

Town of Ashland City
Board of Mayor and Council
November 10, 2015

The Board of Mayor and Council met in a regular session on November 10, 2015 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, Chris LaCrosse and Roger Jackson.

Council absent: Jimmy Gill.

Others present: Chris Cherry, Michael Armstrong, Gary Norwood, Raymond Barnes, Ronnie Barnes, James Holland, Melissa Womack, Tim Adkins, Eddie Davidson, Tony Young, Chuck Walker, Mary Glasgow, and Phyllis Schaeffer.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and declared there was a quorum.

Mayor Johnson began the meeting with a public hearing on Ordinance #439. Mayor said this was a budget amendment for the server room and computers for front office. There being no comments the Mayor closed the public hearing and commenced with the regular meeting.

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

Public Forum:

Mr. James Holland approached Council requesting help with his water bill as he had a pipe to burst causing a leak in the ground. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Binkley to adjust the water bill to a monthly average. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Attorney:

Ms. Noe said she didn't have anything not on the agenda.

Old Business:

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve Ordinance #439 – budget amendment 14/15 fiscal year – on 2nd reading. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

New Business:

Ordinance #440 -1st reading.

Ms. Noe advised this ordinance is for franchise fees for Piedmont gas. The contract is coming due. Ms. Noe has made some changes mostly in section 2.03; Also, Mr. Eddie Davidson is here from Piedmont to answer any questions.

Ms. Noe said Piedmont is requesting that we not charge for excavations. Our ordinance does have a fee for excavations so it will be up to Council to decide under this agreement if there will be a charge. Ms.

Noe said Mr. Davidson said the franchise fee will offset the fee for excavations. But Ms. Noe said a franchise gives them exclusive rights.

The franchise fee is 5% this will be for commercial and residential. Our old one had the fee for commercial only. This is 5% of gross sales. This will be paid monthly instead of quarterly. Mr. LaCrosse asked if we get a report to check the sales. Ms. Schaeffer replied no. Mr. Davidson said the city could get one if requested.

Ms. Noe said having a bond or letter of credit is still in the agreement. MS. Noe said that another change was the agreement would be for 20 years not 25 years. After Ms. Noe went over all the changes a motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen, to approve Ordinance #440 on 1st reading.

Mr. Davidson said the changes to revenue would be an approximate figure of \$15,000 based on 2014 customers compared to roughly \$2,000 received now.

Mr. LaCrosse asked about Duke Energy. Mr. Davidson replied that Duke Energy was going to be the holding company that Piedmont will retain its name, the same people, they are not transferring their licenses or merging they are becoming a subsidiary. Motion passed with a roll call vote of LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to waive the excavation permit fees.

Mr. LaCrosse said some streets are not utilized much others are. How good a partner are you in accommodating additional growth. Mr. Davidson replied they value the relationship with the city One of the benefits is Piedmont is the oldest working in mid Tennessee area. Growth is there if we can expand we are going to be there. Motion passed with a roll call vote of LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to approve Ordinance #441 – amend 14/15 fiscal year budget. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Chief Walker said the U.S. Geological agreement is the same as the last 3 years anyone can check the height of water in river. It is another way to predict the water rising. The City pays a third, the county pays a third and U.S. Geological pays the balance. The \$3,500 is already in their budget. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Binkley to approve the U.S. Geological agreement. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Chief Coulon said they are asking to surplus items and we just need approval to put all the items on Gov deals. Mr. Allen asked if he put a time limit on it and also if a minimum bid limit was placed on the items. Chief replied yes. A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by Walker to approve the surplus items. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve the purchase of a mower for parks not to exceed \$3,000. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Binkley to approve a janitorial position for the police/public works building for 8 hours a week. Chief Coulon said this person would work 4 hours a week at the police dept and 4hours for public works. There will not be any new money and next year it will be budgeted. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by Allen to approve the position and job description for a court security officer. Ms. Schaeffer said the job description was sent to Ms. Noe for her approval and that Anita said there would be no new money this year she was asking permission to use the overtime line item and the balance from other lines in her budget.

Mr. LaCrosse asked if Chief Coulon checked this out. With the certification he wanted the Chief to be comfortable with it also and have him review the position, someone that is alert and physically capable. HE thinks it is very serious for the safety of the Judge and court personnel as well as the publics' safety. He wants the Chief to review with Anita and be an advisor. Chief Coulon said he and Anita have it worked out. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Other:

Mayor said he had a meeting today with Lee Davidson on the Bi—centennial trail. Maybe in the next 30 days we will get approval to move forward. He would like to bid the project in March. Mr. LaCrosse asked if Mr. Davidson would come and give them an update. Mayor said he is sure he would.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Jackson to pay the bills. Mr. Jackson asked about the water tank. Chief Walker said they were going to use it at the new training grounds. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Richard Johnson, Mayor

Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder