

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

**October 14, 2021
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on October 14, 2021, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Pastor Danny Lance, True Life Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Chauncey, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Helton, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

Employee Milestone Recognition Awards for September 2021 – The Mayor announced five employees who will receive their awards for September as follows:

- Terrie Leidholdt, Candace Brown 15 years
- Tyler Ezell, Garrett Hawks, Brandon Clark 5 years

Presentation: Dignified Changes - Universal Changing Tables – Councilmember Helton introduced Roddey Coe, with the Council for Developmental Disabilities, to discuss adult changing tables in restrooms. These would be powered height-adjustable tables for the safety of the person and caregiver. The tables would have to be installed in a single occupancy restroom, universal to gender. Councilmember Helton stated she has raised \$6,500 to go toward the changing tables and stated we might be the first City in Tennessee to have one of the tables. The Mayor concurs that we need one of these tables. Mr. Coe stated a 10 x 10-foot room would accommodate one of the tables and plumbing is not necessary. The Mayor stated Mr. Dorsey could check for a good central location. The Mayor thanked Mr. Coe for doing the presentation.

Approval of Minutes September 23, 2021 Council Meeting – Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens – None

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Witt reminded everyone about the Optimist Club Barbeque on October 30th. She and Councilmember Cagle are selling tickets.

Councilmember Helton had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Chauncey had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- Centennial – The Mayor thanked Dana Howe, David Tyler, staff, and volunteers for all the effort they put in to make this a successful event. He stated the City was presented with a joint resolution from the State recognizing the Centennial. The Speaker of the House was present, as well as Senators Gardenhire and Watson, Commission Boyd, Former Mayors Steele and Dean, and former Vice Mayor Gravitt. There was a video presentation produced by Chris Braly and sponsored by Councilmember Helton. Laura Doquile displayed several paintings of East Ridge, that she donated to the City. They will be displayed in sealed cases. White Oak Bicycle Co-op donated a sign made from wood and used bicycle parts.
- The new State license plate has been chosen. It is the blue version.
- Sept 29th was the groundbreaking for new Food City at Ringgold Road and Bales Avenue. He believes it will be a cornerstone for new development in the west end and should be open early next summer.
- Oct. 5th was the National Night Out. Chief Allen stated the Animal Shelter, Fire, Police, Optimist, and Citizen's Academy all had booths set up. The event was moved inside due to inclement weather. The tentative date for 2022 is the first Tuesday in October.
- The ribbon cutting for East Ridge Nutrition South, next to Marco's Pizza, was last Tuesday.
- On October 21st, Commissioner Tim Boyd will have a community meeting concerning redistricting, which is for the County Commission and the County School Board. There have been several proposals with anywhere from two to six additional districts. Drafts were presented in a workshop on September 29th and in one draft, Spring Creek Elementary was in another district from the other schools in East Ridge. That issue was resolved, but in the next draft, the portion of East Ridge north of I-24 was in a different district. Another workshop was held on October 13th and now our entire city is all in the same district, pending finalization by a resolution passed by the County Commission. He thanked Commissioner Boyd for his help.
- Oct 16th – Red Wolves are hosting Toronto FC for the final regular season game. He congratulated them for clinching a playoff berth.
- Oct. 19th – Library Under the Trees (Children's Storytime)
- Oct. 28th, 3:30 – 5:00 pm – The Library is hosting a drive-through trick or treat.

Communication from City Manager:

- Animal Services will have a Bark Party on November 6th from 9 am – 3 pm behind City Hall. There will be a yard sale, face painting, etc.
- Chief Allen came forward to announce there would be a drug take-back event at Walgreen's at McBrien Road on October 23rd from 10 am – 2 pm.
- Mr. Dorsey thanked David Tyler and Dana Howe for the work they did on the Centennial.
- He thanked Vice Mayor Chauncey for helping lay out the fence at the proposed dog park. Mr. Dorsey is working on getting the air monitoring station moved.
- The concrete has been poured for the splash pad. We are waiting on other pieces to be delivered.
- City Hall will soon have a security upgrade. A new office is being built with a window for customers. There will be a room for attorneys and the front door will be upgraded. A doorway will be installed in the hallway to the Council room, similar to the one at the Library entrance.

Old Business: None

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 1151 – Rezoning of 4105 Cemetery Road from R-3 Apartment District to R-1 Residential District – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. No one came forward in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1151 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4105 CEMETERY ROAD, TAX MAP #169A-F-007, FROM R-3 APARTMENT DISTRICT TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (1st reading) - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated this property is in a split zone and now the owner would like it rezoned all R-1 in order to expand the cemetery. If approved, it would need to come back to Council later for a Use on Review. The Planning Commission approved the request. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Ordinance No. 1151 on first reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3199 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PIERCE ENFORCER RESCUE ENGINE FROM EVS EMERGENCY VEHICLE SPECIALISTS/G&W DIESEL SERVICE THROUGH THE HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM (“HGACBUY”) - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated the cost is \$710,538, with the first payment not being due until next budget. We paid off another engine and will keep that amount in the budget to pay for the new one. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3199. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3200 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO OPEN AN INTEREST-BEARING CHECKING ACCOUNT AT FIRST HORIZON BANK FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3200. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3201 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT SPONSORSHIPS FROM VARIOUS BUSINESSES FOR THE EAST RIDGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3201. Mayor Williams thanked all the businesses that sponsored the event. The total was \$27,100. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3202 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 3198 TO CORRECT CERTAIN BORDER REGION PAYMENTS RELATED TO THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 6725 RINGGOLD ROAD AND 6731 RINGGOLD ROAD FOR THE YEARS 2019 AND 2020 - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated there was an error in the calculations in Resolution No. 3198. The amount for payment should have been \$175,574.25, not \$255,380.73. We have to amend Resolution No. 3198 to reflect the correct number. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3202. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3203 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO APPOINT _____ AS A BOARD MEMBER TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY WATER & WASTEWATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KENNY CUSTER - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated Kenny Custer has resigned from the City and his position on the WWTa Board. The Mayor feels the appointment should be an East Ridge resident.

The Mayor discussed some of the issues involving WWTa, which have caused increased rates. WWTa has been in violation with Clean Water Act for years. They have been in negotiations with the EPA and the Department of Justice for over five years regarding a mandated consent decree to comply with the federal Water Pollution Control Act. WWTa has to spend over \$200 million in rehabilitation to address sanitary sewer overflows. This causes a higher rate for consumers. WWTa has no choice but to comply. The City used to have their own sewer service, but as the plant aged, it would have been an enormous cost to repair.

The Mayor stated he would take the position on an interim basis until someone can be found to serve. Councilmember Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to appoint Mayor Williams to the WWTa Board on a temporary basis. The Mayor stated we could advertise the position. Councilmember Cagle stated the City got rid of the sewer mainly because of overflow issues which caused the City to be fined. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3204 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPOINTING _____ AS THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY WATER QUALITY PROGRAM TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KENNY CUSTER AND _____ AS THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated Kenny Custer was the representative and Chief Building Official Howell was the alternate. Mr. Howell has agreed to step up as the representative and Mr. Dorsey will be the alternate. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3204 with Michael Howell as the representative and Chris Dorsey as the alternate. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3205 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING A TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENTS BEER PERMIT FOR RANDY CARPENTER, ON BEHALF OF DUCKS UNLIMITED - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Parks and Recreation Director

Wilson stated that Randy Carpenter has applied for a temporary special event beer permit for this event. Staff recommends approval. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton to approve Resolution No. 3205. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3206 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING A TEMPORARY SPECIAL EVENTS BEER PERMIT FOR RANDY CARPENTER, ON BEHALF OF ARIES FIGHT SERIES - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Director Wilson stated this is an MMA fight on October 30th. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3206. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3207 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE APPROVING A TEMPORARY USE PERMIT FOR TRUE LIFE CHURCH TO ASSEMBLE A TENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4104 RINGGOLD ROAD TO BE USED FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. City Manager Dorsey stated that True Life Church acquired the Salvation Army building but cannot occupy it until they have a sprinkler installed. In the meantime, they had to vacate their other building. Because of this emergency situation, Mr. Dorsey issue the Church a permit to assemble a tent on the property, contingent upon Council approval at this meeting. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3207. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the October 28, 2021 Council Meeting

8. Old Business:

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 1151 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4105 CEMETERY ROAD, TAX MAP #169A-F-007, FROM R-3 APARTMENT DISTRICT TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) – No discussion**

9. New Business:

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - An Ordinance to Rezone 1410 N. Mack Smith Road from C-1 Commercial District to R-3 Residential Apartment District (1st reading)** City Attorney Litchford stated the developer requested that this item be moved to the November 11th meeting.
- B. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Budget Amendment (1st reading) – Finance Director Qualls stated the amendment includes money for salary stabilization and money from the governor for cars.**

City Manager Dorsey stated the estimate for the multi-modal project was \$4.2 million, but the bids came in at \$6.3 million. We will have to determine what the next step will be.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

**October 28, 2021
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on October 28, 2021, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

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

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Chauncey, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton. Councilmember Helton was not present.

Approval of Minutes October 14, 2021 Council Meeting – Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Charles Mangrum, 1302 Blocker Lane, would like the opportunity to have an Airbnb in their home. They are in a R-1 district which currently does not allow Airbnbs. He would like the Council to consider changing this restriction. City Manager Dorsey will research this.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Chauncey asked about procedures for having an Airbnb. Chief Building Official Howell stated they are not allowed in R-1 districts, but we have some in R-2 that are allowed depending on if they are owner occupied.

