

**TOWN OF ASHLAND CITY
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2018
6:00 PM at Ashland City Municipal Building
101 Court Street, Ashland City, Tennessee**

CALL TO ORDER at 6:05 PM by Mayor Steve Allen.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Steve Allen, Mr. Roger Jackson, Ms. Lisa Walker, Mr. Tim Adkins, Mr. Chris Kerrigan, and Mr. Daniel Anderson.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER – Led by Judge Stinnett.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC FORUM

- A. **Holly Spann.** Ms. Spann stepped forward and stated as of today she is no longer a property owner in the city; however, she wanted to address two things with the council the vacancy in Ward 2 and the Vice-Mayor Position. Ms. Spann stated she would like council to take serious consideration for voting for Ms. Lisa Walker for the Vice-Mayor. Further, she had sent everyone a letter regarding Mr. Gerald Greer. She stated she believes Mr. Greer would help the city to move forward and would be a great public servant. Ms. Spann then thanked the council for their service.
- B. **Hadley Williams.** Mr. Williams stated he is a long time citizen and is here tonight to support Mr. Gerald Greer.
- C. **Sierra McCormick.** Ms. McCormick came forward and stated she has never done this before but Janet Knight is amazing.

REPORTS

- A. **City Attorney.** Ms. Noe stated she would like to hold an attorney client meeting at the end of the agenda if possible.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Interview and Appoint Vacant Council Position.** Mayor stated if anyone would like to step forward and go first they are welcome to do so. Mr. Gerald Greer stepped forward and stated he would like to fill the vacant council position and has been a resident for two years. Further, his goal would be to make the town an attractive place to do business and creating events. He stated vibrant involved community's equal healthy growth. He further stated he has served on the symphony board of directors and is a proven team member and leader. Mr. Greer confirmed he intends to run for the position in 2019 and is committed to working with the community. Mayor asked if anyone has any questions. Ms. Walker asked Mr. Greer if he thinks Main Street is healthy and successful and if not what changes he would you make. Mr. Greer responded he would improve the facades and spruce things up. He further stated he believes it is really important to have a beautiful downtown. Mr. Jackson questioned what made Mr. Greer want to run for council. Mr. Greer responded he moved from Williamson County and was heavily involved there and he feels the city is a jewel and would like to see it grow responsibly. Mr. Anderson asked if Mr. Greer sees traffic as a problem in Ashland City. Mr. Greer replied it is a big problem and they need to do what they can to get flow better especially at the dog leg on Frey to Cumberland Street. He stated he would like to see the four-lane extended on Highway 12, but

would like to investigate the issues further. Mr. Kerrigan questioned how he would like to control growth and keep the small town feel. Mr. Greer stated one thing they did in Williamson County although he is not sure it would be possible here is to require five acres for a new build for a house and he would like to look into that further to see what they could do to encourage something like that as he does not want to see the town ending up like Brentwood. Mr. Atkins asked Mr. Greer if he heard something was wrong in the city what would he do. Mr. Greer answered he would come to the council members and consult with them about their experiences in dealing with the issue. Ms. Walker asked where is Mr. Greer's favorite place to spend time in the city. Mr. Greer stated he likes to eat out at the restaurants, hang out at Riverbluff park, and the gym. Ms. Noe stated we need to confirm residency. Mayor asked how long Mr. Greer has lived in Ashland City. Mr. Greer replied two years and one month. Mayor stated he appreciates his interest and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Bush Boyd stepped forward and introduced himself then stated he had no idea he would be interviewed by a panel. He stated he served in the Navy, and was born in Nashville and twenty years ago moved to Hickory Hills. Further, he has seen a lot of growth since then and he believes there should be a third traffic lane, but he doesn't know if it is possible. He further stated he feels the elderly should be represented in the governing body. He added he attended Vanderbilt and went to engineering school. He stated he worked for thirty-six years and retired thirty-six years ago and lost his wife two years ago and he just wanted to put his hat in the ring. Mayor asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Boyd. Mr. Adkins asked if he were on city council what his priorities would be. Mr. Boyd responded he would try to avoid incentives for companies to move in as the taxpayer would have to pick the bill up. Mr. Jackson questioned what type of engineering degree Mr. Boyd has. Mr. Boyd replied he lacked nineteen hours in elective courses of getting his degree, but when he served in the Navy he worked in electrical engineering. Mr. Jackson stated the city has a lot of problems understanding the engineering side of things and he thought Mr. Boyd may be able to help with that. Mr. Boyd responded he does know a little about engineering and he has spoken to TDOT about the 440 project because it doesn't make sense they are cutting out the base to come back and add four inches of asphalt. Ms. Walker asked where is Mr. Boyd's favorite place to spend time in Ashland City. Mr. Boyd stated he spends a lot of time in Wal-Mart and sees everyone he knows there. Mr. Kerrigan questioned what motivated Mr. Boyd to become part of City Council. Mr. Boyd stated most of the council has the young person's perspective and he felt the older people need to be represented. Mr. Anderson questioned if Mr. Boyd has plans to run again in 2019. Mr. Boyd responded if he is still around, being he is ninety-two now. Mayor stated he appreciates his interest and thanked him for coming.

Ms. Janet Knight stepped forward and stated she didn't write anything up in preparation, but she has been here for four years and ran for county commissioner. She further stated she has been involved with the last three Music on Main events, baseball, flag football, and Kiwanis. She stated she owned her own business and has ran several businesses. In addition, she has kids in the school system and is missing a Christmas concert tonight to be here and she has been married for twenty years. Mr. Adkins asked if Ms. Knight were on city council what her priorities would be. Ms. Knight responded growth and she has built three of the skinny houses in town. Ms. Walker asked if the city received a one-million-dollar grant where Ms. Knight would spend it. Ms. Knight stated she would put it into parks as she would like to build a citizen's center. She stated part of the problem is property and she thinks we need to look at roads and use the bypass to make downtown more user friendly. Ms. Walker asked where is Ms. Knight's favorite place to spend time in Ashland City. Ms. Knight stated she is on the road quite a bit and Wal-Mart is not her favorite place. Mr. Anderson asked if Ms. Knight would have time for council while running three businesses. Ms. Knight replied she makes her own schedule and works for herself so she is flexible. Mr. Jackson asked if Ms. Knight is wanting to build everywhere. Ms. Knight responded no, we need rooftops, but she doesn't see where you can put more. Mr. Kerrigan stated we are a bedroom community and then asked what we can do to bring businesses and jobs here. Ms. Knight stated we need to have more things for adults, but she knows the boat plant and metal manufacturing has jobs open and being in construction she knows everyone is hiring. She further stated we need to put things back in the schools to learn as skills. Further

building a better foundation for the city through adult education. Mayor stated he appreciates Ms. Knight's time and energy and thanked her for coming.

Ms. Alwilda Binkley stepped forward and stated she served six years on the City Council, but she doesn't have any college degrees and she was raised on a farm and has lived here all her life.

Ms. Binkley stated one thing she has learned is to never underestimate the people of Cheatham County. Further, Ms. Lisa keeps asking where everyone's favorite place is to hang out and hers is on her couch doing the crosswords and keeping up with what council is doing. She elaborated during the time of the election she was not in a position to run, but wants to come back. Ms. Walker asked if she was appointed how would Ms. Binkley solicit input from the residents of Ashland City. Ms. Binkley stated you don't have to when you get out they approach you. She further stated just listen to them and they will bring it to you. Ms. Binkley pointed out she is concerned with the water system and the troubles with the sewer system and she just wants to be frugal with how money is spent. Ms. Walker asked what groups or events Ms. Binkley is involved with in the city. Ms. Binkley stated she used to be on the events committee and although she has gotten out of that she is now on the Braxton Lee Homestead Committee. Mr. Kerrigan stated this is a little bit of role reversal as Ms. Binkley asked him the same question when he applied, but how would Ms. Binkley control growth. Ms. Binkley stated I don't know that we can control it, but there won't be any more property soon and she just hopes we don't get out of the sleepy town mode. Mr. Anderson asked how Ms. Binkley feels about tax increases. Ms. Binkley replied she doesn't like it, but sometimes it is necessary. Mayor thanked Ms. Binkley for coming and stated he appreciates her interest.

Mayor asked if anyone would like to make a motion. A motion was made by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Adkins, to appoint Gerald Greer. Vote on motion: Walker-yes, Adkins-yes, Anderson-no, Jackson-no, Kerrigan-no, and Mayor-no.

A motion was made by Kerrigan, seconded by Jackson, to appoint Ms. Alwilda Binkley. Vote on motion: Kerrigan-yes, Jackson-yes, Anderson-yes, Walker-yes, Adkins-yes, and Mayor-yes.

B. Swearing in of New Council Position. Judge Stinnett stepped forward and asked Ms. Binkley to step forward to be sworn in and recite the oath of office.

C. Appointment of Vice-Mayor Position. A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Kerrigan to appoint Mr. Daniel Anderson as Vice-Mayor. Vote on motion: Jackson-yes, Kerrigan-yes, Adkins-yes, Binkley-no, Walker-no, and Mayor-yes.

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOMINATIONS:

None.

EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Attorney/Client Privilege Meeting.** Ms. Noe requested to take a few minutes for a meeting. Mayor recessed for the attorney/client privilege meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mayor called the meeting back to order at 7:27 p.m. and asked if anyone had anything else to bring before council.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Adkins, seconded by Anderson to adjourn. All approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.


STEVE ALLEN, MAYOR


KELLIE REED, CITY RECORDER