

REGULAR MEETING  
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 04, 2016

The Ashland City Council met for a regular meeting on January 04, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Billy Joe Smith, Bobbie J. Steed, Gail E. Thompson, Rebecca G. Boddie, and Brad Wolfe. Also present were City Clerk Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Court Clerk/ Assistant City Clerk Robin Catrett, Maintenance Supervisor Jeremy Nash, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Jody Brown, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Patrol Sergeant Tony Hubbard, Fire Chief Brett Thompson, Youth Sports Director Jeffery Harris, Irving Thompson, Chris Gay and Paul Wellborn with Wellborn Cabinet, Inc., Tammy Andrews, and Ray Stansell of the Clay Times-Journal.

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order and Councilman Brad Wolfe gave the invocation.

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Boddie seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Wolfe moved to approve the minutes of the previous planning meeting. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the previous regular council meeting. Council Member Boddie seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous.

Mr. Chris Gay and Paul Wellborn discussed the Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. expansion and Highway 77 road projects. Mr. Gay expressed to the Council when Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. called Mayor Fetner for a meeting they had no expectations of Mayor Fetner making any decisions without the approval of the City Council. Mr. Gay advised the Council that Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. plans to expand and the expansion would run into Highway 77 therefore Highway 77 and some utilities would need to be relocated. Mr. Gay advised the Council that Wellborn Cabinet, Inc., East Central Gas, and the Waste Water and Sewer Board of Ashland have discussed with Mayor Fetner applying for a CDBG grant to help aide in the relocation of utilities. Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. is willing to create and maintain 200 new jobs as a stipulation of a CDBG grant. Mr. Gay advised 200 new jobs are required for a CDBG grant but with the expansion Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. may have the need to add even more new jobs. Mr. Gay advised the Council that the job stipulation of the grant is a continuous growth program therefore Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. could not lay off 300 employees and then hire 200 employees. Mr. Gay advised the Council that an agreement between the City of Ashland, East Central Gas, and the Waste Water and Sewer Board would not require the City of Ashland to pay back any grant funds if the

stipulations of the grant were not realized. Mr. Gay also discussed ALDOT's request for the City of Ashland to sponsor an Industrial Access Grant to aide in the relocation of Hwy 77.

Mr. Paul Wellborn advised the Council this project has been underworks for several years but due to the economy the project was stalled, now that the economy is doing better the project has been resurrected. Mr. Wellborn also advised Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. is trying to get the project to work out where it wouldn't cost the city or the county any money if possible.

Council Member Wolfe expressed he feels the Council is on board to help Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. expand but the Council has to think about the City of Ashland and the utilities.

Mr. Gay advised the project would be at least an 18 month project, and in the event things go south with the project and money is needed to be cut on the project Wellborn Cabinet, Inc. has spoken with the Waste Water and Sewer Board and agreed to help relocate the utilities with assets from Wellborn Cabinet, Inc.

Mr. Irving Thompson advised if East Central Gas had to pay out of pocket for the relocation of gas lines it could affect the cities financially. Mr. Thompson also advised the Council that East Central Gas has committed \$100,000.00 for a grant match on this project if necessary.

Council Member Thompson updated the Council on the New City Hall building. Council Member Thompson has an appointment with Knight Signs next week regarding the sign for the building, the drive through window has been ordered, and once the maintenance department completes the removal of concrete and the window comes in, the lines for the drive though can be installed. Council Member Thompson advised she spoke with Chelsey Wynn and Robin Catrett at City Hall and asked them to get a quote on running phone and internet lines in the New City Hall. Also Council Member Thompson informed the Council of the need for a network server to allow Mrs. Wynn and Mrs. Catrett to work without having to move from one office to another and possibly adding the Water Department to the same server.

Council Member Wolfe asked Mayor Fetner how the City paid money back on the Highway 9 project without the approval of the Council. Council Member Wolfe also asked Mayor Fetner who is authorized to give raises. Mayor Fetner advised Council Member Wolfe he is sure they gave the council an update although he cannot remember all the details, but the grant writer Louise Campbell informed the City that the money had to be returned to the state. Charles Foster was here then and it was paid out of General Fund Council Member Wolfe advised he understands it had to be paid, but he knows of two other Council Members that had no idea it had been paid as well. In regards to the question about raises, Mayor Fetner advised that it states in the city policy and procedure book that the Mayor can give raises with the recommendation of the City Clerk and the employee's supervisor. Council Member Wolfe expressed the Council should be more involved in the process. Mayor Fetner advised the Council if they would like to amend that section of the policy and procedure book he would be okay with that. Council Member Thompson requested the amendment be added to the next agenda.

Assistant City Clerk/ Court Clerk Robin Catrett expressed an interest in attending free training for Municipal Intercept Services which is a service that allows municipalities to submit unpaid debts to the program and possibly intercept the debtor's state tax refund.

Police Chief Joseph Stanford reported the Police Department assisted Ashland Fire Department on a fire on 4<sup>th</sup> Street East and assisted Lineville Police Department on a robbery that took place in their jurisdiction; Officer Michael Harris is on patrol and making good cases.

Fire Chief Brett Thompson reported a fire call on December 24, 2015 at 5:47 P.M., eight members responded, they had to crawl under the house to find the fire and were able to put it out without any injuries.

Maintenance Supervisor Jeremy Nash reported the maintenance department has had a pretty eventful few weeks with close to eight inches of rain falling, Supervisor Nash advised culverts around the city can't handle that amount of rain, and that the Clay County EMA contacted Supervisor Nash and asked him to report any damage caused due to the amount of rain. Supervisor Nash reported the damage to the EMA and advised the Council that a representative from the state will be here Wednesday to go over the damage with the EMA. Supervisor Nash advised the dead oak trees that were on city right of ways have been taken down, the debris is still there but will be cleaned up next week, Jamie Jones roofing has completed the Ashland Fire Department and will start the concession stand Tuesday, and all the snowflakes around the city have been removed and Alabama Power has been notified of the removal.

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the bills received since the last council meeting in the amount of \$15,729.91. Council Member Boddie seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Boddie made a motion approve the Youth Sports Contract with a salary increase of \$500.00 bringing the total salary for the position to \$8000.00 per year. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion with Council Members Smith, Steed, Thompson, and Boddie voting yay and Council Member Wolfe opposed he believes \$500.00 is not a sufficient increase in the salary.

Council Member Boddie made a motion to approve changing the Council Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2016 to January 19, 2016 due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Thompson made a motion approving Resolution 01-04-01-2016 establishing an interview and hiring procedure for the City of Ashland. Council Member Steed seconded the motion and all votes were unanimous

There being no further business, Council Member Boddie moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_