

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE**

**December 14, 2023  
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 14, 2023, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Rev. Daniel Beard, Action Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present:** Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Haynes, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Tyler, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Miller, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

**Attendance:** 58

**Milestone Awards for October 2023** – Mayor Williams announced that Fire Chief Mike Williams and Firefighter Billy Quintrell with the Fire Department have thirty years of service, since the beginning of the East Ridge Fire Department. Scott Gilbert with Parks and Recreation has five years of service.

**Special Proclamation** – Mayor Williams presented a proclamation to Edgewood Baptist Church in recognition of their 100 Year Anniversary.

**Special Proclamation** – Mayor Williams presented a proclamation to East Ridge Helping Neighbors, represented by Rev. Daniel Beard, in recognition for the work they do helping citizens in the community.

**Special Presentation by Marie Wingate of the Tennessee Poem** – Ms. Wingate read the Tennessee poem, which was written by a Vietnam veteran, and then presented the Library and the Council with a framed copy of the poem.

**Presentation of Christmas Parade Awards** - Director Skiles presented the awards as follows:

- Grand Marshall – Lloyd Chadwick
- Overall Category
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – East Ridge Animal Services
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Southern Payroll and Bookkeeping
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Ginger Brown Academy of Performing Arts
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – Lumberjack’s Tree Service
- Educational Category
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie) – Belvoir Christian Academy
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie) – East Ridge JROTC
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – Tyner Marching Band

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes November 9, 2023 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of October 2023 Financial Report

Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Communication from Citizens:** None

**Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Cagle wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also had questions about leaf pick-up, but City Manager Miller will address those during his report.

Vice Mayor Haynes wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and is looking forward to a successful 2024.

Councilmember Witt and Councilmember Tyler wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Williams announced the following:

- Groundbreaking for the new Animal Shelter was December 5<sup>th</sup>. Completion is scheduled for 180 days.
- He thanked City staff and volunteers for a successful Christmas parade.
- The Mayor thanked staff, volunteers, and sponsors for the Community Thanksgiving dinner held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Community Center.
- On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the City was awarded a check in the amount of \$600,000 from TDEC for a grant for renovations to the Community Center. He thanked Director Skiles and Development Administrator McAllister for accepting the check on behalf of the City.
- Cookies with Ms. Claus is tonight at the Community Center beginning at 6 pm.
- Indoor Soccer is up by 400 players, with over 1,800 youth registered. There has also been an increase in youth basketball.
- The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

**Communication from City Manager:**

- **Leaf pickup** - We are halfway through a second round on the north side around Spring Creek Road, moving west. We are at Greenslake Road on the south side moving east. We will make a third and possibly a fourth round if necessary.
- **Multi-Modal Project** – Work continues on the north side of Ringgold Road between Jack’s Restaurant and McBrien Road installing storm drainage lines and structures. We have started pouring concrete for curbs, gutters, and driveway approaches for businesses from McBrien Road west to Jack’s. Crews will work up to December 22 and will resume on January 2, 2024 because of the holiday. Weather permitting, they will start

pouring concrete for sidewalks after the holidays. Construction of a retaining wall in the 900 block of Ringgold Road is on tonight's agenda. We hope to have two lanes of Ringgold Road westbound from McBrien to Belvoir open in mid-January.

- **Bridge Construction** – There is a traffic advisory for nightly closures, from 9 pm to 6 am, for the bridge construction on I-24 at Moore Road and McBrien Road. There will be rolling roadblocks up to 30 minutes at a time.
- Mayor Williams stated that big trucks are still trying to go through the tunnels to avoid I-24 traffic. We have requested that TDOT put out warning signs.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3474 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR WILLIAMS TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams appointed Dr. Jessica Crowe. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3474, appointing Dr. Jessica Crowe. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3475 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3475, appointing Jenny Tyler. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3476 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A LETTER AGREEMENT WITH VICTUS ADVISORS TO PERFORM A SPORTS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY RELATED TO POTENTIAL EXPANSION AND/OR ENHANCEMENTS AT CAMP JORDAN PARK** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated the Council heard presentations on October 5, 2023 from three firms and chose Victus Advisors to perform the study. There is a letter agreement in the agenda packet which outlines the terms and conditions. Cost will be \$75,000 with \$25,000 coming from Hamilton County. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3476. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3477 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR CAMP JORDAN, PHASE III, AND THE MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILION** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated Council approved moving forward with both projects, \$6.4 million for the pavilion and \$1.5 million for Camp Jordan, Phase III. He would like to bundle the projects into one bond issue, with closing in April or May. Mayor Williams stated that both the projects are in the Border Region. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3477. Councilmember Cagle stated the resolution states the total is \$8.3 million, but it should state \$7.9 million. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to amend Resolution No. 3477 to state the total amount as \$7.9

million. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. The vote on the original motion was unanimous. Motion approved

**RESOLUTION NO. 3478 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AWARDING A BID FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL STRAIN POLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF RINGGOLD ROAD AND JOHN ROSS ROAD AS PART OF THE MULTI-MODAL PROJECT** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated the purchase was previously approved in September for the amount of \$13,149. The City advertised for bids for the installation but only received one bid from Nabco Electric in the amount of \$27,942.50. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3478. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3479 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AWARDING A BID FOR THE MACK SMITH ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO ADAMS CONTRACTING, LLC** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated we are planning to divide this project into two phases. The first phase would be to construct the North Mack Smith Road widening from Ringgold Road to the north property line of the Fairfield Inn which is the south property line of the retirement center, per the design plans dated January 19, 2022 and stop the project at that point. The second phase would be to construct a drainage system on the east side of N. Mack Smith Road from Ringgold Road to the end of the property line at the Budgetel, then build a two-lane road from the south property line of the Budgetel to the north property line of the Budgetel on the City's existing right of way. We received three bids with Adams Contracting being the lowest at \$2,335,643. Under Phase II, when the City is able to obtain the necessary right of way, the City will continue the roadway to the front gate of the Gateway Development. Mr. Miller is recommending approval of the bid from Adams Contracting. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3479, awarding the bid to Adams Contracting. Mayor Williams stated the County granted the City \$1 million for this project. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

