design was to match the city hall design. I saw the quote from Solomon Builders, and you all discussed that at the last meeting. I did not know it would be that expensive. What mayor and Allen asked me to do was provide 2 more designs that are not quite as elaborate, so I have provided those to Allen and the mayor for your review and I am guessing that is what y'all are looking at right now. So, do y'all have any questions on them.

**Councilman Thompson:** Do you have the prices on theses designs?



**Josh Wright:** I don't think we have that information from Solomon Builder's yet. There is a lot less masonry on both of those designs. Solomon Builders provides the city with those quotes so you will have to ask them when they will have them. I would say they should have them quick.

**Attorney Noe:** asked if they might be ready for the Council meeting on Tuesday February 11, 2025?

**Councilman Thompson:** The sign was originally going to be at the front of the building, how much money are we saving by not having that sign right in the front?

**Josh Wright:** I have asked Cody with Solomon Builders to provide that number to me.

**Mayor Greer:** asked Councilman Thompson "Are you talking about the Monument that was part of the architectural?" Mayor Greer stated that he thinks we were credited for some of that cost. It was some but not a lot.

**Josh Wright:** It was a monument sign that was right in front of the flags.

**Mayor Greer:** stated it would be redundant to have 2 monuments.

**Councilman Thompson:** I was just looking at how much money we saved on that sign.

**Mayor Greer:** explained we already budgeted for the LED sign to go out front so this will take the place of that. It will fit in a little better. The first monument sign was a little too large and too expensive, so we scaled it down to get it at a more acceptable cost.

**Allen Nicholson:** Councilman Adkins sent me the image of the sign with the 2 pillars and the sign in the middle connecting them. All the schools have used that design.

**Josh Wright:** Mayor if I may, you are right there is a little bit of a steel structure with the split design that will have to be added to the columns because they will shift if they are not somewhat attached, and that sign is not strong enough to attach the columns without them.

**Mayor Greer:** So, are you saying the other one would be more cost effective?

**Josh Wright:** That would be my guess.

**Councilman Thompson:** Do we need to make a decision on the sign tonight?

**Mayor Greer:** Let's wait and see what the cost is first. I tried and tried, and he could not get a response from the masonry company. What is next?

**Attorney Noe:** #30 is the original pricing. Asked to make a motion to defer until next week.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to approve the December 10, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes. All approved by voice vote.

**Attorney Noe:** stated Josh was not on the workshop agenda, so she asked the council if they wanted an update on City Hall or had any other questions.

**Josh Wright:** sure, I can give an update.

I met with Clinton Dodson today our superintendent. He continues to pour exterior concrete. The large store front windows have been installed. The ceiling grid is being installed right now. The walls are almost all primed and have a 1<sup>st</sup> coat of paint, which is exciting. Mechanical, they are going to install grills after the grids are installed. The HVAC condensers will begin installation while that's going on. Today, the drive through window and bill drop was installed today. So, pretty cool.

**Attorney Noe:** The drive through window is on the one side, what was resolved as far as the sidewalks so that handicapped people could get into the building?

**Josh Wright:** Sure, there is a sidewalk that goes from the back parking lot around the front of the council chamber. I was asked about that, and I think it was Vice Mayor Kerrigan asked about that but there is a sidewalk that will wrap around the front of the council chamber. Folks will be able to park in the back and get to that entrance.

**Attorney Noe:** What about the handicapped parking that is in front of the building? How do they get in?

**Josh Wright:** Mayor, Allen, and I have talked about that. We have talked about shifting, right now the civil engineer has shown 3 handicapped parking spaces out front. What we talked about is keeping one of the handicapped parking spaces out front and moving the other 2 around to the back and code wise there is no reason we cannot do that. That is kind of what we have been talking about doing for the ADA parking.

**Attorney Noe:** So how are they getting from the front of the building to the door?



**Josh Wright:** They wouldn't be able to park in the front and get to the front entry where they pay. That would be more for employees to use. They could park right there and be able to walk right into the building.

**Attorney Noe:** The handicapped parking in front would not be able to get into the building?

**Josh Wright:** The handicapped parking in the front would be able to get into the building, they are just won't be able to go around to where the drive through is and get into that entrance. There will be 3 entrances that will be accessed from the front of the building.

**Attorney Noe:** But those are for employees only, correct?

**Josh Wright:** They could be. They could be either or depends on how the city wants to designate parking. You could put up a sign that says public parking around back. However, the city chooses to do it.

**Attorney Noe:** Ok, I guess I am confused because we paid to have the doors moved, those 3 doors do that we would have security in the building. The only offices in the front are the mayor and employees so why would the public in a handicapped parking spot be coming in the front door?

**Josh Wright:** I just said they don't have to. If the city decides to designate that as employee parking, the city can do that. That is no problem.

**Attorney Noe:** So, you are going to change the design and put all the handicapped parking in the back.

**Josh Wright:** we have talked about that, yes ma'am. We talked about taking 2 of the handicapped parking spots and moving them to the back where they will be right adjacent to the building so they will be able to get in. There will be 1 ADA compliant parking space in the front and that will open 2 more parking spaces for employees.

**Attorney Noe:** That ADA compliant parking spot would be only for an employee?

**Josh Wright:** we have to have at least 1, so that is why we have to have at least 1 there.

**Attorney Noe:** Yes, but you cannot get from the front of the building to the side of the building because there is not a continuous sidewalk.

**Josh Wright:** The only way that somebody would be able to get from the front of the building to the side where they would pay bills is somebody would have to let them in. There is no way they would be able to get from the front parking area all the way around. They would have to walk all the way around the building, or they would have to walk in the driveway.

**Mayor Greer:** We would have to designate the 1 handicapped parking space in the front strictly handicapped employee. We do not want people in wheelchairs to go down a 2-lane entryway.

**Attorney Noe:** How would you make sure that someone from the public does not take that first handicapped spot they see?

**Mayor Greer:** Well, they would have a rough time entering the building.

**Councilman Smith:** you would have to put a sign up that designates that as an employee handicapped parking only.

**Councilwoman Binkley:** I have a question. I was lucky enough to tour the facility this past week and when we pulled up, they were ripping out the sidewalk. Do you happen to know what the reason was for that?

**Josh Wright:** Yes ma'am, there were 2 or 3 sections the project superintendent was not happy with the pour, so he made them tear it out and repair it.

**Councilwoman Binkley:** Do you know if they have completed that yet?

**Josh Wright:** I don't know. I didn't look at that today. He did tell me that it had to happen in a couple of sections.

**Councilwoman Binkley:** ok

**Mayor Greer:** I was there on Sunday, and it had not been fixed.

**Attorney Noe:** Have you heard from the State Fire Marshal about approval of the change plan?

**Josh Wright:** Yes Ma'am. So, he sent back a long list of things that he wanted done. I am almost finished with those. I should be finished by tomorrow or Thursday.

**Attorney Noe:** Ok, because some of that work has already been done before the State Fire Marshal signed off on them, correct?



**Josh Wright:** We had verbal approval from the State Fire Marshal inspector and the planner that we could do some of that work and I have that documented from them. They gave the verbal approval, and they not only gave it to me they gave it to Clinton Dodson the project superintendent.

**Attorney Noe:** So, we do not have anything in writing?

**Josh Wright:** I am hopeful, he was pretty quick in getting his first round of comments back to us. So, I think we should have something back, hopefully in a week of turning them in. What he required us to do is have our engineers revise their plans. I have never had to do that with an architect supplemental instruction before with the State Fire Marshal's office. We are going to take care of it.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** How many change orders have happened on this project?

**Josh Wright:** There are 2 lists, and I would not call them change orders. We have a contingency bucket that I have on every project, and we are required by USDA to have that. Then, there are official change orders. Those change orders get sent to USDA and they are approved by you. We have only had (paused) the contingency is already in the budget. The city is not spending any more money than if it is in contingency and we have something come up and we can take it out of contingency then the city is not out of any money. We have had one change order, and it was for a time extension and for the access control adds and that was the only change order we have had.

**Mayor Greer:** So, are there 2 contingency funds? One is the architect's contingency and the other is contingency fund from USDA. Both of those contingency funds are subject to approval by the Fire Marshal for change orders, correct? The architects should go through the same process I would assume.

**Josh Wright:** Mayor they are not required to be approved by the State Fire Marshal's office unless it is something that effects the building code or life safety and then that has to go through and so that is what we have done with this plan review that we have sent to the Fire Marshal's office and he has already commented and I am trying to get that back. All of those items that are life safety changes, those have been submitted.

**Attorney Noe:** How many changes are there that have come out of your contingency fund?

**Josh Wright:** I've got those right here. There are 21 items in the contingency log and 6 of those are actually credits to the contingency fund, so there have been 15 changes in the contingency bucket.

**Councilman Smith:** How much was your contingency fund?

**Josh Wright:** The contingency started off at \$ 177,550.00.

**Councilman Smith:** When you make changes, do you have to get that approved by USDA to use that money?

**Josh Wright:** The contingency is not specifically what we have been told by Vance Hamilton and George Davis who are with USDA, and we have done this with the Fire Station project. As long as it came out of contingency and we documented it, it is ok. Now if George has changed that I am unaware. It has to be approved by Mayor Greer, and we had almost 8 months of the project with the previous mayor, and he had to approve those as well.

**Councilman Thompson:** How much do you have left of the \$ 177,550.00?

**Josh Wright:** As of today, we are zeroed out.

**Attorney Noe:** One of those change orders was to add the doors back in that were in the original plans, is that correct?

**Josh Wright:** Uh- huh and nodded yes.

**Attorney Noe:** That was for \$ 36,000.00?

**Josh Wright:** uh-huh and nodded yes. I would like to address that if I may? The doors were removed, I have a 43-page timeline here on the entire project and how I have been involved. September 20, 2022, beginning at 10 am in the Public Works Building. There was a meeting with Mayor JT Smith, we did a comprehensive final plan review and Mayor Smith approved those plans. We got our first plans review with the State Fire Marshal's office on 10-25-2022. I provided a response to the First plans review on 12-27-2022. Then we got our 2<sup>nd</sup> State Fire Marshal office plans review on 1-13-2023. On February 24, 2023, I had a meeting with Mayor



JT Smith, Chuck Walker, Violet Black, Allen Nicholson, and Gary Carpenter, and Myself. We reviewed the State Fire Marshal's office plan review # 2. Those doors were removed at that time. After my meeting, which was on February 24, 2023, I submitted my response to plan review #2 on February 18, 2023. Then we received a 3<sup>rd</sup> plan review, and I requested a meeting with our plan reviewer supervisor. That was a zoom call, let me back up. Our plan review #3 was received on March 31, 2023. I had a zoom call with the plan reviewer's supervisor Phillip Cameron, Danny Peck was on that call and our plans reviewer Ricky Cottrell. We discussed a lot of things and one of those things that saved the city some money was to remove the Ratings, the fire ratings on the mechanical room, the storage room and the electrical rooms. On that zoom call we discussed several things, and we referred to moving those doors in that zoom call. I had a previous phone call with Ricky Cottrell, our plans reviewer, who told me he did not see any way that I could leave those doors in and get a permit so that is what I did. After that zoom call we received, our plans got approved on April 21, 2023. The next meeting I had was a final plan and finishes review with Mayor JT Smith, Gayle Bowman, Violet Black, and Myself. We met at the Public Works Building on July 10, 2023, at 8 am and we went through the entire set of plans with the doors being removed and the fire ratings being removed and everything and the mayor signed off on that. Any questions so far?

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** So, who told you to remove the doors?

**Josh Wright:** My meeting with the Fire Marshal plan reviewer, I had a phone call with Ricky Cottrell, he told me he didn't think there was any way that I could keep those doors in there and still meet building code and life safety code.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** You have nothing in writing from him, you said you spoke with the State Fire Marshal's office a couple times before that? Did they say something to you about them?

**Josh Wright:** Ricky Cottrell is the State Fire Marshal's office.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** ok, so they just didn't think it would go through, so they told you to take them out?

**Josh Wright:** He told me he didn't think there was any way that I would be able to pass the building code and life safety code with the doors in there.

**Mayor Greer:** We don't have that in writing.

**Josh Wright:** The only thing that I have Mayor is a recorded phone call. The zoom call where he did refer to and said, "Now that you have taken those doors out you can do this".

**Mayor Greer:** In that phone call did he tell you to take them out?

**Josh Wright:** In a previous phone call yes sir.

**Mayor Greer:** But that is not recorded?

**Josh Wright:** No.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** So, that resulted in \$ 81,000.00 worth of door locks and now we have doors back? So, now the State Fire Marshal's office is ok with it?

**Josh Wright:** If you let me finish, I will explain the whole timeline to you. The final plans and finishes review that had all the Fire Marshal Changes exterior and interior were reviewed on July 10, 2023, at Public Works with JT Smith, Gayle Bowman, Violet Black, and myself. I went and made sure that the former knew what they made me do and what I did, and it was approved.

**Councilman Smith:** Can I ask just one last question? The guy that told you to take the doors out, if you ask him today, would he say that he told you that?

**Josh Wright:** Thank you for asking that question. Once we got into construction, Mayor Greer was sworn in and brought in and Allen and the staff and we were all looking at these corridors and everybody said why did we have to take the doors out? My response was, I was told to take them out. I don't agree with it but they are the jurisdiction and have authority and so that is what I did.

