



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY
Budget Meeting
April 21, 2020 6:00 PM
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Allen called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. stating, "I, Steven Allen, Mayor for the Town of Ashland City, and I hereby call to order the April 21, 2020 Budget Meeting of the Town of Ashland City. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, and in accordance with Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order 16, this meeting is being conducted with limited physical public access. The meeting is being made available however to public via live video stream on the Zoom application. The meeting is being done by electronic means to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens in light of the COVID19 pandemic"

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Mayor Steve Allen
Vice Chairman Roger Jackson
Committee Member Tim Adkins
Committee Member Daniel Anderson
Committee Member Gerald Greer
Committee Member Chris Kerrigan
Committee Member Lisa Walker
All members reported via electronic means.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Committee Member Greer, seconded by Committee Member Anderson, to approve the agenda as written. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 17, 2020 Budget Meeting Minutes
Ms. Walker stated she had a correction under Approval of Minutes it stated there were a couple of corrections, but it only lists one. A motion was made by Committee Member Anderson, seconded by Committee Member Kerrigan, to approve the March 17, 2020 meeting minutes with the correction made by Ms. Walker. All approved by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Fire Department Budget
Ms. Bowman stated the last three (3) years are shown in the departmental budget. She stated in the wages line item they are adding a one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) as a pass through for county coverage and increasing the part time hourly rate from thirteen fifty (\$13.50) to fifteen fifty (\$15.50) per hour. Ms. Bowman stated she put descriptions in each of the line items. Further, the telephone cost increased due to the new employees that were added to the budget last year. She stated that there is forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000) for replacing the pour into place rubber at Fire Station II playground. The next change is under the capital outlay line item being the construction of the fire hall, the purchase of the fire truck, and three (3) shade structures at Fire Station II. Chief Walker stated in this year's budget we have the down payment for the fire truck and in next year's budget is the payment. Further, we have applied for a grant with USDA and are looking at getting a one hundred thousand-dollar (\$100,000) grant toward this purchase. Vice Mayor Anderson questioned if Chief Walker has spoken to the county about the rural protection we provide. Chief Walker stated yes, he has, but the county has been slow about getting back with him. Chief Walker stated he sent everyone an email this

afternoon in regard to replacing the trucks. He further displayed the email. Councilman Jackson questioned getting hard copies of the budget to review. Councilman Adkins stated he would like to have hard copies as well. Ms. Bowman stated she can print hard copies for everyone to pick up if they would like. Chief Walker explained the average age of the department's fire trucks is nineteen point six (19.6) years. They are looking at surplus two (2) trucks with this purchase. Further with the grant and down payment we are looking at an eighty-five thousand dollar (\$85,000) a year payment if they are awarded the grant and make the down payment this fiscal year. Committee Member Jackson questioned if this truck will have a pump on it. Chief Walker stated this is a quint truck and will be used as a dual purpose as it runs like an engine and has a ladder on it. Councilman Anderson asked Chief Walker to explain how this ISO rating would help the residents. Chief Walker stated their homeowner's insurance is based on the ISO ratings and we are currently a class four (4) and in order to keep this rating we would need a ladder truck at both buildings. He further stated it helps the industries being below a class five. Committee Member Adkins questioned when we will hear about the grant. Ms. Reed stated she has been working on the application and process this week and she hopes to submit it to USDA this week. Further, once submitted it will take two to three (2-3) weeks for review and approval.

3. Water Department Budget

Mr. Biggers stated the only thing he has added is replacing the new filter and adding another one this year. Further, the pump stations are listed, but we are working on a grant that will possibly pay for all six (6) of the pump stations. Other than those changes everything else is the same as last year. Ms. Reed stated this budget is part of the packet and it will pull right up on the website. Committee Member Jackson questioned line item for Freight and Shipping. Ms. Bowman stated she has had Ms. Jamie working on this to try to true up this number and this cost has not been coming out as it should, but they are trying to correct this. Committee Member Jackson questioned if the insurance is going up that much. Ms. Bowman stated this is not a true figure because they haven't given us those numbers yet. Ms. Reed stated she has been working on this and the initial numbers they came back with was a twenty-seven percent (27%) increase. Further, they are bidding it with several other insurance companies to try to reduce this cost. Committee Member Jackson questioned if the first filter has been completed. Mr. Biggers responded the inspector has to come down yet as he will have to be here when the sand is added and it is started up for warranty purposes. Councilman Anderson questioned if we have purchased the property from the county. Mayor responded Ms. Jennifer is working on that now. Ms. Reed stated Ms. Jennifer said they have discussed this with the county attorney and there has been some back and forth there, but hopefully it will be ready for council next week.

4. Public Works Department Budget

Mr. Biggers stated the only thing he has special in this budget is finishing out the shop in the rear for twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in the capital outlay line item. This will add doors and close it in. He further stated the paving will need to be rolled over into next year. Ms. Bowman stated this will be in the Street Aid budget. Committee Member Anderson questioned fixing a right of way off of Ash Court that is in bad shape. He asked if when we start paving if it can be looked at. Mr. Biggers asked if it is paved or gravel. Committee Member Anderson stated it is paved now but is washed out and he asked for Mr. Biggers to keep this in the back of his mind for when the times comes.

5. Street Aid Budget

Ms. Bowman stated this is to re appropriate funds from last year into next fiscal year so that paving can be done after July 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

6. General Government/ Recorder Budget

Ms. Reed stated the big changes you will see in this budget is the full-time assistant for the Mayor. Committee Member Adkins questioned if we can discuss the janitorial position. Ms. Bowman stated during the last budget year this position was a contracted position, but we

realized she should have been an employee instead of a contract position. Further, she works part-time for the city. Ms. Reed stated she doesn't qualify as a contract employee under the IRS standards. Ms. Reed stated the miscellaneous line item pays the city's portion of the tax relief program. Ms. Reed stated the event committee will let us know if that line item is good. She mentioned the home grant is listed and they hope to hear back on that soon. Further, the construction of city hall is listed in the capital outlay line item. Committee Member Adkins questioned where we stand on the mayor's assistant position. Mayor stated he is waiting on this virus to settle down to revisit hiring for this position. Further, once the regular employees come back to work full-time he will revisit this.

OTHER.

Mayor stated we need to have a called meeting and asked Ms. Reed to explain this further. Ms. Reed stated there is a resolution that will need to be passed for the grant money the state is offering. Committee Member Adkins questioned how the money will be used. Ms. Reed shared the project categories on the screen. Ms. Bowman asked if we would have a Budget meeting as well next week to discuss revenues. Committee Member Jackson questioned the total amount of the grant. Ms. Reed stated it is one hundred thirty-three thousand six hundred and eleven dollars (\$133,611). Mayor stated we want to get the most bang for our buck. Councilman Jackson questioned doing something for the kids and families. Mayor stated parks and such we cannot do under this grant. Ms. Reed stated she will send out the email with the project categories and asked for ideas for use to be sent to her by the end of the week. Committee Member Adkins questioned if we have any expenses due to COVID19. Mayor stated no. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Jackson, seconded by Committee Member Adkins, to hold a special called council meeting next Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. All approved by voice vote.

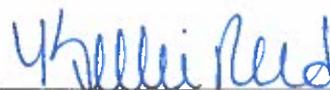
Mayor stated he will hopefully have a meeting Thursday or Friday on the salary study. Vice Mayor Anderson questioned when we did a salary study last. Mayor stated he thought it was two (2) or three (3) years ago. Mayor questioned the cost. Ms. Reed stated she would have to look. Councilman Adkins stated he thought it was about sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000). Mayor stated he agrees he would rather use the money to improve salaries instead of spending money on these studies. Ms. Walker stated she thought it was in 2017. Vice Mayor Anderson questioned why we asked for it to be done. Ms. Reed stated when we set the budget last year there was an employee going off the pay scale, but when the budget was approved the motion was made to do a salary study. Committee Member Jackson questioned the rehab and extra three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the sewer treatment plant funding. Ms. Reed stated the rehab is just part of that extra money. It also includes the extension of the line for the outfall. Mr. Biggers stated it is over two million for the line repairs. Committee Member Jackson questioned when we will get started on those repairs. Mr. Biggers replied as soon as we get the funding in order. Committee Member Walker stated the salary study may have been related to Resolution 2017-04.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Allen apologized for the delay in the starting the meeting stating he didn't realize the internet was that bad at Station II. Committee Member Jackson stated Mr. Jimmy Noe reminds him every time he sees him there is no internet on that end of town every time he sees him. A motion was made by Committee Member Walker, seconded by Vice Chairman Jackson, to adjourn. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



MAYOR STEVE ALLEN



CITY RECORDER KELLIE REED, CMFO, CMC