At this time, Mayor Williams moved Resolution No. 3489 to this point on the agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3489 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER REQUEST #4 FROM TALLEY CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN REGARD TO THE RINGGOLD ROAD MULTI-MODAL ROADWAY PROJECT** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Jeff Sikes, with ASA Engineering, stated the original intent was not to build a wall, but there was movement in the slope in this area when digging the storm sewer line. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3489. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Mr. Sikes stated they would turn this expense in to the State for possible reimbursement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3480 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE IN THE UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PURCHASING PROGRAM (“GSA”)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Tyler made a motion,

seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3480. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3481 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE TEN (10) LASER AIMING MODULES FROM ADS THROUGH THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (“GSA”)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton stated this purchase will be funded by the Violent Crime Intervention Fund (“VCIF”). Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3481. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3482 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE A FORENSIC LASER SCANNER PACKAGE FROM HEXAGON THROUGH THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (“GSA”)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton stated this will also be funded by VCIF. Councilmember Tyler made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Haynes, to approve Resolution No. 3482. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3483 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE ELEVEN (11) PVS-14 NIGHT VISION SYSTEMS FROM NIGHT VISION DEVICES, INC. THROUGH THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (“GSA”)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton stated this purchase is also funded by VCIF. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3483. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3484 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HOLLAND AND KNIGHT LLP TO ACT AS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNSEL TO THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE IN REGARD TO MATTERS BEFORE THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated we have contracted with Nicole Watson with Holland and Knight for the past several years. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3484. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3485 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURCHASE EIGHT (8) 2023 FORD INTERCEPTOR SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES FROM LONNIE COBB FORD THROUGH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES STATE-WIDE CONTRACT LISTING #209, PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 12-3-1201(b)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Uselton stated that seven of the vehicles are for general use and one will be used for a canine unit. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3485. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved

**RESOLUTION NO. 3486 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A TERMINATION OF USE RESTRICTIONS AND REVERSIONARY**

**INTEREST AS TO SPECIFIC PROPERTY RELATING TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6001 GRASTON AVENUE** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford stated that years earlier the City conveyed this 17-acre tract of land to the hospital. The City put in a deed restriction at that time, that the property could only be used for health care purposes. The developers of this property are requesting that the City terminate the reversion language in the deed. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3486. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3487 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING ADDENDUMS TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS DATED JUNE 24, 2021 FOR THE CITY TO PROVIDE FIRE AND POLICE SERVICES TO THE CITY OF RIDGESIDE** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated under the current agreement dated June 2021, there is no provision for a 4% increase after 2024. He discussed an increase with the Mayor of Ridgeside for FY 2024-2025. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3487. Councilmember Cagle stated we are not charging enough for these services and believes we need to reevaluate the cost per trip. Chief Williams stated the call load has decreased for EMS responses. He also stated we have an agreement with Chattanooga to also response to Ridgeside because of the construction on I-24. Mr. Miller stated pursuant to the terms of the agreement, we must give six months' notice to terminate, so the agreement would have to be terminated tonight. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3488 – A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN EXTENSION DEPOSIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER AND THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE FOR THE EXTENSION OF A WATER LINE TO THE NEW ANIMAL SHELTER** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Miller stated this is for the installation of a water line and water hydrant. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve Resolution No. 3488. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3490 - A RESOLUTION OF THE EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL CANCELLING THE DECEMBER 28, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams stated this is a scheduled meeting, but the Council always cancels the second meeting because of the holiday. Vice Mayor Haynes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3490. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the January 11, 2024 Council Meeting (see Attachment A**

- Milestone Awards for December 2023
- **Old Business: None**
- **New Business:**
  - **PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_** - Oakdale Rezoning R-1 to C-2 Commercial

- **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ - Oakdale Rezoning R-1 Residential to C-2 Commercial (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – Chief Building Official Howell stated rezoning the property would be to utilize an accessory building for an office for the applicant’s janitorial service. The Planning Commission denied the request, plus many residents signed a petition opposing the rezoning.
- **PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ - RT-1 Zoning Classification Amendments**
- **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ - RT-1 Zoning Classification amendments (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – Chief Building Official Howell stated this would amend the lot size for townhouses with specific square footage and would increase the minimum building site area to 1,500 square feet. The lot must also be bordered on at least one side by a C-1, C-2, R-2 or R-3 zoning district. This would help reduce spot zoning. Planning Commission approved these amendments.
- **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ - Budget Amendment (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – Finance Director Qualls stated this would move the Animal Shelter project from the Capital Improvement Fund to the ARPA fund.
- **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - Approval of Parks & Recreation Master Plan** – Director Skiles stated this plan will replace the plan that has expired with a 10-year plan rather than a 5-year plan, plus spell out the goals for Parks and Recreation.
- **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - McBrien School – Approval to conduct assessments on building (environmental and structural)** – City Manager Miller stated that in order to determine the future of McBrien School, we will need to do environmental and structural assessments on the building. An assessment in 2017 determined that the building does have asbestos. Mr. Miller would like to do the environmental assessment plus have an engineer and a general contractor do a walk-through to determine the cost of renovations.
- **RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - Purchase of 2 Ford Interceptors from the SRO Grant Fund** – Chief Uselton stated we are adding four positions and need to purchase at least two vehicles.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

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MAYOR

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CITY RECORDER