



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY Special Called Budget Meeting March 23, 2021 6:00 PM Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Vice Chairman Roger Jackson
Committee Member Daniel Anderson
Committee Member Gerald Greer
Committee Member Chris Kerrigan
Committee Member JT Smith

ABSENT

Chairman Mayor Steve Allen
Committee Member Tim Adkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Committee Member Kerrigan, seconded by Vice Chairman Jackson, to approve the agenda. All approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Budget Meeting Minutes 3-16-2021

A motion was made by Committee Member Kerrigan, seconded by Vice Chairman Jackson, to approve the March 16, 2021 Budget Meeting Minutes. All approved by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Fire Contract Discussion

Chief Walker explained last year we did a continuance of the old contract due to COVID. He further stated they are scheduled to meet to begin discussion on renewal of this contract and he would recommend to renew the contract with an increase because employee's health insurance goes up in addition to the other costs for fuel, etc. Vice Mayor Anderson stated a three percent (3%) increase will not help our increase. Councilman Jackson suggested doing a five percent (5%) increase every year. Chief Walker stated our rural district is low to moderate income and has not seen a lot of growth. Chief Walker stated the fire tax is twenty three cents (\$0.23). He further stated they do give one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in a separate contract for staffing the other station. He stated on weekends they staff five (5) people and most days they staff three (3). Vice Mayor Anderson questioned what Chief Walker would like to see as an increase. Chief Walker stated he would push for five percent (5%), but he doesn't think they will go for it. The committee instructed Chief Walker to shoot for five percent (5%) increase yearly.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Revenue Budget Approval

Ms. Gayle Bowman stated this year we made it a little differently this year when we stated the budget process. Further, her team sat with each department head and went over the budget individually. After the initial meeting, they sat down with the department head, her team, and Mayor. Ms. Bowman showed the anticipated revenues for the grants for which the town has applied. Councilman Jackson questioned if we are really thinking we are going to get these grants and stated we should get with the department heads to see if they think they will be awarded the grant. Ms. Bowman called attention to the property tax projection sheet she

included in the packet. She stated the revenues include a fifty three cent (\$0.53) tax rate. She reviewed the grants she has accounted for in the projections. She further stated the total revenues for all funds total forty million nine hundred twenty nine thousand one hundred and thirty three dollars (\$40,929,133) including the seventeen million dollar (\$17,000,000) loan, the anticipated grants, and the loan for the City Hall and Fire Hall Construction. Vice Mayor Anderson asked if there are any questions. Ms. Gayle stated the only thing not accounted for in the revenues is the money for the fire contract. Ms. Bowman stated in sitting with the department heads this year we learned there are expenditures for donations that came in as an invoice that should have been marked as donations.

4. Court Budget

Ms. Bowman stated in Court we learned we were paying a court officer who is also a reserve officer position. This person can not hold two (2) positions and have two (2) base pays which means they cannot do both. She stated with holding court in another location they are requesting another court officer. Councilman Jackson stated there is an officer at the front door and you may think that is enough, but it is not even enough for the clerk's officer there and they won't be able to handle our court as well. She stated you will see fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the court's shared cost of a new roof at the Public Works Building. Vice Mayor Anderson questioned the Tyler training. Ms. Bowman stated if COVID lets up she would like to go for Tyler training this year.

5. Senior Center Budget

Asking in capital outlay for a new HVAC unit, twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) for a new building fund, and framing around buildings and dumpsters. Ms. Bowman discussed the donation request for fourteen thousand seven hundred forty nine dollars and fifty one cents (\$14,749.51) for Mid Cumberland. Ms. Melissa Womack stated this always came in as an invoice and it is a donation. Ms. Bowman stated they have provided all documentation for the donation. She further stated she can provide the request for the donation to council if they wish to review the documentation.

6. Codes Budget

Ms. Bowman stated this year Codes was separated out from Fire so that we know what we spend on each. She stated there are no extras or anything added to the budget for capital expenditures and such. Chief Walker stated when we originally took over Codes it hurt us with grants and such because it made our budget look higher than it really is. Councilman Jackson questioned the utilities. Ms. Bowman stated we all share the cost among the departments. Vice Mayor Anderson questioned how many people are in the Codes department. Chief Walker responded that there are two (2) employees. Jason now has all his certifications and Justin is working toward his, but now has his plumbing.

7. Technology Budget

Ms. Bowman stated they are not asking for anything extra and it is pretty much the same as last year. Chief Walker stated things are going a lot more smoothly now, but this will improve with time and the new building.

8. Fire Budget

Ms. Bowman stated with the Fire budget we obviously separated the Fire and Codes budget. She explained the addition of the line item for the repair and maintenance of the training grounds. Volunteer Firemen are paid out of the 162 line item and the donation for the fire fighters fund. Chief Walker stated they charge two dollars (\$2.00) per call which they use for different things for the firefighters. He further stated years ago the auditors told them years ago they cannot have a separate checking account for a firefighter fund; therefore, they created a 501C3 for the firefighter fund. Chief Walker explained the expiration of the air packs and further discussed the capital purchase requests.

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS

None.

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

9. Police Department: Transport Van

Ms. Bowman stated with transporting to Sycamore Square it will require a lot of processing and it will take up to six (6) months to get this van once it is ordered. She stated if we go ahead and do a budget amendment and get this ordered now we may be able to get it quicker. She stated they can hold the inmates out back and keep them in the van until they can enter in the back. Councilman Jackson stated he would like to see them order an electric van. Ms. Bowman stated she will tell them to look at having them order an electric van. Councilman Smith questioned the transporting and why we don't do the video conferencing. He stated this would be less manpower and less risk. Councilman Jackson stated we looked at this before and they are not set up to do video conferencing. After some discussion the committee requested looking at video conferencing. Chief Walker stated he would get Jake and Derek to look into it as well. Councilman Smith stated looking at the risk it makes more sense.

OTHER

Ms. Reed gave an update for the Fire Hall and City Hall financing. Councilman Jackson questioned the property swap and wanted an update. Ms. Reed responded the attorneys are finalizing the paperwork and we don't have any updates at this time. Chief Walker stated we sat on a conference call today about AO Smith and the closing of the road for the berm. They are saying it will be two years it is closed. He stated we tried to explain the traffic going through town and how this will be an issue for the city to lose revenue. Councilman Greer questioned this taking up our police force. Chief Walker and everyone agreed it probably will.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Committee Member Greer, seconded by Committee Member Smith, to adjourn the meeting. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

MAYOR STEVE ALLEN

CITY RECORDER KELLIE REED, CMFO, CMC