**Mayor Greer:** Is this the type of situation that one of our local officials, like a fire chief, could make a different decision?

**Josh Wright:** No, sir. The State Fire Marshal's office is for this particular project and life safety, they are the jurisdictions that have authority.



**Mayor Greer:** But now it is ok for us to put them back in? Why is that?

**Josh Wright:** You would have to ask Ricky Cottrell that question.

**Mayor Greer:** You should have that answer. We should know why because now it is costing us a lot of money to put them back in.

**Josh Wright:** I can tell you what he told me; what he told me was "I don't know why I made you do that, and I don't remember telling you to do that". That's what he told me.

**Mayor Greer:** That is what he has told us too. He did not ask to have them removed.

**Josh Wright:** So, the fact that he told me in a previous phone call that he did not see how I could pass the building code and life safety code with those doors in there, I went, and I made sure that the mayor knew. I've got more dates and times. July 10<sup>th</sup> is when I had that meeting with the former mayor, and he approved of the plans. City Hall when the bids were advertised on July 18, 2023. There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting for the project on July 31, 2023. The 2 general contractors that priced the job were there as well as the former mayor, Chuck Walker, Violet Black, Allen Nicholson, and Gary Carpenter. The City Hall bid opening happened on August 18, 2023, the city council awarded the bid on August 22, 2023. Our notice of award was sent to Solomon Builders on September 5, 2023. The contract for construction was executed on October 25, 2023. We had our first owner and architect contract meeting on January 10, 2024. Solomon Builder's began construction on January 12, 2024. We had a 2<sup>nd</sup> owner and architect contract meeting on January 24, 2024, and then on February 13, 2024, I had a meeting at Fire Station 2 at 10:30 am with Chuck Walker, Derek Noe, Allen Nicholson, and Gary Carpenter. At the meeting the Fire Connection was discussed, and Chief Noe gave me verbal approval of where it was at. Also, at that meeting, I will say this about the city plans review. Gary Carpenter is one of the most thorough plan reviewers I have ever met and if you look at his set of drawings He had notes all over that set of drawings. We went through the plans from top to bottom, Gary and I did. Allen was there, I remember having to take care of things and coming back but all of us went through the plans that day. Nothing was said about the doors missing, nothing.

**Councilman Smith:** Can I ask another question?

**Josh Wright:** Yes sir.

**Councilman Smith:** Stay on the door issue, when you took the doors out, I assume you redesigned it to do all the individual doors with the safety locks on them, would that have to be approved by the State Fire Marshal's office?

**Josh Wright:** Great Question Councilman, we actually deleted 5 doors, and we only added back 3 doors. The 3 we added back there is one door that was in the location it was and the other 2 are in a different location.

**Councilman Smith:** No, I am talking about when you removed the original one, then you brought the new plans out and we looked at them and it had a whole bunch of doors on it.

**Josh Wright:** Are you talking about access control?

**Councilman Smith:** Yes. When you made those changes, did all of that have to be approved by the State Fire Marshal's office?

**Josh Wright:** The doors that we were adding in yes. I have put on my plans that those 3 doors we added in have access control.

**Attorney Noe:** But they have not been approved.

**Josh Wright:** We had verbal approval from Jason Kimbrough our inspector, and Ricky Cottrell our plan reviewer. Mr. Cottrell also told me to move a janitor's closet door to the council chamber's side. I did not agree with that, but you can ask Allen anytime I have a project I do not argue with the code's official. Do you want to know why, He is the jurisdiction having authority. That is the way the building code reads. The jurisdiction having authority, they have the final say. Allen knows this about me, and I don't argue with Allen. If I have a project and he says Josh I don't think or Gary I don't argue with them. They are the jurisdiction having authority. So, I don't know why Mr. Cottrell has amnesia, I don't but I can tell you this much, I did what I was told. I reviewed it with the folks that were here, and we got a building permit to start construction on this project.



**Allen Nicholson:** Just so the council is aware that we do not have any authority or jurisdiction. It is all State and there is no sense in us approving it when they have already done a thorough review.

**Derek Noe:** The only time we would get involved is a local ordinance that gives us authority. We can be stricter than the state, but we cannot be less strict.

**Attorney Noe:** As Chief you would have authority with drawing and things with the sprinkler systems. You have some authority over that, is that correct?

**Derek Noe:** we do not have authority, the State Fire Marshal's office will reach out and ask us if it works before it is approved. If the State says something has to be installed in a specific spot or you need an accelerator on the sprinkler system. We cannot Trump their decision.

**Councilwoman Binkley:** He brings up a good point. How did the sprinkler pipe end up in one of the offices rather than the sprinkler room? How did that happen?

**Josh Wright:** I am glad you brought that up, there was a comment from the Fire Marshal's office, and it said that per the building code, and the building code states 2 things. It has to be on the front facing façade or the fire code official can designate where that goes. I had a meeting that Chief Noe was at and that was discussed. I can give you a date and time when that was discussed. That was discussed on February 13, 2024, the entire set of plans were gone through, and we discussed the fire department connection at that meeting.

**Attorney Noe:** So, it was decided at that meeting to put it in a room?

**Josh Wright:** It was decided at that meeting that the Fire Code official was ok with where the engineer showed him.

**Mayor Greer:** Didn't the engineer show it on the side of the building coming out of the sprinkler room?

**Josh Wright:** Yes, mayor in the first round of plans that is where we wanted it. There was a comment, and I can show you the comment and the building code clearly states that the Fire Code official can choose where it goes.

**Mayor Greer:** Why didn't we opt to ask the official fire code if we could just leave it on the side. If the fire code official says it can go, then it can go there.

**Attorney Noe:** That would be our fire code official, correct?

**Josh Wright:** that would be Derek Noe, and it was discussed in a meeting on February 13, 2024, 9 am at Station #2. In attendance for the meeting were Deputy Chief Derek Noe, Alen Nicholson was in and out and Gary Carpenter and myself went through every sheet of plans and the Fire Department Connection was discussed.

**Derek Noe:** I do remember some of that meeting and it being on the side and the State Fire Marshal's office wanted it moved to the front. I did not see a problem with it on the front and to be transparent I did not think about the pipe having to be chased as far as the valve being on the front. Speaking for the Fire Department, our guys like them where they can see them and if they are not on the front with the new construction, we make them have a sign with the location marked. We also discussed in that meeting that if we pull a truck on that side of the building it is so tight and the building is truly on fire and we are supporting that sprinkler system that puts us very tight to the building. I will own that as far as the chase or the pipe inside the office.

**Josh Wright:** Can I make one comment, Mayor Greer has been great to work with, Mayor Smith was great to work with, Mayor Allen was great to work with, Mayor Johnson was great to work with, I have worked with 4 different administrations on this building and that might not ring a bell but each mayor has an idea of things that they would like to do with the city but also with city hall. We have tried to accommodate each one and at this point we are 60 days away from this building being finished. 60 days and I am talking to Clinton Dodson, and I am at the job site 3 days a week right now and we are working frantically to get done. They have asked for an extension, but I will shoot straight they are still trying to make that original date that they told y'all. They want to over deliver so we are all trying to make it so they can get finished and you all can get in there. I am happy to share this time line with you all and I also have a signed document with the former mayors signature where approved the plans. You can have this, and I cannot be any more honest and transparent about this whole process and I think that is all you



all would ask from me and that is what I am doing. I think it is important to understand what the Fire Marshal told me to do to save the city money and you say now it is not because we are adding it back, but the previous administration was ok with that.

**Mayor Greer:** When you did this, you should have advised the city by taking those doors that it was going to put our employees at a security risk.

**Josh Wright:** I can answer that mayor. The former mayor and this is a compliment to you, the former mayor did not involve the employees like you do. That did not happen before you were mayor.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** You say that Josh, but part of that is on you. If you're the project manager and take something out for safety and it was for the employees and even if the mayor signed off on it, you could say hey Mayor all of these employees are going to be here. People will have access to them and at the current city hall there are security measures and at past city halls we had security measures. You acted as project manager and had a lot of people in meetings with you but you're the one in charge of what is going on with the plans and what is going on at the site right.

**Josh Wright:** I am not, I am not the project manager.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** Who is our project manager?

**Josh Wright:** Cody Abney with Solomon Builder's. I am your architect and there is a difference. I take orders from whoever my contract says I take orders from. My contract says I take orders from the mayor. I can provide you with a copy of the contract if you would like to have it. That is who I take orders from, and should the previous mayor have involved employees well you would have to ask him. I did what JT Smith told me to do because he was my owner's representative at that time.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan:** I still believe that as someone who was the architect for the building when you take something as important as that out, I would have mentioned it to the mayor and said Hey you did this. It has ended up costing a whole lot of money for the taxpayer and it is not just one issue there have been many issues. We had issues with previous projects that cost a lot of extra money. We have talked about issues several times and it seems to snowball, and the common denominator is the architect. We have had to make changes, and we are wondering why it was not that way from the beginning.

