

## TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2018

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

**CALL TO ORDER** at 6:02PM by Mayor Richard Johnson

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Richard Johnson, Vice Mayor Steve Allen, Roger Jackson, Lisa Walker, Tim Adkins and Daniel Anderson.

### **ABSENT**

None.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Daniel Anderson, seconded by Vice Mayor Steve Allen to approve the October 17, 2017 minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Presentation of Overall Budget (Court, Police, Fire & Senior Center)-** Ms. Kellie Reed presented a copy of the proposed budget, which she and Mayor Richard Johnson with all the department heads to discuss the proposed budget. Furthermore, Mayor Johnson is proposing a 2% cost of living raises and there will be no merit raise for this budget year; however, there will be one employee who will receive a raise for promotion.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Marc Coulon requested two new cars and new software systems for the car and body cameras. Chief Coulon stated if the committee approves the new software system then \$14,500.00 can be put back into the capital outlay expenditure, and \$5,000 put back into other repair/maintenance. Also, the software system would be purchased with drug fund monies. Mayor Johnson asked if another vendor could replace the parts. Chief Coulon responded no due to licensing. Mayor Johnson stated if the committee decides to purchase software system, then \$14,500.00 will go back into the general fund account and pay for the new system out of the drug fund account. Also, the other repair/maintenance (269) line item would put \$5,000 back into the proposed budget leaving the line item at \$3,000.00. Mr. Roger Jackson asked if there is enough money in the drug fund account for the purchase of the new software system. Chief Coulon responded yes, after all the sale of the surplus. Ms. Lisa Walker stated during the strategy meeting there was discussion about hiring an employee that would be ½ codes and ½ police officer. Chief Coulon replied there is an issue with splitting a position, a police officer has to be certified and go to the academy. Mayor Johnson asked why the gas line item went up significantly. Chief Coulon responded there is two additional cars and gas price has been increasing. Ms. Walker asked which budget pays for the information technology. Ms. Reed responded all information technology comes out the recorders budget. Ms. Walker states if the information technology person spends 90% of their time with another department the recorder office still has to pay. Ms. Reed reply yes. Chief Coulon states there some reserved monies in the (256) consultant line item for additional information technology usage.

#### **Fire/Codes Department**

Ms. Reed stated the fire department has a resolution prepared for a staffing grant for three new employees and asking for an additional position for codes department is the reason the (110) salaries line item is excessive.

Furthermore, the fire department has not received the staffing grant. Mr. Tim Adkins asked when will the fire department know if the grant is awarded. Deputy Chief Brian Biggs responded the grant will be turned in on April 26, 2018 and should know by July 2018 if the grant is awarded to the city. Chief Walker states the cost for two years is one position if awarded the grant. Mayor Johnson asked do you think adding these positions into the budget is the best way. Ms. Reed stated if we add the position in the budget, then we wouldn't have to do a budget amendment. Chief Walker requested one additional position for shift A, if the grant is not awarded to the city. Mayor Johnson states the budget shows three fire department position and one codes position. Chief Walker stated the permits for codes have been increased, which will assist with salary for the codes position. Mr. Adkins asked if Mr. Allen Nicholson would still be working with codes. Deputy Chief Biggs replied not as much. Chief Walker stated he spoke with Mr. Rick Gregory and Ms. Jennifer Noe in regards to revamping the city zoning book. Furthermore, Mr. Gregory agreed to revamp the city zoning book for \$14,000 which would include foot note with ordinance number. Mr. Adkins asked if the \$14,000 is in the budget. Chief Walker replied I forgot to add in the budget. Ms. Reed asked as far as building permits I projected \$15,000, should I increase it to \$75,000 with numerous permits being pulled in the city. Chief Walker responded yes. Mr. Daniel Anderson asked how did you come up with salary for the new code position. Chief Walker responded we are trying to be comparable to Nashville and start at \$55,000 if the person has all the certification and experience. He continues to request \$100,000 in capital outlay for two new vehicles, upgrade to a 5" inch hose and replace 40 compose air bottles.

#### **Court Department**

Ms. Reed stated the budget is same as last budget year with the expectation of the salary line item.

#### **Senior Department**

Ms. Reed stated the only difference to the budget is Ms. Melissa Womack is requesting additional hours for the part time employees and building materials for the capital outlay in the amount of \$1,100.00. Also, Ms. Womack requested from Cheatham County \$50,000 to contribute for an additional employee, but that position is not currently in the budget and will need to be added if the county agrees to fund the position.

#### **MAYOR'S UPDATE-**

None.

**Other Business-** Ms. Reed informed the committee to review the spread sheet for the projection of revenues and required emergency cash flow, which the comptroller office requires the city have three to six-months reserve monies for expenditure. Also, referred to property tax spread sheet, which contained figure of property tax rates of all the surrounding cities in the county. Ms. Reed stated our city is lowest tax rate in the county. Mr. Adkins questioned if we are looking to increase property tax rates. Ms. Reed responded if the county collects 1% of the city sales tax, the city will be losing \$400,000. Mr. Steve Allen stated I don't want to double the tax rate. Mr. Jackson suggested to increase tax rates gradually.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen, seconded by Ms. Lisa Walker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



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Mayor Richard Johnson