

TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2017

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

CALL TO ORDER at 6:01 PM by Mayor Johnson.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Richard Johnson, Lisa Walker, Alwilda Binkley, Jimmy Gill, and Roger Jackson (via FaceTime).

Absent: Vice-Mayor Steve Allen.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Chief Walker stated the law states the adoption of the sprinklers to townhomes requires a separate special called meeting. A motion made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve the agenda with the changes. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A motion made by Gill, seconded by Binkley to approve the minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Vacant Council Seat Interviews.** Mayor asked Mr. Dwyot Thornton to step forward. Mr. Thornton introduced himself and stated he felt like his background and the work he does is beneficial to the citizens and he would like to see improvements in the city. Mr. Gill stated he felt Mr. Thornton is well qualified and thanked him for applying for the position. Ms. Walker questioned when you hear something that concerns you in the city what steps would you take for resolution. Mr. Thornton responded he would go to the mayor or through the chain of command. Ms. Walker asked if Mr. Thornton felt a city manager is needed. Mr. Thornton responded no. Ms. Walker asked what Mr. Thornton has done as a resident to help the city. Mr. Thornton stated he has helped restore power after emergencies and has helped the Mayor some since he has been in office. Mr. Gill confirmed Mr. Thornton helped him after the flood with his electrical. Ms. Binkley asked from the outside looking in what does Mr. Thornton consider to be the biggest problem in the city. Mr. Thornton responded he has heard a lot of complaints about water being too high. Mr. Jackson asked what Mr. Thornton's opinions are regarding the growth in the town. Mr. Thornton responded the town needs growth; however, it needs to be controlled due to infrastructure. Ms. Carol Macha stepped forward, introduced herself and stated she served on council from 2000 to 2008 and came off at that time because she believes in term limits and felt the council needed a set of fresh eyes. She further stated she would like to see a lot of things improved in the city, especially in parks being her son grew up playing ball and the fields haven't changed in fifteen years. She further stated working lights and score boards on the property would be a vast improvement. Mr. Gill stated he appreciated Ms. Macha applying and felt she was more than qualified for the position. Further, he agreed with her opinion regarding the parks. Ms. Walker asked what do you believe Ashland City's biggest strength is. Ms. Macha answered the people especially the people who run the city, the hometown feeling, and it is a great place to raise a family. She further stated she likes there aren't a lot of box stores and we still have some of the mom and pop type stores. Ms. Walker then asked what the biggest issue the city is facing today. Ms. Macha replied old infrastructure and that although she has not been involved in the council meetings in the past 8 years she believes money is always a concern. Ms. Binkley questioned since Parks is one of your interests would you be willing to work with Tony and others to help bring it up to par. Ms. Macha stated yes, and when Riverbluff was built she had no issues jumping in and helping. She further stated she felt Tony is a great Parks Director who does not

have enough help or money in the budget. In addition, she feels it is a great idea to involve the community and get people involved who are not afraid to work. Ms. Binkley then asked Ms. Macha if the town needs sidewalks. Ms. Macha replied absolutely, she lives behind Foodlion and can't walk to the walking track behind the Library and she would love for Ashland City to be a walkable community. Mr. Jackson stated he felt she covered everything and thanked her. Chris Kerrigan stepped forward and introduced himself stating he has three kids and has lived in the community for twelve to thirteen years now. Further, he moved shortly after his military service ended and he loves the small town feel, and would like to see some improvement in order to make this a great community for his kids once they move back after college. Mr. Gill stated he knows Mr. Kerrigan would do an excellent job and is well qualified. Ms. Walker thanked Mr. Kerrigan for applying and asked what Mr. Kerrigan would like to do in order to make a difference. Mr. Kerrigan stated improvements to the community's infrastructure are important, but he would also like to see the nature of the community utilized. Further, if we had more greenway or a splash pad that would be a great improvement to the town. Ms. Walker stated the town has approximately 65 employees and asked if this a reasonable amount. Mr. Kerrigan replied he felt the city needs more eventually especially with the discussion from last meeting regarding water and sewer infrastructure issues. Ms. Walker asked what Mr. Kerrigan considers important issue today. Mr. Kerrigan stated infrastructure and more visibility for local businesses. He further stated he learned of several businesses after attending Music on Main and the webpage articles highlighting the owners and business are great ways to highlight and draw attention to the business. Ms. Binkley asked if there is a way to bring customers back to town and bring the tax dollars here. Mr. Kerrigan stated controlled growth is probably the biggest thing. Mr. Jackson questioned how Mr. Kerrigan feels about thoughts on getting money. Mr. Kerrigan responded the Census was a great start and felt the growth in the population would help. Further, TDOT program grants and such may help. Mr. Jackson asked if Mr. Kerrigan is good with the town staying small the best we can. Mr. Kerrigan answered yes, that is part of the reason he stayed here. Mayor thanked everyone for applying and further stated he felt any of the three applicants would do a good job. Mr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Ms. Binkley to appoint Ms. Macha. Vote on motion: Gill-yes, Binkley-yes, Jackson-no, Walker-no, and Mayor-yes. Ms. Noe explained the motion has to pass by two-thirds vote and the council would need to vote again. Ms. Walker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gill to appoint Mr. Kerrigan. Vote on motion: Walker-yes, Gill-no, Binkley-no, Jackson-no, and Mayor-no. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gill to appoint Mr. Thornton. Vote on motion: Jackson-yes, Gill-no, Walker-no, Binkley-no and Mayor-no. Mr. Gill stated he felt this should be deferred to the next meeting to allow the newly elected officials to vote or let the public vote. Ms. Noe explained the Charter states that council will appoint someone to finish out the term. Ms. Binkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gill to appoint Ms. Macha. Vote on motion: Binkley-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-no, Jackson-no, and Mayor-yes. Ms. Walker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gill to appoint Mr. Kerrigan. Vote on motion: Walker-yes, Gill-no, Binkley-no, Jackson-no, and Mayor-no. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gill to appoint Mr. Thornton. Vote on motion: Jackson-yes, Gill-no, Walker-no, Binkley-no and Mayor-no. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Gill to defer until the January meeting and to keep applications closed. Vote on motion: Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Mayor-yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Gill, seconded by Jackson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.


RICHARD JOHNSON, MAYOR


KELLIE REED, CITY RECORDER