Councilmember Witt had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- The Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic was held last weekend at Camp Jordan. It was a successful event that provided free health, dental, and vision care.
- Jeffery Stubblefield, who is seven, placed first again in the Tri Star Reads Program, with over 39,000 minutes of reading over the summer. He got to tour the Governor's mansion and received a \$1,000 scholarship.
- There are two drop-off locations for retired flags, one at City Hall and one at Camp Jordan. This was an Eagle Scout project by Chase Lowrey.
- The Christmas Parade will return this year on Saturday, November 20th. It was not held last year because of COVID.

- There will be a blood drive at the Fire and Police Department on November 30th from 12:30 – 6:30 pm.
- There has been progress on the Pioneer Frontier and splash pad, but we do not have a completion date yet.
- Halloween is this Sunday, and there will be several trunk or treat events at churches.

Communication from City Manager:

- Mr. Dorsey hosted an employee birthday lunch this week for employees with October birthdays.
- November 6, 2021 – Bark Party behind City Hall from 9 am – 3 pm.
- Liquor stores – Both applicants have turned in plans for review.
- We are considering doing an intersection calming project at the intersection of Bennett and South Seminole through the Transportation Planning Organization. We are also looking at the possible widening at S. Mack Smith and maybe add a third lane. We are also looking at some work at the Spring Creek and Ringgold Road to help alleviate traffic. Other projects are paving at McBrien, Safe Route to Schools, and John Ross Road.
- We are finalizing plans for leaf pick up season. We will start right after Thanksgiving and keep progress of the trucks on the website. We have also hired part time help to man the actual machines. Councilmember Cagle asked if leaves can be raked to the curb or can they be bagged. Mr. Dorsey stated we will use leaf machines to pick up the raked leaves. Bags can be used but the workers have to cut them open. The Mayor would like to consider using biodegradable bags.

The Mayor stated the liquor stores are having labor issues, but they are actively working with the City.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 1151 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4105 CEMETERY ROAD, TAX MAP #169A-F-007, FROM R-3 APARTMENT DISTRICT TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Building Official Howell stated this was approved by the Planning Commission and on first reading by Council. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Ordinance No. 1151 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3208 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, THE PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS PROPERTY CONSERVATION MATCHING GRANT FOR FY 2022 - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated we will use the grant for installation of security cameras at Camp Jordan. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3208. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3209 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SPONSOR A BAY AT TOP GOLF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100 FOR THE EAST RIDGE CHAMBER COUNCIL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3209. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3210 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, EXTENDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 180 DAYS, A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTING AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ANY NEW OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS AND ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND/OR INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS, IN ADDITION TO THE CONVERSION OF EXISTING SIGNS AND POSTER PAPER OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS TO AN ELECTRONIC ADVERTISING OR MESSAGING SIGN, WITHIN THE CITY - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated Council extended the moratorium in May of this year. After a Supreme Court ruling, TDOT suspended outdoor advertising rules and regulations and have not yet finished the new rules and regulations. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3210. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the November 11, 2021 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

3. B. **Employee Milestone Awards for October** - We will have six to announce.
- C. **Donation to the Needy Child Fund – Police Department** – Chief Allen stated this is the yearly donation we make for No-shave November.
9. **New Business:**
 - A. **PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. ____ - Rezone 1410 N. Mack Smith Road from C-1 Commercial District to R-3 Residential Apartment District** -Mr. Howell stated this request went before the East Ridge Planning Commission on September 8th and was denied.
 - B. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - An Ordinance to Rezone 1410 N. Mack Smith Road from C-1 Commercial District to R-3 Residential Apartment District (1st reading)** – No further discussion.
 - C. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Fire and Police Salary Supplements** – Chief Williams and Chief Allen bring this before Council every year. Chief Williams stated the State pays firefighters and police officers for in-service training. The City issues checks in November and is reimbursed by the State the following spring.
 - D. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Beer Board Appointment – Vice Mayor Chauncey** – No discussion

- E. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Beer Board Appointment – Councilmember Cagle** – No discussion.
- F. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Mayor’s Appointment of Chairperson of the Beer Board** – Mayor Williams stated he appoints a Chairperson every November.
- G. **RESOLUTION NO. ____ - Purchase of a vehicle for the Police Department** – Chief Allen stated one of the Dodge Charger patrol cars caught on fire. Our insurance carrier totaled the car and paid the City \$12,500. He is requesting that the City purchase a Ford SUV for a cost of \$41,839, which includes \$7,995 in equipment. It will take 3-4 months to get the vehicle.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.