



TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2019

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

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

ROLL CALL

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

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

A motion made by Councilwoman Walker, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson to approve the August 20, 2019 agenda. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion made by Councilman Adkins, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson to approve the July 16, 2019 minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CITY HALL/FIRE HALL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET. Ms. Kellie Reed presented Mr. Rick Delany to the council for discussion of payment options, current rates and current market for the construction of the new City Hall and Fire Department. Ms. Reed stated we needed to start this discussion because the City has closed on the new property location and needs to commit to a budget for the projects. Ms. Reed presented the council with the Calculation Form for Certified Tax Rate on the overhead. She explained our asset value on our tangible property and the expected collection for City taxes to be around \$804,912.60 for this year to cover expenses. She stated in the past there has never been a debt in the general fund and if we start issuing debt we will need to know ahead of time that we may need to raise taxes in the budget to cover our payment for said debt. Mr. Delany with Raymond James provided the Council with a public finance packet for financial planning. Mr. Delany stated rural development was discussed as a source. He explained the current rural development rate is 3.5% and that rate is expected to drop as a result in the trend of the marketplace to as low as 3.25% or lower for 40 years financing. It was discussed in a previous meeting that the construction of the fire department may be in this financing as well. After much discussion regarding provided paperwork it was determined that interest rates are at a 50-year low with now being the best time to borrow money. Mayor Allen invited Mr. Josh Wright to speak. Mr. Wright stated the reason he wanted to meet with Council is because the architectural process works better when there is a budget put in place. He advised he needs to know if the direction Council is wanting to go is with the original floor plan provided for City Hall and Fire Station. He stated if there is anything that needs or wants to be cut from the floor plans, now would be a good time to discuss. Mr. Wright advised he has an upcoming meeting with Chief Chuck Walker and Deputy Chief Derek Noe to discuss the fire station design. He met with Mayor Allen and Ms. Reed a week ago to discuss cost saving strategies. Ms. Reed provided an overhead view of the current floor plan for City Hall without some of the

previously approved changed. He stated he has started working on those changes but did not bring them with him tonight. Mayor Allen said the purchase of the property closed on Friday August 19th. Ms. Walker asked if the cost to tear down the current buildings on the property has been factored in. Chief Walker stated he has talked with Mr. Clint Biggers and they feel the City has the equipment needed to do the work but would need to pay for dumpsters to remove of the material. He projects the cost to be around \$2,000.00, not including labor. After much discussion of the possible floor plans the best estimate they could give for everything including construction, infrastructure and furnishing the building nationwide would cost around \$350 per square foot. Chief Walker feels confident it can be built for this rate or cheaper. Ms. Reed stated last week a meeting took place with USDA for funding options for possible grant money. She stated the City Hall floor plan on the overhead was for 15,000 square feet and is projected to be the around the same for the fire hall. She stated the projected amount for both projects, including building and site works, to be 7 million dollars. Chief Walker stated he thinks the City will get better prices if each trade is bid out. Vice Mayor Anderson stated it would be more helpful to everyone if a drawing was presented before it is approved. Mr. Wright stated he can do this. Vice Mayor Anderson stated he thinks there will not be a budget number available tonight. After much more discussion on floor plans and having the option to expand in the future, it was determined the Council was ok with the proposed square footage and a form was given to Council explaining the process once everything is approved and Mr. Wright will have something to show Council by next meeting. It was also determined that at next month's meeting Council would vote on surplus of any material on the Main Street property.

OTHER

A. Mr. Chris Kerrigan stated it was brought to his attention the Cheatham County Exchange ran an article about upcoming events the City is hosting and one of them mentioned The Braxton Lee Under the Trees Dinner and asked if the City is involved in hosting this. Ms. Walker and Ms. Alwilda Binkley responded with no's. Mr. Kerrigan questioned why it was mentioned in an Events Committee meeting. Ms. Walker stated it was not discussed in the Events Committee meeting but was discussed at a media day and since The Braxton Lee is part of the history of Ashland City they have decided to host their event on September 14, 2019 as part of the history of the City. After much discussion Mr. Kerrigan stated there is no clarification when you look at the article and it appears the City is promoting it all together. Mayor Allen asked if it was the way the article was ran. Mayor Allen invited Ms. Candice Beasley to the floor to speak. Ms. Beasley stated the proceeds to her Farm to Table Dinner is 70% to Wheels on Meals and 30% to a fund to start a community center which is desperately needed. She said she has applied for a 501C3 to start a fund. Ms. Beasley openly voiced her opinions and concerns with the lack of support she is receiving for her upcoming event in October. After much discussion from Ms. Beasley she walked away from the podium leaving the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Councilwoman Binkley, seconded by Councilman Kerrigan to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Mayor Steve Allen