



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY
Regularly Scheduled Workshop Meeting
February 04, 2025, 6:00 PM
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Advertisement for the Rezone Ordinance # 633

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. January 7, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerrigan, Seconded by Councilman Thompson, to approve the January 7, 2025, minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

Judith Arndt – She has resided at 214 Stratton Boulevard going on 14 years. One of the things I would like is to have it renamed Stratton Super Speedway. It is horrible and the traffic is getting worse. About a month ago a van ran into my neighbor's house and hit the corner bedroom where their children slept. The Policeman investigating the accident came to my house because I have a doorbell camera, and he wanted to know if there was anything on the camera that they could use. I told him about speeding and what was going on and he responded we just have to do a better job. I understand that there were speed bumps installed on Skyview Dr and they would like to know if speed bumps can be put on Stratton Boulevard. There are children that walk up that street from the apartments to the top of Stratton and Bell in the morning and get off the bus and walk down in the afternoon. On Bell St there is a policeman there everyday at the long and skinnies to prevent people from driving around the school bus. You are not going to be able to control speeders with the policeman sitting there. Speed Bumps will slow them down. That is the reason I am here. We contacted Councilman Smith, and he advised and encouraged us to come down and present our case. That is all I have, Thank you.

REPORTS

3. ATTORNEY: Jennifer Noe - Requested an attorney client privilege meeting with Mayor and Council. She stated they could do it now or later and left it to the council to decide. The mayor asked if they wanted to do it now. Councilman Thompson asked if it would be short because there are a lot of people sitting and waiting for them. MS Noe advised she was not able to determine how short it would be, and they all agreed it was fine, and they would do it now.

RECESS FOR THE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE BEGAN AT 6:05 PM

RECESS FOR THE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE ENDED AT 6:55 PM.

When returning the mayor asked Attorney Noe if there was any other news she needed to add before we moved on with the agenda. Attorney Noe added that she had news that she had not shared with Allen, yet that Charles Moore passed away of Hidden Lakes. Councilwoman Binkley asked if the company sold prior to that, and Ms. Noe replied not to her knowledge, and it will probably be tied up in probate for a while.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16. ORDINANCE 633: Rezone Elizabeth and Willow Street (Amendment) - 2ND Reading
Mr. Nicholson stated that this is an amendment to ordinance 632 for a correction to the Group and the wrong letter on the property data.
17. Judge's Vacancy Discussion – Attorney Noe stated this was on the agenda last month. Since then, she has gone through our processes and moving forward, she thinks that we changed to not have general sessions jurisdiction that was effective on July 1, 2024. Judge Stinnett passed away in January of this year and General Sessions had already been taken away from that position. Moving forward it just be an appointment by this board and that would be for the remainder of his term. They would not have to run at the next general election. There are no cases and nothing to solidify my opinion, but I did get MTAS involved and got a 2nd opinion from them. There is a case pending in the Supreme Court on judge's jurisdiction and the court of appeals has ruled that they do not have to live in the city limits, something different may happen with the Supreme Court decision but as of now this is the last ruling, and she is going on what she thinks is the law and got the opinion of MTAS. She also soke to the administrative office of the courts and they would not render any opinion on this. This is the job description for the board to approve at next week's meeting and we would then advertise the position. The requirements are the ones that are required by law, and we would then start taking applications. She only added that the person is in good standing with the board of professional responsibility. She does not think we want a judge that has had a lot of disbarments and suspensions. We could get it advertised after they approve it next week and it would have plenty of time to interview them at the March meeting. Mayor Greer addressed the resolution date being from January and it would be corrected to the February meeting date of February 11, 2025. City Recorder Mary Molepske indicated it is already changed for the meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS

18. General Obligation Bond \$ 4,460,000.00 state report on debt – Mary Molepske stated that this is just for the knowledge of the council that the debt obligation has been completed and filed with the State. No action necessary.
19. Award the Luxury Flooring Bid on February 11, 2025.- Tammany Carter advised we will have the bid opening on February 10, 2025, and present them at the City Council meeting on February 11, 2025.
20. RESOLUTION 2025-06: Senior Center Closing April 9, 2025, to host GNRC Conference – Tammany Cater advised that GNRC is having a meeting and there are approximately 25 to 35 other senior center directors that attend. They will have topics and panels that will speak. We will provide a light breakfast snack and light lunch. We would need to close for the day and staff would still be needed so they would be there to help with the serving, but it will take up most of the center and would not allow us the time to meet the conference needs. Councilman Thompson asked if they needed volunteers and Tammany advised she was not sure yet.
21. Purchase of new Server for Police Department/ Delivery of old server to Austin Texas – Chief Ray advised the Police Department had to get a new server. Mayor Greer asked him to advise the council how this affects his department. Chief Ray advised it is used to back up the camera system and when the cameras cannot download the data from the police cars once the camera is full it just stops working. They have no control over the server going down They will have to

hopefully recover what is in the old server and think they have found a place much closer in Georgia to take the old server to instead of Austin Texas. According to our IT department (Justin) this new server could be used for other things in the city and not just the police department. Chief Ray stated that the new server should arrive on the 10th of February.

22. TCRS hazardous duty Supplemental Retirement Benefit – Chief Ray advised this law was passed that TCRS comes and does a study with the department that will cost \$ 1500.00. They would then let the city know how much it would be to adopt this whether you want it or not. It will add \$ 500.00 to somebody's retirement to make it simple. This is only for the Fire and Police Departments. It will drop off when they turn 67 years old.
23. U.S. Geological Joint Funding Agreement – Mary Molepske stated that this is an electronic version of our standard joint-funding agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center and Town of Ashland City. This is a contract we sign every year. Attorney Jennifer Noe added that we have been signing them for approximately the last 10 years.
24. Traffic Court Contract - Defensive Driving Course - Joseph Nick Hunter Cynthia Hollingworth advised this is to renew the contract with Nick Hunter for 2 years.
25. CONTRACT: Ashland City Fire and New Channel 5 – Chief Noe stated that this is part of the recruitment retention grant that they have. It is a partnership with channel 5 and we have done this once before. This time it is different because we will also get apps like ESPN. They will include more than 100 apps that we will be on. We are hoping that this will help us reach more people interested in going through the recruiting class and coming and becoming volunteer or part-time firefighters. 100% paid for by the grant.
26. RESOLUTION 2025-07: VFEAT Grant-State Fire Marshal's Office - Firefighter PPE - \$35,160 – Received – paperwork is coming. – Chief Noe stated the grant was awarded and they got this money for rope and rescue equipment and PPE, and it is also 100% no match grant.
27. RESOLUTION 2025-08: Update Bereavement Leave Policy Violet Black stated that it was brought to her attention that 3 days or 24 hours stated in the policy and for the Fire Department it is one shift. The Firefighters were using 3 days and not 24 hours and it was causing a conflict in scheduling for the Fire Department because of how long they were taking off. They firefighters would take 3 days off and end up getting a week and a half off. The new policy changes that and they will take one day 24 hours and will get the regular time of being off 2 days before and 2 days after. It also has in it an employee who wishes to take time off for a death of a non-immediate family members or friend not defined within the sections would be allowed to take any accumulated leave as far as vacation time or comp time. They would not be allowed to use sick time for this leave. There is a requirement of providing an obituary notice of funeral home announcement for the leave.
28. RESOLUTION 2025-09: Update Ashland City Dress Code Policy – Violet Black stated with the changes and the new building he would like the dress code to make it a more professional appearance. It has been outlined better of appropriate and non-appropriate clothing for the workplace.
29. RESOLUTION 2025-10: Update Children in the Workplace Policy – Violet Black advised this is a new policy that we do not currently have in place. It grants families to visit a worksite, but employees cannot use this for sick children or childcare issues. They cannot stay all day; this is what sick days are provided for, and you can use them for child-related illness or care situations. Also, our insurance will not cover a child getting hurt in the workplace.
30. RESOLUTION 2025-12: Bicentennial Trail Grant Acceptance Letter – Anthony Clark stated this is a letter to accept the Multi-modal grant for \$ 618,569.40 for the Bicentennial Trail Grant. This money is to be used for overage on the project and it began over five years ago. TDOT found

the Grant and they are paying 95% and the letter is asking for the Town of Ashland City covers 5% which equals \$ 30, 928.47.

31. Firework Bids - Choose award of the bid – Anthony Clark advised we received 2 bids for the Fireworks for Summerfest this year. They are very similar in terms of pricing. Option 1 is a difference of \$ 500.00 and would receive 114 more fireworks with the higher bid. This would be a 16-17-minute show. Option 2 is a difference of \$ 1,000.00 and would include 16 more fireworks with the lower bid and would be a 20-minute show. They are very similar, and it will depend on how the board wants to look at them. Whether you want to stay with the company who have been doing them for the last couple of years or if you would like to go in a different direction. The name of the company who has done the show in the last couple of years is Impact Pyro. They are the least expensive in option 1 and option 2 they are higher than Pyro Shows.
32. Laser Encore Inc Contract – Anthony Clark advised this is a laser light show contract for Summerfest and the same company we used last year for the laser show. They were great to work with and did an amazing show. It was a great addition last year and he hopes the board will allow us to bring it back this year.

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

NONE

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

NONE

OTHER

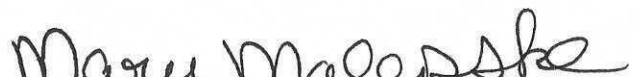
33. Resolution 2025-11: Request to apply for Project Diabetes - Thrive 55 – Tammany Carter advised she just received this Friday and is still gathering information on the grant. The letter of intent needs to be submitted by March 7, 2025. She will miss the deadline waiting until the next council meeting. She wanted to get the board's approval so that if we qualify to apply for the grant, it has already gone before the board. The intension for the grant is to use the funds for Yoga, Pilates and some other fitness classes that are not evidence based on that they are not paid through our GNRC grant. We are currently paying those instructors through our budget. The grant will be provided for 2 years at \$ 15,000.00 - \$ 30,000.00. It is 100% State funded.
34. Drug Free Workplace Program – Violet Black stated this is a yearly application we fill out with workforce essentials. It keeps us in line with our drug-free workplace program and lowers our insurance rates. It is random drug testing each month.
35. **Councilman Thompson** added a question: In the Special called meeting from February 3, 2025, we had CEMC here and he discussed briefly the lights in town. Did we have a resolution for lighting on the streets?

Mayor Greer replied that he and Allen Nicholson will be meeting with Josh Gill next week. There are other options, and they will be meeting with him on Monday to discuss those options. He confirmed that we are currently working on a resolution for the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Thompson, Seconded by Councilman Smith, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.


MAYOR GERALD GREER


CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE



SIGN IN SHEETS

MEETING TYPE:

WORKSHOP

DATE: 2-4-2025

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | <u>Bayne Bauser</u> | 18. | _____ |
| 2. | <u>Jim Bauser</u> | 19. | _____ |
| 3. | <u>Scott Hoffman</u> | 20. | _____ |
| 4. | <u>Al Clark</u> | 21. | _____ |
| 5. | <u>Gary Arntz</u> | 22. | _____ |
| 6. | <u>Valerie VanOsterburg</u> | 23. | _____ |
| 7. | <u>Jane VanOsterburg</u> | 24. | _____ |
| 8. | <u>Billy Arntz</u> | 25. | _____ |
| 9. | <u>John</u> | 26. | _____ |
| 10. | <u>A. Hollingsworth</u> | 27. | _____ |
| 11. | <u>Derek Noe</u> | 28. | _____ |
| 12. | <u>Joshua Wright</u> | 29. | _____ |
| 13. | _____ | 30. | _____ |
| 14. | _____ | 31. | _____ |
| 15. | _____ | 32. | _____ |
| 16. | _____ | 33. | _____ |
| 17. | _____ | 34. | _____ |

Procedure for Speaking Before the Council

- Speakers must complete the information form and submit it to the transcriber prior to the public forum. Be prepared to speak when your name is called.
- Each speaker will be allowed 4 minutes.
- Speakers may comment on issues scheduled for consideration at the meeting or other appropriate concerns pertinent to the operation of the town.
- Each speaker should state the following:
 - his/her name
 - whether they are an Ashland City resident and / or property owner
- No person shall be allowed to make obscene, derogatory, or slanderous remarks while addressing the Council/Board. Persons doing so will be asked to stop speaking and will forfeit the remainder of their time.
- All remarks shall be directed to the Council/Board as a body only.
- No person shall be allowed to disrupt or interfere with the procedures.
- Remarks shall end when the speaker's allotted time has expired. No time shall be shared with other speakers.
- Questions from the council/board members may be asked for clarification as well as council/board members may have brief comments; however, no person shall be permitted to enter any discussion or debate either directly with or through any member of the Council/Board or anyone present at the meeting.
- No one shall make open comments during the meeting.