

TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2019

6:00 PM at Ashland City Municipal Building
101 Court Street, Ashland City, Tennessee

CALL TO ORDER at 6:02 PM by Mayor Steve Allen.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Steve Allen, Mr. Roger Jackson, Mr. Tim Adkins, Ms. Lisa Walker, Ms. Alwilda Binkley and Mr. Chris Kerrigan

Absent: Vice Mayor Daniel Anderson

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

A motion made by Adkins, seconded by Binkley to approve the May 28, 2019 Agenda. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion made by Adkins, seconded by Binkley to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **City Hall Discussion.** Mayor Steve Allen stated the offer which was put in for the Murff property of \$500,000 was counteroffered at \$625,000. Ms. Ashley Osman said there were some changes to the original document and Ms. Jennifer Noe was emailed a copy of the contract today. Ms. Osman stated the owner of the property is not willing to negotiate anything less than \$625,000. Ms. Alwilda Binkley declared a conflict. Ms. Binkley stated she is leaning towards the Braxton Lee property and feels we should listen to our citizens as they have approached her about the Lee property. Mr. Chris Kerrigan stated the only people to approach him have been citizens with personal interest with the property. Mr. Tim Adkins stated he feels the Murff property would be better suited due to location as it will be closer to the new Fire Station. Mr. Adkins said he is concerned with the price associated with the Lee property and the unknowns during the development phase. Ms. Binkley asked if the old Rite Aid building was an option. Ms. Kellie Reed said the owner rents that building. After much discussion Mr. Roger Jackson asked what the council could do about it tonight. Ms. Reed stated a property could be agreed upon tonight but we could not enter into a contract as that needs two readings, but could do a special called meeting next week. A phone call was made to Ms. Jennifer Noe for clarification on doing a budget amendment for earnest money, a special called meeting, and going into contract. Ms. Reed stated there is no way to do a budget amendment for this fiscal year due to timing constraints and suggested the department heads could look into their current budget for possible earnest money. Ms. Osman stated she felt the seller would do \$10,000 in earnest money with 90 days to close. Ms. Noe stated a contract could be entered into as changes could be made if needed. Ms. Reed discussed the options for a special called meeting and it was agreed to be held May 30, 2019. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to enter into a contract for the purchase of the Murff property with special called meeting set for May 30, 2019, seconded by Mr. Adkins. Vote on motion: Kerrigan-yes, Adkins -yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-no, Binkley-no and Mayor-yes. After further discussion Mr. Adkins withdrew his 2nd motion and Mr. Kerrigan withdrew his 1st motion. Mr. Kerrigan made a new motion to enter into contract for the Murff property and special called meeting set for May 30, 2019 at 6 p.m., seconded by Mr. Adkins. Vote on motion: All Aye's with the exception of Ms. Walker and Ms. Binkley being opposed.

- B. Pay Table Discussion.** Mayor stated the council wanted to give 3% across the board while he wants to discuss giving the lower paid employees more money buy starting at the bottom paid with a 4% raise, then a 3 % raise and the top paid employees a 2% raise. Ms. Walker stated she respectfully disagrees and wants to stay at 3% across the board. After some discussion council agreed on 3% cost of living raise for all employees.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Emergency Expenditure Report.** Ms. Reed stated this was an emergency purchase for the water treatment plant.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

- A. Building Updates.** Mayor stated everything is going well and Popeye's is coming along. Chief Chuck Walker said the new location for Taco Bell has begun construction.
- B. Insurance Renewals.** Mayor said Ms. Sandy Cannon will have an insurance meeting with all employees to discuss important plan changes. Ms. Reed stated our current insurance plan if renewed as is came back with significant rate increases. She further stated the broker had worked with us to find another plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield that will be more affordable for the employees and will not be as significant of an increase. After much discussion it was stated the upcoming meeting was for information purposes and the employee will not be signing up at that time.

OTHER

- A. Vine Street Property.** Mr. Adkins asked what would be replacing the torn down home on Vine Street. Chief Walker stated at this time he has not be told. Chief Walker stated they asked the homeowner to board up the windows and they choose to tear the house down.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Mr. Kerrigan, seconded by Ms. Binkley to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


Mayor Steve Allen