



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting January 14, 2025, 6:00 PM Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Greer called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

PLEDGE AND PRAYER

Prayer was led by Councilman Adkins.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 9, 2024, Special Called Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the December 9, 2024, Special Called Meeting Minutes. All approved by voice vote.
2. December 10, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilwoman Binkley, to approve the December 10, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PRESENTATION TO JUNIOR CUBS

Mayor Greer – Tonight we have a very special presentation. The Town of Ashland City is proud to announce the Junior Cubs 12 Football Team. The team completed the regular season with a record of 5-1. Winning against Greenbriar and the Nashville Royals in the Playoffs and winning against Springfield in the Championship Game to win the 2024 Superbowl.

AWARD THE TROPHIES FOR THE PARADE FLOATS

1st Place Trophy - Commercial - Jarrett Concrete – Representatives came to receive the trophy.

1st Place Trophy - Private - Ashland City Elementary School Cheer – Representatives came to receive the trophy.

People's Choice Trophy - Dr. Shoemaker Family Medicine – They were not able to come to receive the trophy so we will make sure to get it to them.

Mayor's Choice Trophy - Industrial Electrical Services – Mayor Greer stated that this was a very difficult choice because there were so many incredible Floats this year. He appreciates each one of the people that participated in the parade. He hopes that they will all come back next year, and the parade will be even bigger and even better. This year the mayor's choice goes to IES (Industrial Electrical Services). Representatives were present to accept the trophy.

PRESENTATION TO GOLDSTAR REALTY FOR SPONSORING THE SANTA CLAUS FLOAT EVERY YEAR

The final award is a very special award. For many years Steve and Patty of Goldstar Realty have been the sponsors of the Parade and provided the Santa Float. It has always been a beautiful float, and it has been a real honor to have you as a part of the parade each year. We would like to present you with this trophy of appreciation. It says the Town of Ashland City proudly recognizes Goldstar Realty for bringing immense joy to our Town by hosting Santa Claus in the Christmas Parade. Your generosity brought excitement to our children who eagerly awaited Santa Claus each year. So, thank you very much for everything you have done for Ashland City.

PUBLIC FORUM

NONE

REPORTS

7. Attorney - Jennifer Noe – stated that she does not have anything that is not already on the agenda for the night.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

8. Pitney Bowes Lease Agreement - Contract for the Postage Machine
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to approve the Pitney Bowes Lease Agreement. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0
9. Award of the Flooring Bid for Thrive 55 Center – **Mary Molepske** explained that the Bids were compromised, and we will have to rebid the flooring. The new bid opening is January 28, 2025, and will close on February 10, 2025. The bids will be presented at the Council meeting on February 11, 2025.
Attorney Jennifer Noe – Bid packet are picked up by interested parties in the front office. The packets are also turned back in to them. One of the sealed bid packets that was returned was actually given out to another interested bidder picking up a packet. The numbers were compromised. We did have the bid opening just to see if there was a lower bidder than the 2 people involved in that. Those were the 2 lowest bidders so there was an unfair advantage. She asked for a motion to reject all bids and put the flooring back out to bid again.
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to reject all bids and re-bid the flooring at Thrive 55 Senior Center. All approved by voice vote.
10. RESOLUTION 2025-01 - Tech Goes Home Project - Senior Center
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to approve the Tech Goes Home Project. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Councilman Smith, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0
11. RESOLUTION 2025-02: Town of Ashland City 2025 Board Meeting Schedule for the year
A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the Town of Ashland City Board Meeting schedule for the year 2025. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0
12. ORDINANCE 633: Rezone Elizabeth and Willow Street (Amendment) - 1st Reading
A motion was made by Councilman Adkins, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the Rezone of Elizabeth Street and Willow Street. Voting Yea: Councilman Adkins, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Smith, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0
13. RESOLUTION 2025-03: New Zoning Ordinance Meeting

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the combined Board Meeting. All approved by voice vote.

14. **CONTRACT: I am Responding - Fire Department**

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

15. **RESOLUTION 2025-04 - Municipal Court - Appointing Temporary Judge**

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the appointment of a temporary judge. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0

16. **ORDINANCE 634: City owned vehicle accident - Repair and Repayment – Attorney Jennifer Noe** stated that there is no need for a resolution as this is not a budget amendment. The money came in from the officer's insurance to pay for the repair of the squad car and it just needs to be moved back to the police budget to cover the payment to the auto body and it will wash itself out.

