

**TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**May 30, 2019**

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

**CALL TO ORDER** at 6:02 PM by Mayor Allen.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Steve Allen, Roger Jackson, Lisa Walker, Alwilda Binkley, Tim Adkins and Chris Kerrigan.

Absent: Vice-Mayor Daniel Anderson.

**CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

A motion made by Walker, seconded by Binkley to approve the agenda. All approved by voice vote.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**A. Braxton Homestead Group.** Mr. Steve Stratton stepped forward and stated he told the majority of the group they did not have to be here tonight because it wasn't imperative. Mayor stated he was under the impression this was a two reading contract and he apologized as contracts only require one reading. Mr. Stratton questioned how the council can make a decision to move forward without knowing the figures and the cost for infrastructure. He further stated he feels they need to be able to compare apples to apples. Chief Walker stated he spoke with the engineer today, who had also given the estimate of the Braxton Lee property, and his best guess to get the other property developed would be around two hundred thousand dollars. He further stated the Ashland Farms property, formerly the Murff property, is more ideal because of location. Mr. Stratton stated he is looking at it from a historical preservation view point and it is a significant increase compared to what the developer spent. Ms. Gina Binkley stepped forward and presented the council with their proposal for the development of the Braxton Lee property. She further stated they are serious about fundraising and have reached out to multiple people in Nashville. She also discussed current fundraising efforts such as their buy a brick program and plans for the Pat Head Summit memorial. Ms. Mary Weber presented the council with a petition signed by residents who would love to see City Hall on the Braxton property. Ms. Janie Binkley stated the city would be making a statement by being visible to people coming into the county. Chief Walker stated he would love to see their effort succeed on the Braxton Lee property, but he also feels that if City Hall is taken out of the downtown it could hurt the downtown and there is a reason Main Street is called Main Street. He further stated he spoke with the city planner who agreed you should do everything you can to help build your downtown district and by moving out it will hurt the businesses and downtown district. He stated what the Braxton Homestead group is doing is great, but he does not believe it is the place for City Hall. Ms. Gina Binkley stated this will be good for environmental tourism and having a park will be an advantage to help grow the economy. Chief Walker stated lots of cities would give anything to have a nice downtown district and the city is spending lots of money to connect parks and has created an overlay to make it more attractive to businesses. In addition, he is not against what the group is trying to accomplish; however, he thinks it would be better suited for the senior center or another city building. Ms. Jane Crisp stated she understands Chief Walker's point in regard to downtown, but the buildings downtown are not historic or quaint looking and it would be better to restore and refurbish the downtown area. She further noted the courthouse was on the Braxton Lee property at one time and this site is a much more beautiful area. Ms. Ashley Osman stated she is here tonight representing the seller and there is an inspection period for due diligence built into the contract, which would give plenty of time for the city to get final prices. Ms. Lori Hilliard stated she has never seen business decisions made without knowing such little information and she would like to see the city get the information before a decision is made. Mr. Stratton stated this decision will be this council's legacy.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Oakwoods on Main Contract- 405 North Main Street and 120 Oak Street.** Ms. Walker stated she has an indirect conflict. She further stated this property sat vacant for three years and was brought to the previous mayor for purchase and the council passed on the decision to purchase. She stated the Braxton Lee property is beautiful. Ms. Alwilda Binkley stated she doesn't see how putting city hall on the Braxton Lee property would hurt downtown. She also stated she would like to see a cost of the development and have more information. She further disclosed a conflict. After much discussion regarding the inspection period and details of the contract and discussion of the county purchasing the current city hall a motion was made by Ms. Alwilda Binkley to postpone the vote until such time an engineering study can be completed and presented to council for consideration, seconded by Ms. Walker. Vote on motion: Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-no, Kerrigan-no, Adkins-no, and Mayor-yes. A motion was made by Mr. Kerrigan, seconded by Adkins, to move forward with the contract with a one-week acceptance period and understanding if the engineering report cost comes back negative the city can back out of the contract. Vote on motion: Kerrigan-yes, Adkins-yes, Binkley-no, Walker-no, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

**OTHER**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion made by Walker, seconded by Kerrigan to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

  
MAYOR STEVE ALLEN

  
KELLIE REED, CMFO/CITY RECORDER