



## TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting January 13, 2026, 6:00 PM Minutes

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

### ABSENT

Councilman Kevin Thompson

### PLEDGE AND PRAYER

1. Pastor Derek Wright: Unity Church

Pastor Derek Wright delivered the prayers for this evening's meeting.

### PUBLIC HEARING

2. ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF 2026

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Young, to close the Public Hearing. All approved by voice vote.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to approve the agenda. All approved by voice vote.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. Approval of December 9, 2025, Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting Minutes

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

### PUBLIC FORUM

**Stacy Earl Stuart** requested a reduced speed limit on **N. Poole Street and S. Poole Street**, noting that **Smith Street and Spring Street** are posted at **15 MPH**. She resides at **S. Poole Street and Forest Street** and stated traffic has increased over the years. She cited speeding, multiple accidents, a fatal incident involving a child, and the death of an animal. She noted a bus stop at the intersection and the lack of sidewalks, requiring children to walk in ditches. She stated residents are not requesting speed bumps, only a lower speed limit to improve safety.

**Gina Binkley** addressed the Board regarding the speed limit on N. Poole Street and S. Poole Street, advocating for a reduced speed limit of 15 MPH and stating she does not support the use of speed bumps. She also spoke on Item 11 of the agenda, expressing her preference to retain the ward-based voting system rather than moving to at-large voting, stating that wards provide equal representation for all residents.

**Shirley Moulton** – She stated she is the **Cheatham County Ambassador for the Tennessee Environmental Council** and spoke about **Jackson Law**, passed in the 1980s, which allows cities and counties to require permits, public hearings, and cost reimbursement. She noted ongoing issues with the **Murfreesboro landfill** and advised the Council on how adopting the law would help protect the Town from future landfill development. She stated the County has already adopted the law and explained that if Ashland City adopts it, landfill operators would be

required to obtain permits from both the **County and the Town**, giving the Board decision-making authority.

#### **REPORTS**

4. **ATTORNEY: JENNIFER NOE**

Attorney Noe stated that she has nothing new to add that it is not already on the agenda.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NONE**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

5. **RESOLUTION 2026-01: Public Meetings**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Binkley, Seconded by Councilman Adkins, to approve Resolution 2026-01 setting the public meetings for the year. Voting Yea: Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

6. **RESOLUTION 2026-02: Amend the Towns Cyber Security Plan.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Binkley, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to approve Resolution 2026-02 amending the towns cyber security plan. Voting Yea: Councilwoman Binkley, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

7. **RESOLUTION 2026-03: Cyber Security Grant through the State.**

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Young, to approve the town to apply for the no match grant of 1.9 million dollars. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

8. **ORDINANCE 644: Budget Amendment 1st Reading**

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the budget amendment. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

9. **Resolution 2026-04: Accepting the \$1000.00 Donation from Ashland Market**

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Adkins, to approve the acceptance of \$1,000.00 donation from Ashland Market. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Adkins, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

10. **RESOLUTION 2026-05: Permission to bid paving**

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to give permission for the paving bid for 2026. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Mayor Greer** made a public service announcement prior to **Item 11, Change of Charter**, addressing recent social media commentary regarding council members. He stated that he, **Chief of Staff Allen Nicolson**, and **City Attorney Jennifer Noe** conducted extensive research, including consultation with the **State Attorney General's Office**, regarding residency requirements for council members.

Based on this research, the City Charter provides that a council member only vacates their seat if they move **outside the city limits**. A council member may move outside their ward and continue to serve the remainder of their term. Upon seeking reelection, this council member must run in the ward in which they reside. Mayor Greer stated that the council member affected is fully protected to serve out the remainder of their term.

**Attorney Jennifer Noe** added that case law also supports this determination.

11. RESOLUTION 2026-06: CHANGE IN CHARTER

**Mayor Greer** explained that the new law will take effect for the **August 2026 election** and that the Board must decide whether council members will be elected **by ward** or **at large**. He stated that under the current system, candidates must qualify in the ward where they reside, but voters may vote at large for one candidate in each ward. A law that took effect on **January 1, 2024**, now requires that if elections are held by ward, voters may only vote for candidates within their own ward.

