

TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 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, Tim Adkins, Alwilda Binkley, Lisa Walker and Chris Kerrigan.

ABSENT

Vice Mayor Daniel Anderson and Roger Jackson.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Ms. Kellie Reed requested to remove the wording under new business section A "of the walking track. A motion was made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kerrigan to approve the April 16, 2019 agenda as typed with removal of the wording "of the walking track". Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins, seconded by Mr. Kerrigan to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Disc Golf Course Discussion. Mr. Scott Sampson stated a partial installment cost of \$2,875.00 would include all equipment other than the tees and complete installment cost of \$7,350.00 would include the tees. Mayor Allen inquired if this installment cost would be an additional cost to the \$10,000, which you requested at the last council meeting. Mr. Sampson replied yes. Mr. Kerrigan stated he spoke with the community about getting the golf disc course and the community is excited. Mayor Allen stated add \$15,000 to the budget for the golf disc course.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Permission to Bid Paving. A motion was made by Mr. Adkins, seconded by Ms. Binkley to bid out paving of Preacher Poole Walking Track and roads needed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion. Mayor Allen stated he will go over the highlights of 2020-2021 budget.

- New Department Budget for Technology. The IT Committee will vote on all expenditures in this budget. Traffic school revenues will still fund major portion of IT department. The purpose of this is to better track what the city spends on technology for maintenance fees, equipment, contractual services and everything related to IT. Mayor Allen asked the council if they would like to increase Mr. Jason Cannon hours or hire a full-time employee. Chief Walker stated this is not a start out of school position. Furthermore, Chief Derek Noe has some suggestions. Chief Noe stated the city is behind the times with technology and full-time position can get the city updated. Chief Noe stated due to Mr. Cannon only being a part-time position, I have to help with some of the technology issues. Furthermore, he suggested MTAS to an audit of the city's IT. Ms. Binkley stated the city does need a full-time IT position. Ms. Walker stated the Library technology consultant starts at \$36,000. Ms. Reed stated since is this completely a new position, we get MTAS involved to help create the position and recommend a starting salary. Also, request MTAS to do an Audit if they aren't too far behind or they can recommend independent company. Mayor Allen stated he would like someone hired by July. Ms. Walker stated it's


- a good time to hire a full-time IT position with the new fire department and city hall. Council directed Ms. Reed to allocate \$65,000 for benefits and salary for a new IT full-time position.
- 3 % cost of living salary increase for all employees and some department heads have presented a few merit raises and all were justified; however, some employees will top out in comparison to current pay table. Mayor Allen asked how does the budget committee want to proceed with these issues. Ms. Walker questioned how merit raise are determined. Ms. Reed stated department heads make that decision. Ms. Walker questioned documentation to back up the merit raises. Mayor Allen stated employees receiving a merit raise went to classes, received a certification or took on additional responsibilities. Ms. Reed inquired if the budget committee would like to keep the pay table the same or add 3% to the highest pay grade. A motion was made by Mr. Kerrigan, seconded by Ms. Binkley to raise the highest pay grade by 3% on the pay table and request MTAS conduct a salary study during the next budget year. Vote on motion: Kerrigan-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes and Mayor-yes.
 - Overall revenue projection increase from budget amount. Mayor Allen questioned if the budget committee wishes to increase property taxes or set a fire tax instead. Ms. Reed presented a tax chart for all surrounding city property tax rates. Furthermore, most cities revenue subsidized the expenditures and currently the cities revenues are not subsidizing the expenditures. Chief Walker stated the Cheatham County Assessor is increasing the assessments significantly. A motion made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Ms. Binkley to approve the property tax raise of 3 cents, making the total tax rate 62 cents. All approved by voice vote.
 - Court Department- not much has change in budget from last year, not asking for any capital items. There will be a decrease in line item 256 (consultant services) as this has been transferred to Technology Department.
 - Recorder Budget- not much has change in budget from last year. Increase in Mayor's public relation line item for increase in use of this line item. All subscriber fees and technology related fees have been moved to Technology Department.
 - Technology Department- Several members of the IT committee have looked at this budget and have worked on it together with department heads.
 - Police Department- Decrease in consultant service for technology budget. Capital Outlay items include air conditioner repair, bullet proof vest replacement, 2 new vehicles and equipment.
 - Fire Department- Decrease in several line items for Technology Department. Capital outlay includes down payment for fire truck as presented at Strategic Session meeting.
 - Street Budget- Capital Outlay includes grant match money for the STBG grant.
 - Senior Center- Asking for a full-time position with a salary starting at \$37,500 and gate to close off work stations. Furthermore, Ms. Womack would like to retire in the next 2 years and would like to train a replacement.
 - Parks Department- Capital Outlay includes \$28,000 for a new truck, \$8,000 for garbage cans, \$14,000 for an ATV, \$70,000 for paving and \$18,000 for disc golf course. Engineering for Bicentennial Trail and addition of crossing Puzzlefool Creek.

OTHER

Ms. Walker questioned if the event committee line item has increased. Ms. Reed stated yes, the line item will be \$17,500. Ms. Walker stated Springfield has event every weekend and the city needs more events for the citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Kerrigan to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Mayor Steve Allen