

TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2018

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

CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 PM by Mayor Richard Johnson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Richard Johnson, Ms. Lisa Walker, Mr. Daniel Anderson and Mr. Roger Jackson.

Absent: Vice Mayor Steve Allen.

Late: Mr. Tim Adkins arrived at 6:35 PM.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

A motion made by Mr. Daniel Anderson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Walker to approve the April 24, 2018 agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASTER GARDENER'S PRESENTATION-** Dr. Fred Norquist discussed the Master Gardener Program: class cost is \$135, class details for people interested in joining, and their purpose being to give back to the community with 40 volunteer hours the first year. He stated there are currently 35 active Master Gardeners conducting 6 full time projects; Court House Grounds, Ashland City and Kingston Springs Library, Turkey Junction, Rails of Trails bath house, Cheatham Dam and Walking Trail. He presented the 7th project for all of Cheatham County, which will be a "Beautification Project." He started with a slide show of beautiful landscapes from Huntsville, Alabama, who currently has a Beautification Project. He indicated the project would be to recognize homeowners and business owners who volunteer to beautify their property. He stated the cost analysis would be a onetime fee from each city of \$2500 and \$5000 from the county to cover initial cost of plaques and property owners would pay a \$25 application fee each year to cover the cost of additional plaques. He also stated the plaques will cost \$800 each and would be loaned to the winner for a period of 1 year. He further stated they expect about 15 awards in 2019, 18 in 2020 and 25 in 2021. He suggested everyone look at the City of Huntsville to see how successful the program has been in that city, the first award was handed out in 1974 and 365 were awarded this past year. He suggested a future event called Parade of Gardens throughout Cheatham. Ms. Sue Proctor expressed the main goal is to teach garden sustainability and they will work with each one who applies. She stated this is an educational outreach program partnered with UT & TSU Cheatham Extension and the Extension office will conduct soil samples and help with education materials. Dr. Norquist stated the project was well received by Kingston Springs, it will be presented to Pleasant View in May. Mr. Jackson asked if council would vote on it at next meeting and Ms. Reed stated she has added this as part of the budget. Ms. Walker stated Dr. Norquist gave a butterfly garden presentation to the Cheatham Dam and could they do something like that at the pavilion around Chris LaCrosse memorial. Ms. Proctor indicated this could be a project for the Master Gardeners and she was unsure of the cost. Ms. Walker stated she would like to see this completed.
- B. PRESENTATION OF OVERALL BUDGET (PARKS, STREETS, WATER AND RECORDER) –**
Mr. Tony Young, Department Head for Parks. Ms. Kellie Reed presented changes to the 2018-2019 budget include increase of 2% raise in salaries, increase in Health Insurance, electric, water and dumpster

service with the big difference being in Capital Outlay Projects. Mr. Tony Young presented the Capital Outlay portion. He discussed with council the Trail Connector Revenue, the mowing budget, building engineering revenue, dumpster service, a plan to pave Preacher Poole Walking Track, addition of a section to the trail, and to replace playground equipment. He also stated it would be nice to have a softball and baseball complex but would cost millions to build and county would need to help with this cost. Ms. Walker questioned Farmers Market money and Ms. Reed informed the money covers market manager, public relations, and goodies such as T-Shirts. Mayor Johnson inquired as to Farmers Market grant money; Ms. Reed indicated that Mrs. Sandy Cannon applied for a grant ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 that will pay for the manager to attend school and promotional items. She also stated that this grant would require our funds up front, and then reimbursement. Mr. Young informed council that research of other cities with a parks and recreation budget who offer less than we do have an average budget of \$402,000.

Mr. Clint Biggers, Department Head for Streets and Water.

Streets. Ms. Kellie Reed presented changes to the 2018-2019 include \$90,000 for street lighting, a new TML policy requiring steel toe boots, a 2% raise for salaries and a request for an Assistant Director to take Mr. Clint Biggers place in his absence, where ½ of \$60,000 salary would come from Streets budget and ½ would come from Water budget. Mr. Biggers presented the capital outlay includes a request for a boom tractor \$100,000 and replacement of backhoe \$100,000. He discussed with council the need for the assistant, the responsibilities of the assistant, number of current employees and possibility of moving a current employee to take on this responsibility. He answered question from council about outsourcing meter reads, current employees doing repair work, taps and helping other departments. He stated his employees completed most of the repair work for parks.

Street Aid. Ms. Reed informed council of Mr. Biggers recent knowledge of this budget, as to why \$120,000 remains in the current budget for the street lighting past Walmart. She stated street aid money pays for sidewalks, lights and roads. Mr. Biggers presented a list of all streets in need of repaving. There was a discussion of new developments tearing up streets and the responsibility to repair falling on the city. Ms. Reed instructed council to look at first sheet, 75,000 additional from census, net revenue-net expense \$194,392 next year, \$394,000 for the next budget.

Water. Ms. Reed presented an increase to the 2018-2019 budget with a 2% raise in salaries, electric, account service and the ½ assistant position. She informed council Mr. Chris Cherry's 5-year plan from a while back was incorporated into this budget; however, we do have the Westernmen agreement for Smoke testing of \$100,000 to go over into the 2018-2019 budget and a water tank in industrial park. Mr. Biggers discussed with council as to a need for two water tanks, Community Bank giving land for a new tank, problems with storage, county will give money to build new tank, currently the line will not support fire service, and all projects completed except leak detection.

Ms. Kellie Reed, Department Head for Records Office. Ms. Reed presented 2018-2019 budget includes overtime decreased to ½ of last budget, and an increase in overall salaries of 2%. Capital Outlay will include a pool car, all other items are IT; cloud email, server domain for local government, correcting computer, new lines in office, sound system, acoustic and cameras. She informed of a new line item for public relations kits to fund freebies to new businesses and residents. Further, Mayor Johnson will now have his own budget line and line 740 is for the Beautification Project with the Master Gardeners. Council discussed the need for a pool car, the beautification project, surplus, IT citywide cost is under recorder and the amount of the Mayor's budget.

Moving forward with budget. Ms. Reed inquired as to any changes moving forward, new employees, anything. Mayor Johnson stated he felt the budget should pass as written. Ms. Reed inquired as to a discussion to raise property tax. Mr. Anderson requested to know what the taxpayer would receive for the increase. Mayor Johnson stated more services. Ms. Reed informed Pegram receives .88, no police, 4 employees, .26 goes to fire department who has 1 paid chief; Kingston Springs receives .82, they have fire and police public safety officers but not a 24-hour service. Mr. Jackson questioned the amount of the

increase, think about the old people and should not put a strain on them. Mayor Johnson stated .59 due to the cost of everything these days and we need to start looking at a new city hall. Ms. Reed stated the low-income elderly may qualify for the tax relief program from the state and the city will match to a certain amount, they should call the city or county to see if they qualify.

MAYOR'S UPDATE-

None.

Other Business-

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Roger Jackson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Walker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Mayor Richard Johnson