Mayor Greer explained that if wards are abolished, voters would be allowed to vote for **three candidates at large**, with the top three vote-getters elected. He noted that the six council members are elected in alternating terms.

**Attorney Jennifer Noe** advised that this issue was presented to the Board in **December 2023**, but a resolution failed, leaving the Town out of compliance with state law. She stated that the State Representative is aware of the issue and that a decision must now be made.

Mayor Greer advised that the matter must be submitted to **Representative Mary Littleton** by the following morning. Attorney Noe added that the legislative session has begun, the proposal must move through committees, and that candidate petition qualifying is already open. Mayor Greer stated that once approved by the Legislature, the matter will be returned to the Board for final approval to ratify the Charter.

The floor was opened for discussion.

**Vice Mayor Kerrigan** stated that his research shows many residents favor **at-large elections** because it promotes community-wide representation and avoids ward competition. He noted the current Board works well together but expressed concern that wards could compete for resources in the future.

**Mayor Greer** stated residents are divided, with concerns that removing wards could isolate council members to specific areas of Town.

**Councilman Adkins** stated he is torn between the options, understands the pros and cons of both, and noted the Town already functions partially at large. He also noted that **Kingston Springs, Pegram, and Pleasant View** elect at large.

**Councilwoman Binkley** stated wards are currently working well and ensure equal representation. She expressed concern that eliminating wards could result in all council members coming from one area, leaving other areas underrepresented, and stated wards should be retained. A motion was made by Councilwoman Binkley, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to either vote ward or vote at-large. Voting Ward: Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Young, Voting at large: Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer.

**Absent:** Councilman Thompson

12. DISCUSSION: Excessive speeds on North Poole and South Poole streets

Corrected signage on N. Poole was discussed and adding a sign at the dead end of S. Poole was discussed and Clint Biggers the Streets Department Head verified the N. Poole signage has been corrected. There was a decision made to have a resolution on the February agenda to lower the speed limit to 15 MPH on s. Poole Street.

13. APPOINTMENT: BZA member nominations Keith Sturges and Sandra Braden

Mayor Greer nominated Keith Sturges for the open position on the BZA Board.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Binkley, Seconded by Councilman Young, to re-appoint Keith Stuges for the open seat on the BZA Board... Voting Yea: Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

Mayor Greer nominated Sandra Braden for the open position on the BZA Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to re-appoint Sandra Braden for the open seat on the BZA Board. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

#### **SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS**

14. Pilgrim 2.0 meters EG-5 - Belt Press - Sludge Removal and control panel

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the sale (surplus) of the old belt press. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

15. 2005 Ford F550 Bucket Truck - 2WD

A motion was made by Councilman Adkins, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to approve the sale of the 2005 Ford F550 Bucket Truck. Voting Yea: Councilman Adkins, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

16. Trimble Ranger TSC3 - Hand Held Meter Reader and Data Collector - total of 4

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the sale of the Handheld Data Collectors and chargers. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

#### **EXPENDITURE REQUESTS**

**NONE**

#### **OTHER**

**Phase 1 Trail Discussion – Will Duffel** stated that TDOT's current estimate is approximately **\$300,000** higher than the estimate from five years ago. After reviewing available funding, a balance of approximately **\$91,536.60** remains. TDOT requires a letter signed by the Mayor authorizing the source of these funds. The Board previously approved **\$1,000,000** for the project, and expenditures are expected to be well below that amount. A project contingency is sufficient to cover the overage. Mr. Duffel also reported that the Town received the first of several TDOT reimbursements in the amount of **\$63,000** the previous day.

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the Mayor to sign a certified letter to TDOT to move into the construction phase of the project. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0 **Absent:** Councilman Thompson

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Young, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.