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

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

OTHER

17. **CDBG GRANT AMENDMENT - \$286,600.00**

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

18. **RESOLUTION 2025-05: Judge- Job Description – Attorney Jennifer Noe** explained when Judge Stinnett was elected, we were still under General Sessions jurisdiction. That ended June 30, 2024, and his term was an 8-year term which would end in 2030. The Council has the right to make an appointment to fill that position. Our charter and our ordinances state that the position can be filled until the end of that term. There is some state law that states something different. It says the appointment may only be until the next general election meaning we may have to have an election even without having General Sessions jurisdiction. The term was initially established when we had those in line. She is inquiring about the state law with the office of the courts to see how we need to handle that. Judge Maxey offered to help us with that until we can figure it out. She asked if they wanted to go ahead and approve the job description, she thinks it is fine to approve. Our Charter requires a person has to be 30 years of age and they do not have to be a resident of the Town of Ashland City but they have to be a resident of the State of Tennessee for a period of 5 years. We have an ordinance and a charter that reflect 2 different things, but the charter trumps the ordinance. They will have to be licensed as an attorney in the State of Tennessee, they have to be in good standing with the board of professional responsibility. They must be up front with the Council if they ed or license suspended.

Councilman Adkins asked about advertising for the position.

Attorney Noe stated that there is nothing stating we are required to advertise it but it is typically the position of the council to advertise the open position.

Mayor Greer asked: do we advertise on the Ashland City Web site and Facebook page and if we should go through the exchange as well.

Attorney Noe advised it is up to the board on how they want to advertise the position. She asked if they want to go ahead and advertise for the position or do they want to wait for clarification and address it at the next meeting in February.

Councilman Adkins and Councilman Thompson asked questions and spoke amongst each other about waiting until February Workshop to continue the discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to move the Judge discussion to the February Workshop. Voting Yea: Councilman Thompson, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilman Smith, Councilman Young, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0

19. City Hall Change Order - Monument Sign – Total \$ 55, 391.78 – **Vice Mayor Kerrigan** asked to discuss an email they received.

Attorney Jennifer Noe stated that she sent the Council the email to bring them all into the loop so they all were aware of everything happening with the new city hall. She said there is paperwork in the packet for them to review. She asked Allen Nicholson to come up and address the change orders in the packet. She addressed a different sign in November or December and Josh Wright brought some plans and presented them to the board. The board gave approval; however, she thinks the figures that were given were incorrect. The figures given were for the redesign of the sign and the electronic part of the sign. It did not include the brick around the sign or the electricity to power the sign or lighting. There was a lot of costs that were left out of the presentation. This sign is now going to cost \$ 55,391.78 not including the initial cost of the sign.

Vice Mayor Kerrigan stated that we are now looking at \$ 95,000 for a sign. He stated that he wants everyone to be aware of the cost of the sign to the taxpayer.

Councilman Adkins asked is it too late to do something else?

Allen Nicholson stated that the sign has been ordered. He and the Mayor clarified it is just the LED portion without any framing of the sign.

Vice Mayor Kerrigan stated that looking at the rendering of the Monument, he does not see anything worth \$55,000. He understands it costs money to run the electricity and there are fees that we don't think of with a project like this but there is not a lot of brick there and nothing that is crazy fancy. If we need to scale back, he suggests that we scale back and do what they need to do. It is a sign, and it is not a monument.

Allen Nicholson gave the cost of the Masonry, electrical, the lettering and the concrete for the monument sign.

Vice Mayor Kerrigan asked if we could take a look at the lettering also and determine if we need it that large and all the lighting on it. It is an electronic sign that is lit anyway. He wants it to look nice but also does not want the taxpayer paying close to \$100,000.00 for a sign. We were told it would be little to no additional cost. Now we are being made aware there is \$ 55,000.00 involved for a sign, we need to take a step back and look at it again.

Councilman Smith asked if we could defer this to the Workshop in February and have him come in and explain the additional costs.

Allen Nicholson pointed out the bid packet had \$ 30,000.00 for the sign. That was a for the sign to be closer to the building.

Attorney Noe: suggested to advertise for a Special called meeting for the city hall discussion immediately following the workshop. This would give the board an opportunity to take action on some of the items that have come up.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to set a Special called meeting immediately following the workshop meeting on February 4, 2025. Voting Yea: Councilman Smith, Councilman Thompson, Councilman Young, Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Councilwoman Binkley, Councilman Adkins, Mayor Greer. Voting Nay: 0

Mayor Greer mentioned the Brick on the front of the building and getting it resolved and the conference room table cost and the savings if we could cancel the table. He also addressed the statement made at the workshop meeting in January that he missed that he did not approve the light color of the restroom finishes and it was not in the packet.

Allen Nicholson said there are a lot of things that really need to be looked into.

Vice Mayor Kerrigan said he appreciates everybody's work on this and make sure we are doing it right and spending taxpayers' dollars responsibly. We still want to build something we are proud of, but we are not building the Taj Mahall.

Mayor Greer added for the record that this particular bathroom finish for the vanities he was not made aware of. He asked if there was anything else the board would like to discuss.

Councilman Thompson asked when they are going to start Budget discussions.

Mayor Greer stated that they are going to start meeting with department heads.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

MAYOR GERALD GREER

CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE