

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

**December 9, 2021  
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 9, 2021, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Rev. Terry Arnold, *pastor of The Pentecostals of East Ridge Church*, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mayor Williams moved the Oath of Honor presentation to this part of the agenda.

**Oath of Honor – Police Department** – Mayor Williams administered the Oath of Honor for 12 police officers.

**Presentation for Electric Vehicle for City Fleet** – David Riall did a presentation on Electric Vehicles. He stated there are electric police vehicles, garbage trucks, street sweepers, F-150 trucks, etc. The vehicles could save the City costs for gas. Other cities and organizations that have electric vehicles are Nashville, Kingsport, the University of Tennessee, East Tennessee State University, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, among others.

**Presentation of Firefighter Support Grant – Tennessee American Water Company** – A representative from Tennessee American Water Company presented the City with the Firefighter Support Grant in the amount of \$1,000.

**Employee Milestone Awards for October** – The Mayor announced the following employee milestone awards for November:

- Josh Creel – 20 years
- Robert Wade – 15 years
- Kory Custer – 15 years
- Patricia Weaver – 15 years

He thanked the employees for their service.

**Presentation for Take Me Home Program – Chief Allen** – The Chief stated that the Police Department is initiating a new program to benefit citizens with disabilities, such as autism or dementia. It allows a relative to enroll the person in this program and if an officer encounters this person, they can look them up in a database and get them back home.

**Christmas Parade Awards** – Community Involvement Coordinator Bowers presented the awards as follows:

- **Education Category**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Belvoir Christian Academy
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> East Ridge High School Football & Cheerleaders
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> East Ridge High School JROTC
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Cub Scout Pack 3007
  
- **Other Category**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> East Ridge Library
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Trucking for the Word of God
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Lumberjacks Tree Service

**Presentation of FY 2021 Audit – HHM – Weston Porter and Garrett Williams** – Mr. Williams stated the City received a clean opinion and the fund balances look good. He stated staff was very cooperative and professional, and they enjoy working with our staff. During the audit, they did not become aware of any fraudulent or illegal acts. The only findings were that the actual expenditures for the Solid Waste fund and IDB funds exceeded each funds budgeted expenditures.

Mr. Williams stated the City has a fund balance of \$5,795,000 in the General fund. Other fund balances were good, but the Grant Fund was slightly underfunded. He also discussed the General Fund revenues and expenditures. There were excess revenues over expenditures of \$1.9 million.

Mr. Porter stated that it is important to have a fund balance that would last 2 - 4 months, in case of emergencies. He stated the City’s fund balance is 34.6% and would last approximately 4 months.

Mayor Williams thanked the auditors, Mr. Dorsey, Ms. Qualls and all the department heads for everything they do in managing the budget.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes November 11, 2021 Council Meeting
  
- B. Approval of July 2021 Financial Report
  
- C. Declaration of Surplus Property
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Police Department

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

**Communication from Citizens:**

James Elmore, 3610 Koons Road, stated that years ago, the City installed a drainage ditch in his yard. He has asked the City to install tile in the ditch, but the City refused. City Manager

Dorsey stated he does not know the history of installing the ditch. The City cannot go on private property to do work, but this could be a liability that we already have. Mr. Elmore gave pictures to the City Attorney Litchford, and he will research this issue.

### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Witt and Vice Mayor Chauncey had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- The Mayor asked Chief Allen and Chief Williams to come forward to discuss the recent Guns and Hoses event. Chief Allen stated the event is a fundraiser for the Forgotten Child Fund. Officers Myrick and Perry participated, and Officer Myrick won his event.
- The Mayor asked everyone to keep the family of Brad Grant in their prayers, after his recent passing. Mr. Grant served as a reserve officer for 28 years and was the Santa for the Needy Child Fund Santa Train.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am – Library-Pancakes with Santa.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 – 11:00 am – Library-Indoor Storytime and Pre-School Storytime

### **Communication from City Manager:**

- The pre-final walk-through for the splashpad and playground was done. All the components are there, and we are waiting on TDEC to inspect them. Then we will work on any additional infrastructure.
- Mr. Dorsey thanked Michelle Sinigaglio, Hannah Spear, Cameron McAllister, Alex Harrison, and Torrey Holder for putting up the Christmas tree. Ms. Sinigaglio stated that each employee and all Councilmembers are represented by an ornament on the tree.
- The dog park is moving forward. Staff installed a water line under the parking lot yesterday. Next will be benches and fencing. Vice Mayor Chauncey stated it may be a few more weeks on the fencing.
- Finance Director Qualls stated the paperwork is final on the purchase of the new fire truck and it has been ordered. Ms. Qualls is required to inform the Council when debt is incurred.
- Michael Howell came forward to discuss the new permitting system for the Building Department. The City has partnered with Open Gov for this system, and it went live on Monday of this week. People can now apply online for permits. He stated it is a very good system. Mr. Dorsey stated that citizens could still come into City Hall if they do not have a computer or if they need help.

### **Old Business:**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 1153** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. No one came forward in favor or in opposition. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1153 – 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**

**SURPLUS AN APPROXIMATE 13.59 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED AT THE 100 BLOCK OF INTERSTATE 75 ON A PORTION OF TAX MAP NO. 169D-A-001 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM ATTACHED WITH WWTA AND TO EXECUTE A DEED AND OTHER NECESSARY CLOSING DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF THE PROPERTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000.00) (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford stated that WWTA needs this property for their operating purposes. WWTA has agreed to construct a nature path on the City’s remaining portion of the property, with the City doing the permitting for the path. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Ordinance No. 1153 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 1154** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. No one came forward in favor or in opposition. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1154 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, CLOSING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED AT THE 5300 BLOCK OF STONE STREET, A PORTION OF TAX MAP NOS. 169J-A-017 AND 169J-A-021 AS DETAILED ON THE ATTACHED MAP, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS (2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading)** - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford stated this relates to closing off a portion of Stone Street and having an easement for a dumpster location for the East Ridge Animal Shelter and Fernando’s Restaurant. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Ordinance No. 1154 on second and final reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3222 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ BY COUNCILMEMBER CAGLE TO THE EAST RIDGE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF JAMES CITY** – City Attorney read on caption. Mr. Litchford stated Mr. Cagle called him to let him know his appointment would be Susan Thomas. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3222, appointing Susan Thomas. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3223 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ BY VICE MAYOR CHAUNCEY TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Chancey appointment Jill Morgan. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3223, appointing Jill Morgan. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3224 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ BY COUNCILMEMBER HELTON TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Chauncey stated Councilmember Helton asked him to announce her appointment of Rachel McCrary to the Library Board. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3224, appointing Rachel McCrary. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3225 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO CANCEL THE SECOND MEETING IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3225. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3226 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO OFFICIALLY RETIRE K-9 OFFICER AXEL AND ALLOW HIS HANDLER, CORPORAL STEAVEN ROGERS, TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF AXEL** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Corporal Rogers brought in Axel for his retirement gifts. Chief Allen stated that Axel has served the City well for many years. Vice Mayor Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3226. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3227 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO OPEN A CHECKING ACCOUNT AT SUNTRUST/TRUIST BANK FOR FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUNDS** – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated these funds are for a task force and need to be kept separately. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3227. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the January 13, 2022 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

- **New Business:**

- **ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_** - Budget Amendment (1<sup>st</sup> reading) – Finance Director Qualls stated this amendment is for the purchase of a fire engine and the loan, moving employees from one department to another, among other items.

City Attorney Litchford stated the developer for Budgetel would like his rezoning item to be brought back up for the agenda on January 13, 2022. The developer has agreed to hold a public meeting at the Community Center for public input.

Mayor Williams wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.