

## TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2019

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

**CALL TO ORDER** at 6:01PM by Mayor Steve Allen

### ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Steve Allen, Vice Mayor Daniel Anderson, Tim Adkins, Alwilda Binkley, Lisa Walker, Roger Jackson and Chris Kerrigan.

Absent: None.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the January 22, 2019 minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Waste Water Treatment Plant Discussion.** Ms. Jennifer Noe stated Ms. Reed sent the consent order to TDEC, for the city violations. Furthermore, the consent order states the city submit the corrective action plan engineer report, which Mr. Westerman will send and the city will have to pay penalties. Ms. Noe stated the consent was approved by TDEC and Mr. Westerman recommended the city replace the sewer plant due to the age of the existing building. Mr. Jackson inquired when was the consent order turn into TDEC and the council never voted on the consent order. Ms. Noe stated consent order was discussed at the TDEC meeting and approved by prior Mayor Johnson. Mr. Neal Westerman stated there is a short term and long term plan to help with the plant now. Furthermore, my recommendation is to build a new plant due being less expensive and the current equipment being 30 years old. Mr. Jackson questioned total amount of leaks within the city. Mr. Westerman stated manholes, 150 residential services and 2 mains are leaking. Mr. Billy Harris stated normally 618,000 gallons of treatment a day. Mr. Biggers stated the city has 2,000 sewer customers and with the growth that will add 500 more sewer customers. Mr. Jackson instructed to read page 4 on Mr. Westerman report, we should fix all of the leaks first and then look at the sewer system to if intake is still high instead of spending \$10 million on new sewer plant. Mr. Westerman stated the city has applied for block grant, which is \$450,000.00 if awarded the money would need to be spent on new equipment due to the age of the equipment. Mr. Jackson stated the sewer plant equipment was replaced in 2010 after the flood. Mr. Westerman stated the parts were replaced not the equipment. Mr. Harris stated there is equipment that runs 24 hours a day at the plant. Mayor Allen asked about the grant for the infiltration inflow. Mr. Westerman stated the block grant that has been applied for will be to work on the infiltration inflow. Ms. Noe asked Mr. Westerman to explain to the board the technical aspects to the corrective action plan engineer report that was submitted. Mr. Westerman stated if we have a meeting with TDEC, I am thinking they will back off the timeline, but the River Keepers are very persistent on the time line. Ms. Noe asked if the consent order will give us the opportunity to do rehab instead of new build. Mr. Westerman stated the county has a parcel of land which in the city would be able to build a new sewer plant. He informed other option would be to the existing plant, which would only hold maximum capacity of 1.8 million intakes a day. Mayor Allen asked the board if they would like to fix the infiltration inflow first. Mr. Jackson stated yes. Mr. Anderson stated the city needs to fix the main problems, so the board will have better idea of the intake. Ms. Noe stated the city is supposed to have a design plan for the sewer plant by July 2019. Furthermore, if the board would like to change the consent order, then there would need to be an amendment sent to the federal courts. After much discussion, Mr. Westerman stated he will work on the estimate for the rehab of the sewer plant and will present at the next budget meeting. Ms. Noe stated I will discuss amending the consent order with Bill Penny.

- B. City Hall discussion.** Mayor Allen stated Josh Wright will be at the workshop meeting. Mr. Jackson questioned why the board is discussing a new city hall. Mayor Allen stated the county is interested in this building and we need more space. Ms. Binkley suggested build on the old farmer's market property and sell the city hall building, then purchase the Murff property. Ms. Noe stated the city has general session jurisdiction, which the court room would need to be close to the jail to be able transport prisoners. Ms. Walker questioned the length of the city general session jurisdiction. Ms. Reed stated she is not sure, but it has been a long time. Ms. Noe stated when you're looking for city hall that space will need to be taken into consideration. She further cautioned if the council choose to eliminate general sessions jurisdictions they would not be able to get it back. Ms. Reed stated Mr. Wright suggested to doubling the space for the court room. She further stated Mr. Wright looked at the need for each department and he will bring the square footage needs. Ms. Ashley Osman addressed the board about the Murff property, she stated we could do a land swap of the old farmer's market property for the Murff property, plus a little bit of money due to size difference. Mr. Chuck Walker questioned if the city would need a seal bid. Ms. Noe stated she would have to look into if the city would need a seal bid or not. After much discussion the topic was passed to the next scheduled meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. STBG Project (Census Road Funds)- 20% match.** Mr. Phil Cast with CSR Engineering addressed the board he stated he spoke with Ms. Sandy Cannon to inform the grant would be \$175,000 with a 20% match. Furthermore, this grant would have to be used for resurfacing the roads, sidewalks and drainage that has to do with the streets. Ms. Walker questioned if the grant would be allowed to build new sidewalks. Mr. Cast replied yes, but I suggested paving would get more square footage. Furthermore, public works department would have a better idea were the grant would be most needed. Ms. Reed questioned if this grant would be able to fix old sidewalks and make them ADA complainant. Mr. Cast stated he would have to speak with his supervisor. Ms. Noe questioned if you could connect old sidewalks and new sidewalks. Mr. Cast responded yes. Mayor Allen stated if the board has any ideas call me or Mr. Biggers. Mr. Biggers asked for the board direction of sidewalks or pavement. Mr. Jackson, Ms. Walker, and Ms. Binkley all agreed and stated sidewalks.
- B. Strategy Session Discussion.** Ms. Reed presented several options for the meeting which include in town and out of town. Mr. Anderson suggested to call Vantage Point. Mr. Adkins suggested to call the Braxton. Mayor Allen suggested the board make a decision at workshop.
- C. Appoint Vice-Chairman.** Mayor Allen stated he would like to appoint Roger Jackson for Vice Chairman. Ms. Reed informed the code states the mayor has to be the head of the meeting, but Ms. Noe suggested to appoint Vice Chairman. A motion was made by Ms. Binkley, seconded by Mr. Anderson to appoint Mr. Roger Jackson as Vice Chairman. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **MAYOR'S UPDATE-**

Mayor Allen stated Popeye's is coming along.

#### **Other Business-**

- A. Chief of Police Position.** Mr. Adkins questioned the deadline of the Chief of Police applications. Mayor Allen stated February 22, 2019. Mr. Adkins requested an email to inform the board when the new Chief of Police is selected.
- B. Hotel/Motel Tax.** Ms. Walker questioned the hotel/motel tax. Ms. Reed stated the reason Ms. Littleton dropped the tax to 2.5% for the hotel/motel taxes it would be higher than New York City.
- C. Projects/GPS.** Ms. Walker requested a monthly report of the GPS of the vehicles and a list of city projects.
- D. Port Authority Payment.** Ms. Noe requested the Port Authority board be paid like the other boards. Ms. Reed stated this was passed some time ago and the front office just needs the agenda or meeting minutes

to be able to pay them. Ms. Noe stated Ms. Dora Salinas is the secretary, you can get the minutes from her.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Anderson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Mayor Steve Allen