**Josh Wright:** It was that way from the beginning. I can show you and prove it to you. I am not the jurisdiction having authority and that is the part I don't know that you're getting. When the jurisdiction tells me to do something I do it. Now, he can say he doesn't remember okay and that is fine. It's the same thing on Station 1 when we have all the proper plan approvals all of them and the field inspector supervisor walked through there and made us change a bunch of things. That's not my fault and that is not Ashland City's fault, that is nobody's fault, that is called the jurisdiction having authority. They dictate what we do, they dictate what I do. There are plenty of times I don't agree with them, but I do it. The reason I do it is I don't get a permit. So, if they don't approve plans, we don't get a building. Then you have every right to look at me and say hey architect why don't we have plan approval? I went through the proper channels; I got the plans approved and I don't know why this particular plan reviewer has forgotten what he told me. I don't know why, but I do know there is a call that I recorded because I got tired of this stuff. He told me, "Well now that you have taken all the doors out you don't have this problem. Three minutes later he said you do not have to have all these walls rated so you can take that out. That is what the man said. If you want to hear the recording, I will be happy to let you hear it. That is what he said, and he cannot have it both ways. He can't say I didn't tell him to do this or do that, I have a recording where the man told me to take the ratings out.

**Mayor Greer:** Can we get a copy of that recording? Not a snip it but the recording in full.

**Josh Wright:** I have provided that to Ms. Jennifer. It is 27 minutes or something like that. It is all there, and you can hear him tell me to take the rated fire walls out you don't need those. Fully sprinklered building. I didn't agree with him telling me to take the doors out, there are more exits on this building I can guarantee you than any building in Ashland City. I don't understand why he told me to do that.

**Mayor Greer:** But you don't have it in writing, and he denies that he told you that.



**Josh Wright:** Well, it is his word against mine mayor.

**Mayor Greer:** but you don't have it in writing.

**Josh Wright:** It is his word against mine, but you do have a building permit.

**Attorney Noe:** Has the payment window been finished for the court department because that was not included in the original plans?

**Josh Wright:** It has been ordered but he does not know if it was put in or not.

**Attorney Noe:** we do not have approval of the State Fire Marshal on that either.

**Josh Wright:** The State Fire Marshal is not going to have a problem with that. It is a fully sprinklered building and the corridors are not rated, we have windows in other places so there will not be any problems.

**Attorney Noe:** When was that submitted?

**Josh Wright:** advised he would give her the date. It was provided by Allen Nicholson but could not hear it on video. As soon as the contingency fund was approved to take that out of the contingency fund, I had it sent to the Fire Marshal's office on Monday. Do y'all have any more questions for me? Thank y'all for allowing me to speak.

### NEW BUSINESS

3. CPA Services Quote – Attorney Noe stated that this is from Mauldin and Jenkins. Our current auditor has found some issues with our accounting, and they are auditors and not there to fix our problem. They required us to hire an outside CPA to fix the issues. Allen has sent out numerous emails for bids and we had 2 responses. This is one of them that responded, and they listed the city of Lebanon as a reference, and I know the city attorney there well and called and they recommended them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bid was a little less, but this is a bigger firm and more familiar with some of our issues. The cost is \$ 23,805.00. The current audit cannot continue without this help. Without this help the auditor cannot finish the current books and it will affect the budget process and cause it to be a little late as well.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the Mauldin & Jenkins CPA contract. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0

### OTHER


4. City Hall Bench Pew Seating – Mayor Greer stated we are going to need additional money for furniture. The original chairs chosen for the courtroom are not the best option for many reasons, chairs with fabric are not a good option because they retain odors, stains, absorb bodily fluids, and wear quickly. Most courtrooms have bench style seating made of wood. They last longer and can be refinished if needed. The style chairs that were chosen are metal construction and we are not sure of their longevity of them. Neither of the options will be bolted to the floor as it will limit the capacity of the courtroom. The prices are increased with the pews, but they will last longer. The price goes from \$ 95, 020.00 for the metal chairs, it would be \$ 179, 144.00 for the pews. The overage is \$ 84, 124.00. We have a contingency that we can draw from but needs council approval to draw from it to purchase the proper furniture.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to approve the purchase of the pews and drawing the additional funds from the contingency bucket. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

  
MAYOR GERALD GREER

  
CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE