



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY

Regularly Scheduled Workshop Meeting

May 07, 2024, 6:00 PM

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

ROLL CALL

Mayor JT Smith

Vice Mayor Gerald Greer

Councilman Chris Kerrigan

Councilman Michael Smith

Councilman Kevin Thompson

Councilman Tony Young

Councilman Tim Adkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Greer seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the agenda with changes. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson seconded by Councilman Kerrigan to approve the April 4, 2024, minutes. All approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

Charlie Springer spoke and was disappointed that she had to pay \$ 50.00 to speak to our Councilman. She rescues Law enforcement mounted patrol horses and houses them. She wants to have her property deemed agricultural for tax purposes. She was married to a law enforcement officer for 15 years and a horse trainer for 25 years. She stated that she called the office 3 weeks ago and was told the meeting on Monday was going to start at 6pm and she arrived at 5:30pm and the meeting had already started. The meeting was being adjourned and she interrupted and stated that she paid to speak at the meeting. She was denied without even being heard because she was given the incorrect time of the meeting. She put it on her schedule because she is very busy and owns 4 companies. She thinks it is unfair that she was not even allowed to speak because it was already deemed that she would be denied for the change on her property before she got there. She thinks it is unfair to have to pay to speak to them, she asked if she should throw dead presidents out to everyone sitting there so she could speak longer because they are not doing any of the paperwork for the change. She has a petition where the neighbors all love her and approve of her.

Councilman Thompson stated that the council was not aware of this and that the city council does not meet on Mondays and there is no fee to speak to the City Council.

She said she had to pay to speak to codes.

Councilman Thompson asked if it was to speak to them or to apply for a permit. MS. Springer stated that she did not get a permit so should she get her \$ 50.00 back.

Councilman Smith stated that is an application fee so she could be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Attorney Jennifer Noe spoke right after- she stated that you must pay an application fee any time you appeal something to the board of zoning appeals. She verified the fee is \$ 50.00.

Vice-Mayor Greer asked if there is a follow up once the Board of appeals denies it.

Attorney: stated there was no follow up she would have to file a lawsuit. Mayor JT smith stated that her case was heard before she got there because she showed up late.

Councilman Smith stated that she was first on the agenda last night and the meeting starts at

5:30pm. The meeting started on time, and they reviewed the case and ruled on it and started on the next item on the agenda when she came in. She got there at 5:45pm and at the end of the meeting for about 5 minutes or so they let her speak because she had paid her fee, and they were interested in hearing what she had to say. Mayor stated if nothing else we would move forward.

REPORTS

3. Attorney - Jennifer Noe- Ms. Noe advised she would be calling a client, attorney meeting at the end of the council meeting before adjournment.
4. Project Update from Josh Wright – Mr. Wright gave updates on the progress of the New City Hall, Senior Center, and Rec center. He said once all the rock should be moved from the new city hall to the park in 2 weeks. They will then have to shoot elevations and update the FEMA modeling.
5. City Recorder- Mary Molepske – Ms. Molepske gave an update of her time at the spring conference and what she has been working on throughout the month.
6. Codes Department -Allen Nicholson – ABSENT -Attorney Noe gave his updates for him through an email she received.
7. Court Department - Cynthia Hollingsworth – Ms. Hollingsworth gave an update on courts. They are wrapping up General Session courts.
8. Finance Department - Gayle Bowman - Ms. Bowman emailed the finance report showing revenues versus expenses, fund balance, cash on hand and loan information and gave an update on the finance department. Gayle gave an update on the salary study. From the list she was given 5 have declined, 1 sent a quote and 1 has a meeting with her on 5/8/2024.
9. Fire Department - Chief Walker – ABSENT – Chief Noe gave an update on Maintenance, Training, Recruitment, and completion painting the fire hydrants.
10. Human Resources Department - Violet Black – Ms. Black gave an update on working with Benefits inc. for the employee insurance and working with PEP on claims.
11. Parks Department – Anthony Clark – Mr. Clark gave an update on the Food Truck Mondays, Spring sports, meetings with Codes and TDOT. Summerfest is 4 weeks away.
12. Police Department - Chief Ray – Chief Ray gave an update on a very busy week and there are 3 new officers at the academy. Interviews were done this week.
13. Public Works Department - Clint Biggers – ABSENT – Billy Harris spoke for him. Mr. Harris gave an update on the pavement street repairs, cut offs for the month, mowing, meetings for the WWTP.
14. Technology Department - Justin Wheeler – Mr. Wheeler gave an update on getting the new patrol cars finished, getting an iCloud-based program in effect for the new cameras at River bluff Park, had some meetings with Dell.
15. Thrive 55+ Department - Gena Batts – Ms. Batts gave an update on attendance for events, AARP coming back next year for 5 days to prepare taxes, Eclipse watch party, computer class through grants, and next week's Gatlinburg trip.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

16. Fall Conference for City Recorder Discussion – Ms. Molepske asked the council for a letter of approval to attend the Fall Conference in September. She will apply for a scholarship to cover the costs. Ms. Bowman confirmed the cost is covered in her budget if the scholarship is not awarded.
17. Proposal - Streetscape Improvements – Mr. Harris stated this is for a gentleman to give ideas on how to beautify our city streets downtown. The cost of this is \$ 5000.00 for him to come and give us a design set. Ms. Bowman stated that it is in his budget for the year.
18. GNRC- Ashland City Municipal Government-On-Call-Grant Assistance Contract -Mr. Harris was not sure on this so Attorney Noe answered for him. These are grants that started in 2022.
19. CDBG- Task Order 1 – Mr. Harris stated these are for the Pump stations to be replaced.
20. CDBG -Task Order 2– Mr. Harris stated these are for the Pump stations to be replaced.
21. Rezone Parcel for County - Amendment for Ordinance # 619 – Allen Nicholson was absent, so Attorney Noe spoke for him- There was some confusion on the wording on the rezone

ordinance so this is to add the wording downtown overlay and the commercial overlay. Codes is requesting it is redone to include that wording.

22. Ordinance - Amend Sign Ordinance # 501/Section 20-105.1(b)(2): Wall signs. Attorney Noe asked to defer to Allen Nicholson to this ordinance amendment.
23. City Planner Contract Discussion – Current City Planner is retiring in June. Allen has interviewed a few candidates and thinks that Mr. Clark would be a good fit for the city and is recommending him. His resume was submitted to the board in the Packet. His fee is the same as Rick Gregory and Attorney stated she thinks it is reasonable.
24. Ordinance - Water Rates fy2025 – This is the normal 3% rate increase for next year and will be effective on July 1st with the first bill due with the new rate will be August 15th.
25. Budget Amendment # 2 – We found in the General ledger last year's paving was not billed to the city before June 30th because they did not work until after that. They had billing issues. It was billed in September and paid for this fiscal year so now that paving is up again there is no money for this year. This is a budget amendment to put more money in the account to pay for this year's paving and last year's payment.
26. Award Bank Bid- We are required to bid the banks every 4 years by TCA code 6-4-402. Ms. Bowman requested this in November. Ms. Bowman sent it out to 4 banks in the area and 3 replied. The majority of our accounts are with Pinnacle Financial Partners. We have 2 accounts with US Bank. She would like to stay with Pinnacle because they do not charge us any fees and the other 2 banks that submitted do charge fees. She would like to move street aid and drug fund to Pinnacle.
27. Budget Discussion – Ms. Bowman asked the council if they have any changes to the budget.
28. Discussion of Employee Insurance – Ben from Benefits, Inc came and spoke about employee insurance. He went over the cost of BCBS last year and what it increased this year. He acknowledged the quick turnaround and stated that they got it back as quickly as possible. He stated that he prepared it for the employees to pay the exact same deductions and the city pays the additional cost as they have done in the past. He said that the number could decrease for the city if the employee deductions increase but that is not how it has been happening in the past years. Cigna was the only insurance company that has a similar HRA plan. Vice Mayor Greer wanted to get a better number of surveys completed and more accurate. He asked us to set up Survey Monkey to get a better number of people to respond.
29. Town of Ashland City Public Safety Pay Table – Discussion – Chief Ray is asking to be separated from the General pay table.
30. DOT - Region 3 Right of Way Division- 7305 Request License Signatures – Chief Ray stated License agreement for the LPR's.
31. License Agreement to install and operate fixed Automated License plate recognition cameras – Chief Ray stated this is with number 30 as well.
32. Proclamation for Alzheimer's – Ms. Batt's spoke to Marie Epps with Tenova Hospice and the Alzheimer's association of Clarksville. She asked if our town would host a mini walk for the first year to raise awareness. MS. Batts asked for a proclamation to name June as Alzheimer's month and June 17th-22nd would be paint the town purple week. The mini walk would be held at Preacher Pool Park on June 20th from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Attorney Jennifer Noe has approved it already.
33. Thrive 55+ Center Rental Agreement Discussion – Ms. Batt's has compiled information from other cities and put together a suggestive rental agreement for the council to read and make changes to if needed.
34. Resolution - to approve contracts for entertainment for Summerfest and booth rentals. – Mr. Clark is asking for a resolution to give him approval to approve small contracts for Summerfest without having to go through Council as long as the Mayor and attorney Noe approve them.

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

None

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

None

OTHER

35. Kimley Horn Agreement Amendment – Mr. Clark just received notice that since the project is taking a little longer the cost will increase a little bit. Trail extension grant.

36. CEC - Steven Casey – WWTP – Steve Casey and Ricky Oakly – explained the current change order from the contractor. It is under review for the removal of the flexible conduit within the reinforcing steel for a second story slab at the WWTP. They stopped the pour on that slab because it was determined there was not enough thickness of the slab to accommodate the void space. The electrical drawings and structural drawings left it unclear. They have removed the conduit from the slab. The slab has been poured as originally designed. They will hang rigid conduit underneath the slab. They will be addressing the change order for materials and the change order for the contractor for charging because of the time they took to figure out the solution. They are going to ask to reallocate the money to offset the cost. They want the city to pay for what they get and not the additional cost of the original conduit.

37. City Hall COR Funding - Loan Resolution – Ms. Bowman stated this is the cost resolution for the cost overrun for the new city hall of 4 million 4 hundred and sixty thousand dollars which just puts it back in place.

Mayor Smith called the attorney client meeting at 7:19 pm.

Mayor and the council and attorney returned from the meeting at 7:34 pm.

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 7:36 p.m.

MAYOR JT SMITH

CITY RECORDER MARY MOLEPSKE