



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY

Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting- July 09, 2024, 6:00 PM

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor JT Smith

Councilman Tim Adkins

Vice Mayor Gerald Greer

Councilman Chris Kerrigan

Councilman Michael Smith

Councilman Kevin Thompson

Councilman Tony Young

PLEDGE AND PRAYER

Councilman Adkins led with the Pledge and Prayer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Greer, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the agenda with changes moving City Recorder appointment to the end of the agenda and include the resolution to be added. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 11, 2024, Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to approve the June 11, 2024, minutes. All approved by voice vote.

2. June 28, 2024, Minutes Special Called Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to approve the June 28, 2024, Special called meeting minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

Valerie Kemp - A local CPA, business owner, resident, landowner. She came to speak about the budget that is being voted on. She wanted to speak about Fiscal responsibility. She spoke about projections for the future economic conditions of our country. The projections and forecasts are used to help us prepare budgets and make the best financial decisions for the business we represent. There is a 51% chance the US will be in a recession of some degree by May of 2025. Retail consumer purchases across the nation are down except for the Travel and leisure segment of the economy. Some parts of the country retail is down as much as 20%. In the first quarter of 2024 consumers spent more on services and less on goods having restaurant and bar sales decline by almost half a percent. That may not sound like a lot but when speaking about half a percent of all the money spent across the country that is a lot money. Pointing out that consumers are spending more on services and often times here in the State of Tennessee most of those services are not taxable for sales tax purposes. Goods are taxable for sales tax purposes. As many of you know consumers are experiencing higher gas prices and higher rent or mortgages, Increased food costs, which all impact the daily lives of Americans and those in our community. Higher prices across these specific categories have consumers getting a different mindset about how they spend their money. Many people across the country are restricting their spending. Tennessee's widest increase in population occurred last year with 94.7% of the counties in Tennessee seeing growth and population. Cheatham county was one of the counties with that growth. The reason these statistics matter is the majority of our tax base comes from sales tax. If our

nation is experiencing a decline in consumer purchases that could potentially decrease the amount of tax base that we could have here in Ashland City. That would impact the surplus in the Town's proposed budget. With the travel and leisure segment of the economy on the increase and the rest of retail in decline, it seems appropriate that any surplus in the budget be put toward capital improvement. This would be like the improvements to River Bluff Park, Ball Parks, Amphitheater and things like that. This will bring tourism into our area, and we know that we are living in an area where a large majority of people are already coming. This will keep our small town feeling while still having economic prosperity we should get the projects like the ball fields because those are the things that will bring the people outside of our town in. Infrastructure is going to be needed at some point. She stated that there are problems with the water and sewer on spring St. every time it rains, they have issues. She is asking that the surplus that we have in our budget would be put toward projects like parks development and other projects to enhance the community. She is asking that we cut out any unnecessary spending.

REPORTS

4. Attorney - Jennifer Noe asked that she have a client attorney meeting at the end of the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. THRIVE 55+ Center Rental Agreement Discussion
A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to approve the Thrive 55+ Center Rental Agreement. Voting Yea: Councilman Kerrigan, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, Mayor Smith. Voting Nay: 0
6. Thrive 55+ Dance Lease
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the Thrive 55+ Center Dance Lease Agreement. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Kerrigan, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0
7. Appoint City Recorder
Moved to the end of the meeting.
8. ORDINANCE: To adopt the Budget and Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the Budget with the changes. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins
9. Award Salary Study
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to award the salary study to the middle option "Cisco" for the 17,000 taking effect for year 25-26. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

NEW BUSINESS

10. Propane Gas Service & Equipment Lease Agreement
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the contract for the Propane Gas Service & Equipment Lease. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0
11. Resolution: 2024 Tennessee Senior Center Major Grant Request for Proposal
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to approve the Resolution. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0
12. GNRC - Contract

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the GNRC Contract. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

13. Management Control Agreement

A motion was made by, Vice Mayor Greer, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the Management Control Agreement. Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

14. Ordinance: Rezone Boyd St

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to approve the Rezone of Boyd St. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

15. 24-25 Bid for Paving

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Young, to approve the 24-25 Bid for Paving. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

16. Resolution: BlueCross BlueShield playground grant

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the resolution. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

NONE

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

NONE

OTHER

17. Operating Back Flow License - Jason Barnett

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to approve the use of the Operating Back Flow License. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Kerrigan, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith Voting Nay: 0

18. City Admin Discussion

Ms. Black stated that she has spoken to Gary Jaeckel and he does not expect to do interviews until August 6, 2024, the same night as workshop. He is anticipating each candidate to get a 45-minute interview so it will be a long night. He does have questions that he wants to go over or assign the council to ask to open them up more to find out how they will fit into the city. This would also carry them into a second interview. The first interviews will be via Zoom.

19. Resolution: Social Media Pages Policy

A motion was made by Councilman Young, Seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to add and approve the Resolution for Social Media Pages Policy. Voting Yea: Councilman Young, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Vice Mayor Greer, and Mayor Smith. Voting Nay: 0

Cameras were turned off at 6:26 Pm to address the city Recorder.

Cameras were turned back on at 6:29 PM for the vote to appoint the City Recorder.

20. Appointment of City Recorder.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Greer, Seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to appoint Mary Molepske as the City Recorder. Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith. Voting Nay: 0

21. Setting a date for the special called meeting for the Budget - 2nd Reading
A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Vice Mayor Greer, to set the Special called Meeting for the Budget 2nd Reading for July 30,2024. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith. Voting **Nay**: 0

Camera was stopped for the attorney Client meeting at 6:31 PM.

The camera was turned back on and the meeting resumed at 6:44 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Kerrigan, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, regarding payment to Reeves and Young of\$ 224,006.00 for the WWTP. Voting Yea: Councilman Kerrigan, Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Greer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Young, and Mayor Smith. Voting Nay: 0

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Kerrigan, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


VICE MAYOR GERALD GREER


CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE