

Town of Ashland City
Board of Mayor and Council
December 10, 2013

The Board of Mayor and Council met in regular session on December 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Present and presiding: Mayor Rick Johnson.

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

Others present: Raymond Barnes, Billy Harris, Chuck Walker, Cindy Perry, Michael Perry, Coral Perry, Gina P. Owen, Rebecca Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Atkins, Ann Disch, Melissa Womack, Robbie Hamm, Marc Coulon, Kim Holland, Sara Binkley, Kristine Sproat, Camille Sproat, Greg Edrington, Michael Armstrong, Anita Justice, Paul Gupton, Reginald Staples, Esq. , Tiffani Conatser, Ton Salter, Wade A. Reed, Amanda T. Bell, Salena & Shane Melhorn, Charles & Shauna Plotz, Jennifer Noe, Dwayne Noe, Kay Steele, Jim Steele, Patty Kennedy, Steve Kennedy, Mary Glasgow, and Phyllis Schaeffer.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and declared we had a quorum. The first order of business was a Public Hearing on Forest Oak Apartments. Ms. Schaeffer said that Mr. Staples was here to discuss the resolution. Mr. Staples approached and said he was an attorney and was here for a public hearing on the resolution allowing money issued by Sevier County to be used for Forest Oak Apartments for renovations. This is not against the city in any way. Ms. Noe said state law for housing and education allows for certain entities and corporations to be eligible to get certain benefits but we are required to hold a public hearing but the city is not financially responsible for any part of it in anyway. Mr. LaCrosse said this was a private entity deal. Mr. Staples replied the County of Sevier is issuing the debt. It is easier as they are out of state and there are several projects one being Forest Oak Apartments. Mayor asked if there were any comments from anyone. There being none the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. and commenced with the regular meeting.

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

Public Forum:

Mayor Johnson said there were some people here to receive their awards and at this time he would like to present these awards for the Christmas parade. A lot of hard work went into the floats. At this time as I call your name please come up and gather around for pictures. Mayor said the 3rd place winner goes to Liberty Baptist Church after the group came up and had their pictures taken for the Ashland City Times Mayor announced the 2nd place winner goes to At Home Realty. Mayor then announced the 1st place winner as American Heritage. Mayor said and last but not least the Mayor's award goes to Gold Star Realty. Applause was given to all and congratulated.

Mayor asked if there was anyone that needed to speak to the Council. As the Mayor wanted to come before the Council on his own behalf he turned the meeting over to Vice-Mayor Steve Allen. Vice-Mayor Allen asked him to state his name and address. Mayor Johnson said he lived at 108 ½ Gloria Circle. His water bills are normally about \$68. And the last 2 he received were over a hundred he is requesting a regular bill. Mayor has turned in an affidavit for a leaky commode it has been repaired. A motion was

made by Gill, seconded by Binkley, to adjust the bill to an average. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor – abstained.

Mr. Robbie Hamm said he had a problem with his water bill and requested it be adjusted to an average. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill, to adjust his bill to an average. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mr. Gill said he would like to make a motion that Phyllis be able to take care of the adjustments they always adjust to an average if there is an elderly person he doesn't think they should have to come to Council. Ms. Schaeffer said this was a formality and protection for her office that they were not showing favoritism. Mayor asked to waive this discussion and bring it up during the budget meeting.

Attorney:

Ms. Noe said they had the court appearance on the Port Authority there is a new purchaser for the marina they will take over in place of Bank of America. Ms. Noe also said that we need to re-appoint some of the members of the port authority as we had not done that in a while. The court approved the substitution of a new owner for the marina and the judicial foreclosure of the marina subject to city and county taxes.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Allen to approve Resolution 2013-11 – vacation leave. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve Resolution 2013-12 – sick leave. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

New Business:

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill to approve Resolution 2013-13 – Forest Oak Apartments – issuance of bonds by Sevier County. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Staples said Sevier County is the conduit for Municipal Bonds for Forest Oak Apartments Mr. LaCrosse asked what is their interest in this. Mr. Staples replied they are acquiring the bond for renovations. Hallmark has around 26 of these facilities in Tennessee. He does not know what specific renovations will be done at Forest Oaks logistically it is easier to have one board to issue the debt there is no interest other than a small fee. Mr. LaCrosse asked if this was section 8 or subsidized housing. Mr. Staples replied it was low to moderate housing. The improvement will cause the value of the property to go up and it remains on the city tax roll. Mayor asked if the property value will be reflected on the tax roll. Mr. Staples replied yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to approve Ordinance #415 – budget amendment. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, and Mayor-yes. Ms. Womack thanked the Council for seeing the need it is appreciated.

A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by LaCrosse to reappoint Mr. Jerry Hamlin and Merle Walker to the Port Authority Board. Mayor asked who the secretary of the board is and said he would like to see the meetings better advertised. Ms. Noe said it was Dora Salinas and she would ask her to send out

emails. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

The next item of business is the Rail-Greenway lease agreement Mayor asked that they deferred action on this. There is going to be a meeting Friday to address the section causing some problems. Mr. LaCrosse said the deadline for the grant application is the 20th. Once they have more answers on our obligations it would be good to involve Jennifer. Maybe she can be at the budget meeting next Tuesday also. Mayor then said maybe the motion could be made contingent on it all being worked out. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve contingent on everything being worked out And that section C is worked out and our attorney approves the changes. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Mayor-declared a conflict then voted yes.

The Blue Heron contract was next on the agenda. Ms. Noe said that as she understands it is only to changing the terms to January through December so the contract does not end in their busy season and to increase payment to \$800 a month. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Binkley to approve the agreement. Mr. LaCrosse asked Mr. Steele what kind of year he had. Mr. Steele replied money was in the bank and he has recovered from the flood all was good. Mr. LaCrosse said good and asked if it was profitable enough for improvements to his vessel. Mr. Steele said he hoped so. Mr. Allen asked who he used for refuse disposal. Mr. Steele replied there is a pump at the marina. Mr. Jackson said he would like his boat to look better and asked if there was something he could do to make it look neater. Mr. Steele said take some pictures and I can address what you're talking about. Mr. Jackson said the stuff you have hanging off the side of the boat. Keep in touch with Tony my main concern is safety. Mr. Allen said he does not like our park used as a money maker for individuals he doesn't want to get in a situation to have to pick and choose. Mr. Gill agrees but there are a lot of people that enjoy and want to ride on it. Mr. LaCrosse said he understands Mr. Allen and Mr. Gill's concern Ashland City sees ourselves as a tourist destination it is one of a few ways to showcase and bring in a variety of people – so far it is not a problem if it becomes a problem we can come up with a policy that will fit in the plans if we need to restrict what goes down there. If it becomes a problem there are ways to handle it. Ms. Noe said basically this is a permit we can revoke it that is one of the reasons we set it up this way. Ms. Binkley said it does the city good if it ever becomes a problem we can address it at that time. Mr. Gill doesn't feel we should rent our park out it is public property. Mr. LaCrosse said it can't be just one thing if 2 or more want it then we can bid it out. Mr. Young said it has not been a problem and have not turned anyone down. Motion to approve passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-no, Walker-yes, Jackson-no, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Chief Walker said the U.S. Geological agreement is the standard agreement for next year's budget 1/3 paid by the county, 1/3 by us, and balance by the grant. \$3,500 goes through our budget. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Jackson, to approve the U.S. Geological agreement. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, and Mayor-yes.

The next item is the Clear Agreement Chief Coulon said this is the renewal for the software we have for running background checks on permits and that sort of items. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve the Clear Agreement. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Chief Coulon said the Mutual Aid agreement is for SWAT and back up for the officers with the county and other cities. Jennifer has approved the agreement. Pleasant View has passed it also. It has been sent

to the county attorney and Kingston Springs attorney. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mr. Young said we can push the Dixieland Agreement back he is still waiting for a reply from the other 2 carnivals he hasn't heard anything yet. Mayor said to defer action.

Ms. Womack explained that this agreement with Workforce Essentials is due to the fact they would like to use the senior center one day a week so they can meet one on one with people privately helping train them for jobs. They will pay us \$100 a month. They only need a table and chairs and they will work around our schedule. Ms. Womack said this sounds like a good deal for us. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve the Agreement with Workforce Essentials. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill to approve change order #1 for the blower building at the wastewater plant. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

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

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

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

Other:

Mayor advised he had letters of appreciation for Larry Nash, Chris Cherry and Cindy Caperton for being the judges this year at the Christmas parade.

Ms. Binkley said she appreciates the lights in town this made the city look good Mr. Allen also said he thought it looked good and Mayor Johnson said whoever donated for the decorating it was appreciated it makes the town look good.

Mr. Gill asked about the signs on Hwy 12 South. Mayor said Rep. Littleton will talk to TDOT.

Ms. Walker wanted to congratulate those elected unopposed. She had been asked several times why there was an election on the parade night. It just happened this year as our Charter calls for an election on the 1st Saturday of December.

Ms. Binkley advised the other Council members that the Earl Bradley property will not be leased to us next year. Mayor said maybe one of these sections will help (on the TDOT grant). Tony said we could use the property on Water St. by the rail bed. Mayor said there is a right of way we can clear.

Mr. Gill brought up the timber on the park property at Caldwell. Mayor Norwood never wanted it cut, we were going to do research he thought he would bring it up. Mayor said we were approached by an outfit from Clarksville to build a bike trail who do we ask. Mr. Gill said someone that knows timber. Mayor said we could discuss this in budget.

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

A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Binkley to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Rick Johnson, Mayor

Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder

