

Town of Ashland City
Board of Mayor and Council
Ashland City, Tennessee
February 12, 2013

The Board of Mayor and Council met in regular session on February 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Present and presiding: Mayor Rick Johnson.

Council present: Vice-Mayor Steve Allen, Alwilda Binkley, Lisa Walker, Roger Jackson, and Chris LaCrosse.

Council absent: Jimmy Gill.

Others present: Doris Sanders, Michael Armstrong, Jennifer Noe, Marc Coulon, Chuck Walker, Melissa Womack, Dwayne Noe, Derek Now, Darin Holt, Billy Harris, Matt Waldron, Bobby Gorden, Tommy Jackson, Marie Meyer, Daryl Phillips, Wade Reed, Tim Adkins, Melanie Brooks, Kyle Brooks, Paul R. Gupton, Tony Young, Mary Glasgow, and Phyllis Schaeffer.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley, to approve the January minutes. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Public Forum:

Darin Holt came forward asking the Council for an adjustment on his water bill. He advised he had a leak at Azacs he thinks the water ran for 8 days and he did not know it. Mr. Holt said he has repaired the leak. Mayor said you have a \$271 dollar bill and your average bill is \$30.64 A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Jackson, to reduce the bill to an average. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Ms. Melanie Brooks also came forward stating she had a high bill because of a leak and asked for help. Mayor said they don't have a lot of history with us. Their bill is \$391 dollars an average of what we do have is \$74.62 Mr. LaCrosse asked if they signed an affidavit. Mayor replied no, and asked Ms. Brooks if she would sign one when she came to pay her bill. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to adjust her bill to an average. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Ms. Marie Meyer came forward and said she has the same problem she had a leak between the meter and her home; she has addressed the problem and it has been repaired. Mayor said that Ms. Meyer's does have a signed affidavit. Also, Mayor advised that this month and next month's bill will be high due to this same leak. Her average bill would be \$38.40.

Mr. Allen said to have Phyllis adjust the bill for both months. A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Binkley, to adjust her bill to an average and have Phyllis adjust the 2nd month to an average also. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Jackson-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Reports:

Ms. Noe advised she didn't have anything that wasn't on the agenda.

New Business:

Mayor said Ordinance #398- tap fees. We have discussed in workshop reducing the tap fees for a 6 month period. A motion was made by Mr. LaCrosse, seconded by Jackson, approve ordinance #398 - to adjust the tap fees by 50% for a 6 month period on 1st reading. Ms. Noe advised that she and Phyllis had sent an email to the bank and that their reply was that this was not an issue. Mr. LaCrosse said he would like to put it on the table for discussion. They had discussed 33% and 50% he thinks they can do that much. The revenues from the water and sewer could repay that in 6 months. Mr. LaCrosse doesn't want to see it get away from us; the difference between 33 and 50% percent can be made up in revenues. Mr. LaCrosse thinks it will be positive for our area. Mr. Allen replied that he thought the Mayor suggested 30%. Mayor said he did say 30% but he can see the 50% also. Mr. LaCrosse said there is a need for it and all the benefits it will bring in he doesn't want to see it get away from us. 33 to 50% can be made up in 4-5 months down the road. Mr. Allen said he disagrees adjusting the fees of that magnitude. We did adjust his business before. Mr. LaCrosse said that was on the building not tap fees. Mr. Allen said we cut fees before; he wants the units to go in he thinks the assisted living is a good thing but doesn't think we need to give up that kind of money.

Mr. LaCrosse said he thinks they are committed to the project but they need all the help they can get. They will then take it to the bank and they will approve it or not. Mayor asked Chris or Darrell if they had anything more to offer. Mr. Neese said he is asking for help from wherever he can get it. The equity has to be higher because of the conventional loan. The equity to debt ration does matter. This will play a role in the bank's decision. There have been a couple of banks interested one is 1st Tennessee and the other might be Pinnacle but there have not been any turn sheets. Mr. Allen said he is sure he is an outstanding businessman but doesn't think he would be in it if not to make money. Mr. Allen said he thinks they will fill up quickly. After more discussion the motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-no, and Mayor-yes.

Ms. Noe said our Charter says after final passage there is a 20 day waiting period this would make it about the 1st part of April; do we need to have a special called meeting. Mr. Wilkinson said as soon as he had a turn sheet he would be willing to dig dirt, break ground before the final closing with the bank. Are we moving too quickly? Don't want the 6 months to come up and this wasn't enough time. Mr. Neese said with all the permits he has already acquired if it takes 6 months it will be too late. Mayor said then we will have a special called meeting. Phyllis and Ms. Noe said it can be in the paper this Wednesday. Mayor said how about Monday the 25th or Tuesday the 26th? Mayor said we could have it Tuesday night before the budget meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor said the next item is Resolution 2013-01 we have been talking about this grant for a while to rehab the wastewater plant. It is a 79/21 match and our portion would be 107, 356. The project cost is \$511,000 A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Walker to approve Resolution 2013-01 to apply for the CDBG grant. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor said Ordinance #399 is to reduce the building fees. Ms. Noe advised this ordinance has the same blanks to fill in as the tap ordinance. Ms. Noe said she had Mike run the numbers so Council would know the cost. Mr. Armstrong said the permit fees were \$13,060. And the review plan fees were \$6,530 making a total of \$19,590 that if approved would be reduced. Mayor said this was for commercial and industrial only. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Walker to approve ordinance #399 reduce the fees by 50% for a period of 6 months across the board on 1st reading. It was asked if this was across

the board for all or the commercial and industrial. Mr. LaCrosse said if we are going to give a break to commercial he thinks we should give the break to residential also. So it would be across the board to all. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Ordinance #400 is a budget amendment. Mayor asked Ms. Noe to explain this. Ms. Noe advised while looking at the fees in the Charter and ordinances versus motions anytime you modify an ordinance it has to be done by ordinance. Since the budget is an ordinance when you amend it will have to be done by ordinance. Ms. Noe also advised the Council that she and Phyllis have been going over the Charter and there were some changes that needed to be done and they would be coming back to them for approval. A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by Allen to approve ordinance 400 - budget amendment on 1st reading. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor said the Pyro shows contract was next and is the same as every other time. Ms. Noe said they have re-done their contract changing the 10% to 75% on their cancellation policy due to the weather. We have no control over the weather. Ms. Noe talked Tony and said they would like to defer to give Tony time to talk with them to see if they will do the same contract as the last 3 years. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to defer to next month.

Mayor said the Xerox lease is on the agenda next. Ms. Schaeffer said this is for the copier in City Hall we are at 50 months on current lease and it is time to do a new lease. The lease for a new machine has gone down from what we are paying now. The black and white copies are going up and actually the color copies have gone down. This is going to be for the 1st copy on. It used to be after 250 copies. We will have faster scanning, faster copying and better resolution. A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by walker to approve the Xerox lease. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor said the Katie Childs contract was next and asked Melissa to explain. Ms. Womack said this contract is for an alternate instructor to use when Andrea is off traveling. This contract is like the other exercise instructors, but Katie will be just filling in as needed. All the paperwork has been turned in. A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Binkley to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

The next item on the agenda is the turn out gear bid for the fire dept. Chief Walker said bids were opened this morning. They had received one bid for \$2,115 per set. Mayor asked if he thought this was reasonable. Chief said yes, and the money was in their budget for 7 sets. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to award the bid to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for \$2,115 per set. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor asked Chief Walker if he would discuss the dock grant. Chief Walker said he had hoped to have a contract tonight but the National Parks Service didn't have it ready in time to go to TWRA for tonight but they assured Chief that the money was still there; that it is a federal grant that goes through the state. Chief asked to defer to next month. Mayor said this is for 90 ft. of dock and a new ramp. Chief said yes and that it was a 75/25 matching grant and in kind counts towards our share. Mayor said seeing as we are adding to the existing dock would this be considered sole source and Chief said he would think so

but they would still go through the normal bid process. A motion was made by Binkley seconded by Walker to defer. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor asked Tony if he was just requesting to place the mowing for bid. Tony replied yes, like every year. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to allow Tony to bid the mowing. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Cogs Mountain Bike Club. Mr. Young said they are a group that is requesting to possibly build off road bike trails on the Caldwell Park. This is not a dedicated park and at this point we just protect it. It does get a lot of use. Mayor said than this can be brought to next workshop. Mr. LaCrosse said his concern is after they are built; as they are using it, it will get ruts then who is going to be responsible for the maintenance and repair and the liability. This would be important to have a plan in place. Mr. Young said his concern is erosion being that it is on a hillside. Mr. Young said we would have to have an agreement. Ms. Binkley said don't the boy scouts use that park. Mr. Young said yes, they had cleared some areas and marked some trails. Ms. Binkley said would this be a hazard to campers and horseback riders. Mr. Young replied there are not that many horseback riders. Mayor said they talked about disc golf.

Other:

Mayor said the repairs for the belt press have been approved. Mr. Harris has a contract from Compositelch on these repairs. Ms. Noe said the contract is fine. They have a 1 year warranty. They have a section on payment that is a little different than what we are used to. They want 40% up front, Mr. Harris said that is when they will come to pick up the unit and take it back to Texas. Ms. Noe said then they want 50% upon shipping back to us and 10% on start up. Mr. Harris explained they will have a 1 day training session on the proper operation and then hook power back up to it. He thinks that is what they are referring to. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve the contract. Mr. LaCrosse said he wanted it noted in the minutes the points that were brought to their attention. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor asked if there was anything else. Mr. LaCrosse said he noticed that County Commissioner Doris Sanders was here tonight. And said he was glad to see her here. Mayor said yes, he spoke with Ms. Sanders before the meeting started.

Bills:

A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by LaCrosse to pay the bills. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mr. LaCrosse said before we leave he would like to see preliminary numbers on the budget from the dept. heads for next week or at least by the 26th so they can look at the whole picture before meeting with the dept. heads. We will also start having budget meetings on all the Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. until the budget is approved.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

